

# Station 2...continued from Page 1A

On Saturday, families arrived, their children in tow. They went through the food line, where hamburgers, hot dogs and all the fixings were available. Coolers filled with soft drinks and water awaited these folks after they filled their plates.

Firefighters sat down with the families, explained the equipment that was in the fire station and said thank you to the families, because the day's donations help make Fire Station 2 a reality.

Union County Fire Chief David Dyer said volunteers protect their neck of the woods that make up Union County.

"This is about their neighbors, it's about their friends," Chief Dyer said. "They live here. We look at it like the Air Force. It takes 50 people to get a jet in the air. That's what being a volunteer firefighter is about. It takes a team to protect a community."

Chief Dyer believes the Open Houses are akin to annual family reunions, with everyone coming together to witness the annual progress of the fire stations.

"We like to have these because we consider the fire department a family," Chief Dyer said. "We really enjoy having the community stop in and look at all of our equipment. When you drive by this facility every day, it looks like just a big building. You can't see what's inside."

"When you're here in person, you see all the trucks, you see all the equipment," he said. "It's an opportunity to sit down with folks and educate them about our operations."



Firefighters and community members gathered at Station 2 on Saturday to share details about the station and to break bread.

Last week, firefighters at Station 4 in the Ivy Log community welcomed those folks that call the area home into those facilities.

"It was probably the biggest turnout they've had there in years," Chief Dyer said.

The Chief said the county's volunteer stations survive on the donations provided by members of each community.

"These stations really depend on those donations," Chief Dyer said. "\$25 here, \$30 there, it adds up. The personnel from these stations go to wrecks, they go to medical calls. It's really a small price to pay if you're really needing emergency services."

Station 2 Fire Lt. David Burnette said donations would help replace one of the older fire engines, and pay for swift water rescue training.

"We're also in the process of buying a couple of swift water outfits for them," Lt. Burnette said. "The main thing is buying a new engine for either Station 6 or Station 9 (also a part of Station 2). We couldn't do this without community support. The help from the community paid for two of these trucks. We're very lucky to have the community's support and we hope that they will continue to support us in the future."

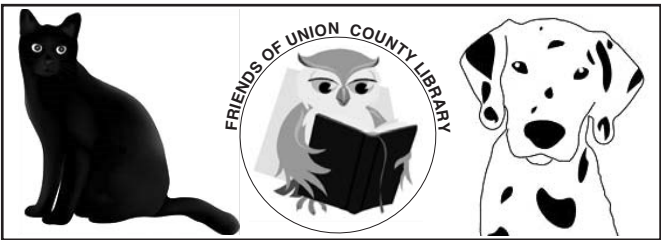
Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris agreed that the fire station open houses truly resemble old-fashioned family reunions.

"You want the community to feel that way too," Commissioner Paris said, referring to the feel of a family reunion. "These volunteers are a family and they're out here to serve. They're there when we need them and they do an incredible job. The county tries to support them as much as we can and the community follows likewise."

Fire Station 2 would like to thank its sponsors, Blackwell's Auto, Ace Hardware, Walmart, Hughes Outdoors, Monte Alban, Mike's Seafood, Save-A-Lot, Fatz Café, The Home Depot, and Sears of Blairsville.

On Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Union County Fire Station 1 Open House begins. Come join firefighters for some free food, children activities, demonstrations and good family fun. Please come to the event at 507 Shoe Factory Road.

## Winner of FOUCL Voting Box



Were you a Spring? Or Fall? The question for April was "Do you prefer... Spring? Or Fall?" and the winner was... Spring, with \$25.76. Fall had \$20.14. Wonder what the vote would be if we asked in the fall? The May question is "Do you prefer... Cats? or Dogs?"

What's going on? The Friends of Union County Library has started a voting box

at the library with a different question each month. This is one of the new fundraisers we started this year to support the Union County Library and it has been popular. Look for the voting box at the library just before the computer room. You vote with money, either bills or coins, as much as you want to put in. You never know what you'll get to vote on!