

Fire Station 10 hosts Open house

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Fire Station 10, on Jones Street in downtown Blairsville, opened its doors to the public last Saturday.

Lt. Daniel Byrd and his squad gave safety demonstrations and allowed the public to experience first hand some of the tasks that come along with being a first responder, as well as gaining some valuable knowledge pertaining to fire prevention, what you can do in the event of a fire, or any other type of emergency situation.

Station 10 had Tanker 10 on display for the public, while hot dogs and hamburgers were provided.

Firefighter Brandon Burkhead demonstrated the proper emergency window exit in the event of a fire.

Each fire station hosts an open house once a year



Brandon Burkhead demonstrates the proper window exit technique during Saturday's Open House at Station 10. Photo/Todd Forrest

and just like last year's open house, things started off slow but eventually picked up as more visitors turned out as the day went on.

"Overall we had a good day," Fire Chief Charles Worden said. "We were able

to show how we enter and exit a window, which is the proper way for everyone to do it."

According to Chief Worden, each open house has its own theme, and Fire Station 10's theme was fire prevention and exiting a burning building.

"They all use a different theme, but they are not confined to any one particular theme," Chief Worden said. "The window exit just happened to be what the station was demonstrating during the open house."

Seven firefighters, including Lt. Byrd, were on hand, not only for demonstrations, to answer any questions, regarding fire safety.

Because at the end of

the day, fire prevention is the focus of the Fire Department.

Sgt. Alan Foster, Sgt. Gilbert Baldwin, Justin Mathis, Holley Kemp, Jimmy Wheeler, and Burkhead's main purpose during the open house is to reduce the risk of death, injury, and property destruction by fire through education of Union County's residents, business managers, and property owners of fire and safety hazards.

Although, Fire Prevention Week isn't until October, the Union County Fire Department uses its open houses as one of the many ways to show that fire prevention is a year-round duty that everyone should take seriously.

This year's Fire Prevention Week's theme will be kitchen fires. UCFD and other departments from across the nation will be spreading the word that more fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home, and inform people how to keep cooking fires from starting in the first place.

Fire stations 3 and 4 also will host open houses on Saturday, June 8th, Chief Worden said.

The department is a combination of both paid and volunteer fire fighters.

Chief Worden's staff consists of more than 80 volunteers, who respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Union County School System new student registration for 2013-2014

New and transferring students in kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) may be registered for the upcoming school year at the Central Enrollment Office located in the Union County Elementary School at 165 Elementary Way, Blairsville, GA 30512. Parents will need to contact the Central Enrollment Office at 706-835-4321 to schedule an enrollment appointment.

The summer Central Enrollment Office hours will be from 9 AM - 3 PM on the following Wednesdays: June 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th, July 10th, 17th, and 24th. The office will be open full time starting on July 24th. The first day of school is Tuesday, August 6th.

In order to expedite the registration process, it is highly recommended that parents download the "Enrollment Packet" from the school system's website at www.ucschools.org. The packet will need to be completed prior to the registration appointment and the required documents indicated below will need to be presented.

The following documents are required for registration:

Parent/GuardianPhotoID; completed Enrollment Packet; certified copy of student's Birth Certificate; or certified hospital issued birth record or birth certificate; student's Social Security Card; Immunization Certificate; current Georgia Department of Human Resources immunization record (Form 3231). - Note: Out of State Immunization Records will need to be taken to your GA primary care physician or Union County Health Department to be transferred to a Georgia Immunization Certificate (Form 3231) prior to the pre-registration appointment; notarized Affidavit of Residency; located in the Enrollment Packet available at www.ucschools.org. The form can be notarized during registration, if the parent/guardian has not signed the form; copy of Withdrawal Form/Report Cards from most recent former school.

The central registrar will be able to answer any additional enrollment questions you may have when you call to schedule a registration appointment at 706-835-4321. N0um5Z2JCA

Park Sterling Bank supports "Preserve our Legacy" Campaign



Park Sterling Bank Executive Tony Stancil presents a donation to Campaign Chair Tony Dyer

Park Sterling Bank has thrived and grown for over 100 years because they are constantly improving their service delivery to meet their customer's needs. By providing big-bank convenience with community-focused visions and missions, they demonstrate their continuing commitment to enhancing quality of life for their customers, their stockholders, and their communities.

Nowhere is that community commitment more evident than in their recent generous donation to the GMRE-Center Community Council's "Preserve our Legacy" annual campaign. But Park Sterling did more than write a check. Additionally they supported their Hiwassee Branch Executive, Tony Dyer, in his service as the Chair of this year's campaign.

In presenting this year's donation bank executive Tony Stancil stated, "One of our core values is commitment to the communities we serve. On behalf of Park Sterling Bank I am pleased to present this donation in support of the Council's initiatives."

In accepting the check campaign chair Tony Dyer said,

"I was honored to be asked to lead the "Preserve our Legacy" campaign. Last year as a Vice-Chair I saw the Council's work first hand and I am even more committed this year to reaching our campaign goal and fully funding the Council's initiatives."

The Council's "Preserve our Legacy" campaign has a goal of \$60,000 in order to provide all the funding of Student Education, Adult Outreach and Preservation Projects initiatives. The campaign runs through the end of June so if you are a business looking for a way to support your community or an individual who has benefited from the Council's work, you still have time to make a donation to the campaign by visiting our secure site at <http://www.caes.uga.edu/center/gmrec/>

The Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center is part of the University of Georgia and its Community Council programs serve Fannin, Towns and Union counties in Georgia and Cherokee and Clay counties in North Carolina. For more information on the Center and the Community Council programs call the Center at (706) 745-2655. NT0um5Z0CA

Blairsville Cruisers Veterans Memorial Day Parade Float



Blairsville Cruisers prize winning float

The Blairsville Cruisers were honored to be part of this year's Veteran's Memorial Day Parade in Blairsville. Along with showing off some nice rides in the parade the cruisers also entered a float. The float was a tribute to Arlington National Cemetery with tombstones reminding us that whether or not it was

a father, son, mother or even a close friend we all need to be thankful for the sacrifices of our troops both past and present. The cruisers were thrilled to have received 1st place in the civic category for their entry and humbled by the opportunity to show their support to our local veterans and community. N0um5Z11CA

The Woman's Enrichment Center gives special thanks to Union County

The Woman's Enrichment Center thanks Union County for making our first ever Yard Sale at the Union County Farmer's Market such a huge success. Not only were we overwhelmed with the gracious donations but also with the turnout supporting the event.

The success of the Yard Sale was so encouraging to the ministry of the Woman's Enrichment Center that we plan to make it an annual event. We are already accepting donations for next year's event, which is scheduled for the first weekend in April 2014.

We want to extend special thanks to the Bridges family and friends for all the work they did to pick up and deliver

donations and to generally organize the event. We especially appreciated their having the barbecue stand open during the Yard Sale.

The ministry of the Woman's Enrichment Center is available to women of the area for support, encouragement, choosing life for the unborn, making good parenting decisions and to supply material needs for babies and young children.

We have opportunities for volunteer workers; we thankfully receive donations, both financial and material, for the ministry at 218 Jones Street in Blairsville on Tuesdays through Thursdays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Come by one day and tour our facility. N0um5Z9JCA

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lives to serving our country, and the rest will be starting their lives and careers. No matter what we do or where we go after we leave here tonight, we'll always have the lessons and knowledge that high school has given to us. We have each been blessed with talents and special gifts that God has graced us with. It's our job to take a step back and realize what those talents are and to use them for the benefit of those around us. The more you give, the richer you become. Use these gifts to inspire yourself and those around you," said Moore.

Moore used a very appropriate quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson as she addressed her fellow students. "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail."

John Hill, Union Site Administrator, took a moment to brag on Moore. "Noel has the highest grade point average of all the graduates in the MECHS system. She has earned the Zell Miller Scholarship and will receive \$4,000 each year to attend North Georgia Technical College. Noel plans to pursue a career in nursing. In June, she and her parents will be honored at a reception at the Governor's Mansion," said Hill.

Fannin County's Jordan Cochran was the system's High Honor graduate.

"Today we have the honor of presenting the Union site and the Fannin site students with their diplomas," said Union site administrator Judy Waldroup. "These diplomas reflect not only the hard work and determination of these

students, but the support of their families, community organizations, local businesses, as well as the MECHS staff and Governing Board.

The time had come for the awarding of diplomas. Union's newest site administrator, Roy Perren proudly called out the names of each student after certifying that all students receiving diplomas had met all graduation requirements of the state of Georgia and MECHS.

As Perren called out the names of the graduates and MECHS Superintendent Richard Behrens handed out the diplomas, the flash of cameras, whoops, shouts, applause, and tears commenced.

"This concludes our commencement ceremony. I want to thank each of you for coming out to honor these students. I present to you the 2013 Graduating Class of the Mountain Education Charter High School," said Perren.

With several awards being presented, the most prominent, by far, was the President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence.

The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding academic success in the classroom.

To be eligible for this award, students must earn a grade point average of 90 or higher on a 100-point scale.

This year four students from Union County, each receiving a congratulatory letter from President Barack Obama, excelled at this level. They include Doug Harper, Noel Moore, Kaila Rash, and Kayley Wade.

Alex Thomlinson in concert at Historic Courthouse

Local fiddler Alex Thomlinson will appear in concert on Friday evening, June 7, at 7 PM at Blairsville's Old Courthouse on the Square. Jim White and Joe Matteson, better known as The Buzzard Mountain Boys, will appear as special guests, and Cheryll Thomlinson will join the group on rhythm guitar. The program will present a variety of Old Time and Bluegrass fiddle tunes as well as a selection of Southern Gospel and Appalachian vocal favorites in 4-part harmony. The event is part of the 2013 Summer Concert Series sponsored by the Union County Historical Society.

The Historical Society's Summer Concert Series provided Alex with his start as a performer at the age of nine when he appeared in Sam Ensley's FiddleFest program. Since that time he has won a total of 7 State Championship fiddling awards in three states and has been invited to appear as a guest performer in numerous venues in the southeast. This past summer Alex was privileged to join the Buzzard Mountain Boys playing for Governor & Mrs. Deal and their guests at the Governor's Mansion. Earlier this month he appeared on Dahlonega's Mountain Music & Medicine Show, which will be broadcast on Georgia Public Radio.

His musical interests have expanded to include cho-



Alex Thomlinson

ral arrangement and barbershop quartet singing. He has just completed two fruitful years singing with the Varsity Singers a cappella choir at Lumpkin County High School as well as the men's quartet, enjoying the privilege of performing in All State Chorus and the State Literary Meet. Alex composed the LCHS 2013 senior song and transcribed the piano score and the 4 part choral arrangement for performance by the Varsity Singers at commencement exercises.

This fall Alex will begin his studies in Music Education at Piedmont College with hopes of becoming a high school choral director.

The Summer Concerts are presented by the Union County Historical Society as a public service and to keep alive the tradition of music in The Old Courthouse. There is no admission charge; the musicians donate their time and talents. Voluntary contributions to the restoration fund are always welcomed and appreciated. N0um5Z4JCA