

Attack...continued from Page 1A

Osborn said authorities believe the attackers knew the victim and knew what they were after.

"These men aren't going door-to-door randomly attacking folks," Osborn said. "We believe this was an isolated incident where the at-

tackers knew the victim, knew what they were looking for, completed their mission and moved on.

"The victim was blindsided, we don't have a description of the men, but, the victim did recognize the voices," Osborn said. "We're in-

vestigating this incident fully. It's a priority for the Sheriff's Office to solve this crime.

"Sheriff Mason is very concerned and focused on this incident," Osborn said. "We're piecing this case together one detail at a time.

"I need some more

pieces to complete this investigation," Osborn said. "We're appealing to the public to come forward if they have any information that might help us in this investigation."

Principal ...continued from Page 1A

Hill said that he was honored to take the spot vacated by Rohrbaugh, who he said has been like a father figure to him over the years.

"I'm very thankful to Mr. Rohrbaugh for his guidance over the years," Hill said. "He was a teacher and coach of mine and has been a mentor since middle school.

"He has been very helpful in this transition process," Hill said. "He's done a really fine job here over the last 10 years. I really want to convey what a tremendous job that he

has done.

"We're also glad that Angie Burns is going to come back part time and work with us," Hill said. "She is a tremendous asset with a tremendous amount of experience in this school system."

Hussion echoed the sentiments of Hill.

"His (Rohrbaugh's) leadership style has allowed me to perform in a leadership role," Hussion said. "For the last two years, I've been not only teaching, but performing administration roles and it's

given me some great experience to get ready to be an administrator."

Both Hill and Hussion won't settle for mediocrity and will continue to raise the bar and push its students to reach new heights.

"My vision is for every student that goes to this school to have the opportunity to go to college, to attend tech schools or join the military," Hill said. "I want them to be employable when they leave here and to be open to the most opportunities possible."

"Our goal is, when people graduate from here and leave, and tell somebody that they graduated from Union County High School, there is just an immediate amount of respect," Hussion added.

"We're well known and well respected around the entire state, in academics, athletics, fine arts, and in every aspect," Hussion said.

"We continue to pursue excellence and that is the vision that we both share," Hussion said.

Charter...continued from Page 1A

system's current academic performance. It would have to be minimum at the state level," Williams said. "As a district, we're already performing well above the state level.

"It's a good opportunity for us to say, here's where we are, here's where we can go with it," Williams said.

The Charter System would give the school system the flexibility from most of Title 20 Rules and Regulations, Williams said.

"For instance, class sizes, how we serve students," Williams said. "Right now, students can be labeled English learners, they may be identified as early intervention students, they may be identified as Special Education, and they may be identified by us

locally as needing some remediation.

"What the Charter would allow us to do is allow us to say 'we don't really care what label you have, we care about serving your needs,'" Williams said. "We can pick and choose the areas that we feel are most important for a student's needs."

Williams said Charter allows that school system to use their money more efficiently.

"Under the current format, we're required to designate a student in a certain format, and serve them a certain way," Williams said. "The Charter System would give us flexibility from all Title 20 rules and regulations."

The Charter System

won't trump federal education guidelines, Williams said.

"We still have to have highly qualified teachers," he said. "That's not going away. We would be able to go out and get around the state Professional Standards Commission and have a partnership with North Georgia Tech, possibly with Young Harris or other institutions where we can get their professors on our campus, teaching our students.

"That's opposed to having to find somebody that fits into the state's boxed requirements.

"The Charter would allow us to look at our system's specific needs," Williams said. "That allows us to figure out what waivers we want to pur-

sue to fit and better serve our needs as a school system."

The BOE will learn more come November about its application.

The process of applying is under way.

Buy Local...continued from Page 1A

From Sunrise Grocery's strawberry shortcake, to Blimpie's sub sandwiches, to goodies from Fatz Restaurant, Waffle House, Downtown Pizza, Zaxby's and from Ingles Supermarket, the attendees didn't go hungry.

"We had so much food here today, it was unbelievable," Williams said.

Vendors were at the event to let folks know that they're here.

Organizer Tobie Chandler said she began organizing the event in early April.

"It was a lot of work, about a month or a little more, but we have four awesome girls that work at the Chamber," Chandler said. "We work hard everyday for all of our Chamber businesses. And that's what we're here to do, support all of our Chamber members.

"It's our job to show the community who our businesses are and what they have to offer," Chandler said. "I'm so proud of our community for turning out here today."

Chandler agreed the event is a mini-trade show, much like the annual Mountain Home Show held annually at North Georgia Technical College's Blairsville Campus.

"The only difference, it's a broad variety of businesses here, it's not just regulated to one industry. It's service, retail, restaurants," Chandler said. "We've got fudge from Jenny Rebecca's, strawberries and jams from Sunrise Grocery, jewelry, we've got so many service industries, you name it, they're here.

"More than 40 businesses, one location, perfect recipe for shopping local," Chandler said.

Steve Drake of Keller Williams, said the event was a community showcase.

"It gets your name out there and lets people be aware of who you are," Drake said. "This event gives Keller Williams some name recognition. The turnout has been great. It's a lot more than I thought it would be."

Shannon Arsenault of Spa & Deck Creations said the event was an extremely important part of the community.

"Buying local keeps money in town," she said. "This event is a chance for businesses to help each other. Some of these businesses, people don't even realize that they're here. There are a lot of up and coming businesses here, and it's exciting."

The event also featured one civic organization. Luke Colwell, president of Blairsville Kiwanis, said the event allowed his organization to



Whether it was a piece of strawberry shortcake from Sunrise Grocery, or a chat with M-Design's Marci Culpepper, locals got the picture at the annual buy local extravaganza. Photos/Charles Duncan

showcase itself.

"This is a great opportunity to get our membership numbers up," Colwell said. "We're working hard here, we've got a lot of people leads, so hopefully, we'll get stronger."

"The turnout here today is unbelievable," he said. "Cindy, Tobie and the people here at the Chamber just do an amazing job. The parking lot is full, the food is disappearing, wow, it's just great."

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said the event was a true showcase of what Blairsville and Union County have to offer.

"This event is truly important," Paris said. "Anytime you can get people to think about buying local, it's huge.

"To see this many people come out, it's exciting. It shows how vibrant our community really is, how it's growing," Paris said. "Times are hard and people are still spending their money at local businesses. We've got businesses that people don't know about, and they think they have to drive to Gainesville to satisfy their needs.

"This event allows people to take their time and see what we have to offer locally," Paris said.