

Relay ...continued from Page 1A

...celebrated its 22nd year of hosting the event this year. Relay Co-chairs Sue Upchurch and Allyson McGraw, along with

Head of Entertainment Vee Laffoon, have been involved with the event since its inception, and are still amazed at the tremendous growth and support it sustains each year.

"It's unbelievable the amount of support that the businesses and the community have," said Relay Senior Community Manager Brooke VanBuskirk. "They're very welcoming. Relay For Life is a staple in Union County. It's been here so long and the community is very supportive and loyal to Relay For Life and the American Cancer Society."

Fundraising for the Relay began in January, but the actual season runs from September 1 each year to August 31 the fol-

lowing year.

This year, organizers and teams were able to raise a preliminary total of \$62,000 from local businesses, churches, corporate sponsors and individuals.

On the whole for the Saturday event, Relay raised \$5,500 toward the \$62,000, topping out with a total of \$67,500 raised for this year, which is \$2,500 more than was raised last year, and more donations are expected in the coming months. There are still plenty of opportunities left to show monetary support, however, with three months left in the fiscal season.

The opening ceremony began with the Survivors and Caregivers Walk, an emotional moment that touched the hearts of all involved.

Myron and Brenda Turner were appointed as Honorary Chair members for this year's Survivors Lap.

"I learned two things about cancer since my journey began last September," said Mr. Turner. "Number one, no one is exempt. Number two, no man is exempt from breast cancer. Gentlemen, please, do those exams."

A special caregiver led the Survivors and Caregivers Walk—Bugsy the dog. Bugsy is the first pet to ever be asked to participate in a Union County Relay event, but both of his previous owners recently lost their battles with cancer. He was named Honorary Caregiver for the event.

Hometown Heroes were also honored during the Relay with a parade lap following the Survivors and Caregivers Lap. These heroes included veterans, doctors, policemen, sheriff's deputies, the fire department and other public safety figures.

Children also made their own Survivors Lap called "Take It to the Track," led by nearly 2-year-old Mary Nicole Graphman, who has been battling cancer since she was 7 months old.

Many teams and sponsors held games and raffles at their booths, a way to raise money as well as have entertainment for the whole family. Super Elvis took the main stage for a striking impersonation of the King, and a Men's Bare Legs Contest kept everyone laughing as the night slowly came to a close.

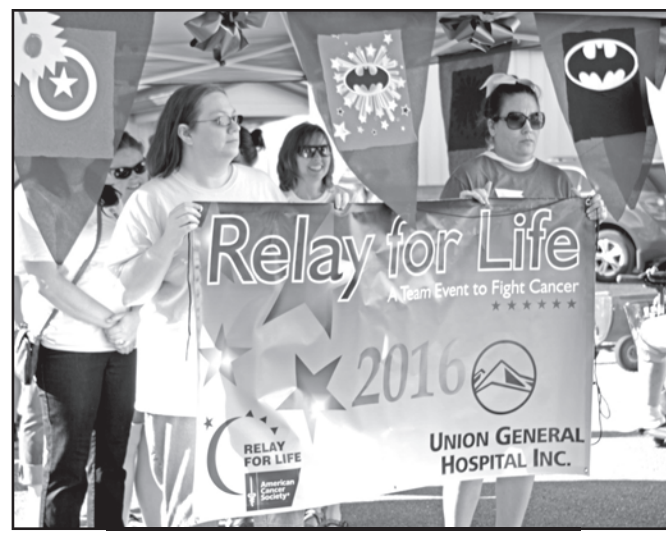
One of the last ceremonies of the evening came at dusk, which indicated the time to begin the Luminary Ceremony.

Bags filled with lit candles lined the track, each in honor of those who are currently fighting cancer or those who have lost their fight and passed. All in attendance walked a lap around the track to pay tribute to those being recognized.

"We found at the event that you have so many different emotions," said Upchurch. "You have the survivors, which you are celebrating. You have smiles, you have giggles, and you have tears. It runs the whole gamut of



Mary Nicole Graphman came to help Relay For Life volunteers aid the cause of finding a cure for cancer. Photo/Lily Avery



emotions, the event does. "Some people you see here and it's truly unbelievable. In all we do, we wish to honor those who are still living and those who have passed on."

Gurtler, Woerner in runoff

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Union County voters still have a decision to make in State House District 8.

For what could be the first time ever, the State House race has gone to a runoff.

Matt Gurtler, the former legislative aide to State Rep. Stephen Allison won the race.

However, he couldn't crack 50 percent plus 1 as required to win an election outright in Georgia.

So now, Gurtler faces a July 26 runoff with former Rabun County Elementary School Principal Kent Woerner.



Matt Gurtler

Early voting for the elec-



Kent Woerner

tion will soon be determined.

See Precinct Election Results on Page 4B

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

A 24-year-old Young Harris man was arrested last Thursday for possession of nearly \$2,000 worth of methamphetamine, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

"On May 26, 2016, the Narcotics Division along with the Criminal Investigations Division, in a cooperative effort, arrested Jonathan Alexander Campbell for possession of a controlled substance, which would be methamphetamine," said UCSO Lt. Daren Osborn.

The arrest stemmed from an ongoing investigation, according to Lt. Osborn, and along with the felony possession charge,



Jonathan Campbell

Campbell has been charged with felony probation violation.

"We'd received information that he was in the area, and we made a felony traffic stop on the subject," according to Lt. Osborn.

Campbell was arrested with 16 grams of meth, which has a street value of \$120 per gram, according to the sheriff's office.

Sixteen grams of meth is equivalent to roughly 32 doses, as the typical user will go through about half a gram a day, according to the sheriff's office.

"As Sheriff Mack Mason has said before, we will keep working to get the meth and the drugs off the streets," said Lt. Osborn. "It won't be tolerated in Union County, plain and simple."

AARP Smart Driver™ Class June 16

AARP Smart Driver™ – the new and enhanced driving refresher course from AARP Driver Safety will be offered at the North Georgia Technical College Conference Center in Blairsville. The college is located at 121 Meeks Avenue (off Highway 515). The class will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 16. The class will be taught by certified volunteer instructor John Daniel.

Since 1979, AARP Driver Safety has helped over 15 million older drivers stay safe,

educated and confident behind the wheel. AARP Smart Driver Course participants will learn: valuable defensive driving skills; proven safety strategies; how to stay current with the latest driving technologies; the current rules of the road, specific to your community, and how to manage and accommodate common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time.

Participants are encouraged to check with their insurance agent to see if they are eligible for an insurance

discount. There are no tests required to pass the course. The course is open to drivers of all ages and costs \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Lunch will be on your own. Participants need to preregister as class size is limited. Call John Daniel at 706-400-2755. NGUNI.ZSICA

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