

Relay...from Page 1A

“Back then, you just didn’t say the word cancer,” said McGraw. “Then, some people would say, ‘Well, I only had one treatment, so I shouldn’t be out there with those that really suffered.’”

“But I keep telling them, year after year, once you hear the word cancer, you start surviving that day. It doesn’t matter if its five years or 50 years, everybody’s battle is different.”

“What I love about this event is it brings everybody together, and you get to hear the different conversations, see the hugs, the tears, the laughter.”

With music provided by DJ Dez and Union General Hospital as the Presenting Sponsor, Friday’s festivities

got underway with the opening of the Kids Korner and the Survivor Picnic.

Later, entertainment was provided by local singer/songwriter Scott Mark, along with the Mountain Liners Dance Group.

The Opening Ceremonies began at 6 p.m.

and featured the Survivor Lap, the Caregiver Lap, the Team Parade with Banners Lap, and the Kids’ Take it to the Track Lap, which is the children’s walk for cancer.

Honorary Grand Marshals Odetta Colwell and Carla Colwell Drake led the 2019 Survivor Lap.

Entertainment resumed with the Blairsville School of Dance Cloggers, the Shady Grove United Methodist Church Bluegrass Band, the Carlton Shaw Memorial Bare Legs Contest, and the Ladies Costume Contest.

The Luminary Service began after sunset to represent everyone touched by cancer

with a luminaria. Each light represented a life – either a loved one taken by cancer, a cancer survivor, or the support for a person still fighting the disease.

According to McGraw, Relay For Life also focuses on prevention while providing education and helping to bring about lifestyle changes.

“Fifty years ago, the surgeon general came out and said smoking is bad, and today, less than 20% still smoke,” she said. “We’re still battling other issues as times change, but there has definitely been a healthy change in people’s habits and lifestyles.”



Turnout was strong for the 2019 Relay For Life, which is celebrating 25 years in Union County. Photo by Todd Forrest



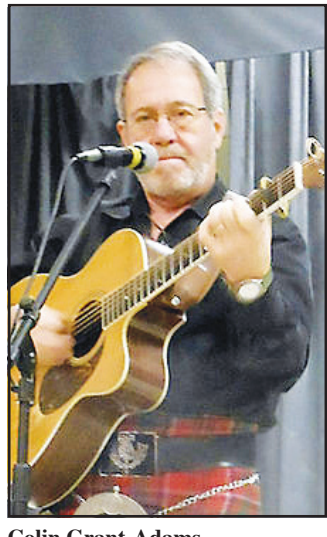
Union General Hospital was the Presenting Sponsor for the 2019 Relay for Life. L-R: Hospital Administrator Leslie Daniel receiving recognition from local Relay representatives Mia Crowe, Kristen Petrillo and Olive Pendleton. Photo by Todd Forrest

Let the games begin at the Old Courthouse on the Square

The Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games kicks off with the “Ceilidh (Kay-lee) on the Square” on Friday night, June 7, 2019. It will be entertaining, exciting, and fun! At 6:30-7 p.m., outside the Old Courthouse on the lawn, there will be our local hometown Appalachian Saint Andrew’s Pipes and Drums Band, led by Pipe Major Richard Smith.

Inside the Historical Society, upstairs, at 7 p.m., solo artist, Colin Grant-Adams will present his enthusiastic, high-energy, professional and artistic Scottish performance of guitar and song. His captivating repertoire, delivered with his powerful tenor voice, and fiery quick guitar promises a traditional, authentic Scottish sound. Colin Grant-Adams is known nationally as well as internationally, and has recorded many CDs.

Also, Bob Valentine, stand-up Scottish comedian, cleverly weaves old-fashioned Scottish stories into modern day culture, sandwiched between much humor. Bob has



Colin Grant-Adams



Bob Valentine

a CD of Scottish stories, “I’ll Take the Low Road.”

Plan on this Friday night kick-off to the Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games, then attend our family-friendly amazing event at Meeks Park on Saturday and Sunday, June 8 & 9, 2019 Friday night admission is free (limited seating at the Historical Society). A two day ticket for BSFHG at Meeks Park,

purchased on Saturday, is only \$25 for the entire weekend (adult), or \$15 per day. Ages 12 and under are free admission, so bring your whole family and enjoy all or part of this exciting 14th year of our Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games! See our website at <http://www.blairsvillescottishfestival.com/> to plan your days’ activities in advance! See you there!

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