

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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## VSOs gather at FUMC to honor Veterans of Union County

By Lily Avery  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Dozens of Union County veterans from various veteran service organizations gathered at the First United Methodist Church with friends, family members and loved ones in celebration of Veterans Day on Friday, Nov. 10.

Since 1919, Nov. 11, or "Armistice Day," has been celebrated in the United States, beginning on the one-year anniversary of the end of World War I.

In 1926, Congress passed a resolution for an annual observance, and then in 1938, Veterans Day became a national holiday.

And in recognition and level of the special occasion, veterans had a home cooked meal, courtesy of Nate's on the Square and Ingles, and enjoyed patriotic tunes from Woody

Gap School's Band of Steel.

Retired U.S. Army Veteran Chuck Honaker emceed the luncheon, introducing special guests of honor and entertaining fellow veterans and all those who attended the event.

Before lunch was served, the North Georgia Honor Guard presented the Missing Man Table and Honors Ceremony in loving memory and respect of all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, and for those who have yet to come home to their friends and family.

"This table has been reserved to honor our missing members," said Honaker. "Set for six, the empty chairs represent Americans who were or are missing from each of the services, the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and civilians, all with us in spirit."

Honaker explained the

meaning of the table before a moment of silence. At the conclusion of the ceremony, a glass was raised in a toast to honor America's POWs/MIAs, to the success of our efforts to account for them and to the safety of all now serving our nation.

Following the Missing Man Ceremony and recognition of all those who have served in this great country's military, and the branches in which they served, the annual Commanders Award was presented. This year's recipient of the esteemed award was Mike Ruback.

"Every year, a veteran who is a member of one of these service organizations is picked to be a recipient of the Commanders Award," said Honaker. "This award is the highest honor that can be given to any member. The selection of the recipient is

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Vietnam Veterans Stephen Gooch, Raymond Parson and Charles Turner received Quilts of Valor in the Nov. 10 Veterans Day Luncheon at First United Methodist Church of Union County. Photo/Lily Avery

## Students of county recognize veterans with annual program



Veterans of many wars and the various branches of service attended the Union County High School Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 10. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

A community is at its finest when it is exactly what happened on Friday, Nov. 10.

The students of Union

County Schools hosted their annual Veterans Day Ceremony in Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium ahead of the Nov. 11 holiday, and over a hundred veterans attended the event with their family and friends.

Union County High

School senior Madelyn Hood emceed the event, and she opened the ceremony with a prayer, before the Georgia Civil Air Squadron DeKalb County Cadet Squadron from Chamblee posted the colors.

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## G&G Bakery and Cafe owners' home and RV burn

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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A recreational vehicle on Jordan Lane caught fire on Friday afternoon, leading to a structure fire that heavily damaged a North Union County home, Union County Fire Chief David Dyer said.

The home is owned by Dave, Carol and Ashley Heldman, owners of G&G Bakery and Café.

Located off Rogers Road near Nottely Marina, the house fire was reported by neighbors, Chief Dyer said.

"It looks like the (RV) caught on fire and then it caught the house on fire," Chief Dyer said. "No one was home at the time. We were able to save quite a bit of the home, however, we did have a partial roof collapse."

"It caught the attic and the roof on fire. Two bedrooms, the master bedroom and bathroom had minimal damage," he said. "A day room, and one bedroom were heavily damaged."



The Heldman RV and home caught fire on Friday, Nov. 10. Many know the Heldmans as the proprietors of G&G Bakery and Cafe in Blairsville.

The cause of the fire has not been determined at this time, however, the Chief said he did not suspect foul play.

"The investigators are still looking into it, so I don't know (the cause) for sure," Chief Dyer said. "No one

was hurt, no one was home. Everything was called in by neighbors. It was well-involved when we got there. It was late in the afternoon, so I'm guessing these folks were

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## Historic BRMEMC meeting scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 16

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
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History is set to unfold on Thursday, Nov. 16, at the headquarters of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC.

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC's Board of Directors voted 5-4 during its Oct. 10 meeting to have open meetings that allow the cooperative's membership to attend.

That process begins on Thursday with a meeting at the EMC headquarters in Young Harris, Board President Mickey Cummings said.

Board Secretary Roy Perren recently shared that

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BRMEMC General Manager Jeremy Nelms and EMC Board President Mickey Cummings. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

## GDOT nominated W.C. Nelson Terminal for airport award

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The W.C. Nelson Terminal Building at the Blairsville Municipal Airport was nominated recently for the Georgia Airport Project of the Year.

And though it didn't win – the honors went to the Columbus Airport Commission for a runway rehabilitation project – Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley said the nomination was a great honor for the city.

The Georgia Department of Transportation was so

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Michael Giambrone with the Georgia Department of Transportation, Airport Manager John Hamler and Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

## Blairsville City Council focuses on alcohol in monthly meeting

By Lily Avery  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

A public hearing regarding recent updates to the City of Blairsville's Alcohol Ordinance was held during the city's monthly council meeting on Monday, Nov. 6.

Typically, the council meeting is held on the first Tuesday of the month, however, due to the city elections being held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, the council rescheduled the meeting for Monday.

For some time now

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Blairsville City Councilmembers Rhonda Mahan and Betty Easter in the Nov. 6 council meeting, which was rescheduled from Nov. 7 to accommodate for the city election. Photo/Lily Avery

## Mary Ruth Cook elected to fill sister, Cone's council seat

By Lily Avery  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Last week, all across the State of Georgia registered voters were rushing to local precincts to cast their votes, selected to give their various selected candidates the support needed to win an election.

And the same was true right here in Blairsville.

During the Blairsville Special Election, held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, Mary Ruth Cook won against opponent Jonathan Love to fill the unexpired term of the late Councilperson Martha Cone.

With a winning margin of 24 votes for Cook and 6 for Love, Cook will soon find herself sitting among four other councilmembers, in the very seat her beloved sister once sat.

"It feels really well to have won," said Cook. "It just feels really good. This means a lot to me, it absolutely does."

Cone, who passed earlier this year in May, was a wonderful asset to the council and the community as a whole and, while the shoes to be filled are big ones, Cook is beyond honored to have been selected by her fellow

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Mary Ruth Cook  
Photo/Lily Avery

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**PANTHERS**  
Basketball

Tues Nov 14 @ Hayesville  
5 PM Scrimmage  
Fri Nov 17 vs. Gilmer Co  
7 PM

Free Training Class:  
Civilian Response to  
an Active Shooter  
North Georgia  
Technical College  
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