

Firefighters...continued from Page 1A

types of fires we want to go to; we want to go to something that is savable and we can get everyone out safe along with their house and belongings, but these fires happen.”

Chief Dyer wanted to emphasize the work of the volunteers who responded to the scene and devoted time out of their lives to ensure the fires were safely extinguished.

Both fires took around four hours to completely control, with around 20 volunteers going out in the harsh cold during the night to help solve the situation.

“We had volunteers in the upper 20s for each call,

which is great,” said Dyer. “We usually don’t have that many people respond, and they did a really good job. They take three to four hours of pretty intense labor to make sure these fires get put out.”

These volunteers choose to drop whatever they are doing – dinner with families, relaxing outside of work, etc. – to respond to structure fires no matter the weather or emergency, and they do it to keep their communities safe.

“With the cold weather, people want to heat their homes, so No. 1, every year they need to make sure their heating units are inspected and

their chimneys are inspected,” said Dyer. “If they are using any kind of alternate heating, such as a kerosene heater or heating like that, they need to make sure they keep everything flammable away from it.”

“They usually say keep it at least three feet away, but I would say five just to be cautious.”

People looking for more information on how to prevent fires in the home can visit the U.S. Fire Administration website at USFA.FEMA.gov, where they have links to prevention tips and more.



A Union County firetruck deploying water at the scene of one of the structure fires.

Annual Children’s Art Contest sponsored by MRACG

The month of March is National Children’s Art Month and the Mountain Region Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc. (MRACG) will sponsor its annual Art Contest for children in grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8 from four surrounding area schools. Hiawassee, Blairsville, and Hayesville areas including home-schooled children so stop by Artworks in Hiawassee to get information and your sign-up sheet. 232B Chatuge Way, Hiawassee. Deadline for submission of art is February 15, 2019.

The children’s art will be displayed the whole month

of March at the Artworks Gallery and Gift Store for all to see. Ribbons and certificates of participation will be awarded at a reception with refreshments on March 30th. This is a wonderful way to recognize and appreciate the talented children we have in our area of North Georgia and North Carolina, so please join us in this very special event.

Artworks, owned and operated by the Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc., is a 501c-3 non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the arts in our local community.

On February 18 through March 2, ArtWorks will be having a Presidents’ Day Clearance Sale, featuring selected art and handmade crafts created by members of the Guild. Don’t miss this opportunity to find that special item as a gift for friends, family or even yourself.

Please stop by Artworks Gallery and Gifts located at 232B Chatuge Way (behind Dairy Queen) in Hiawassee for this special sale.

The Gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 10 AM until 5 PM. We hope to see you there!
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