

Chocolate...from Page 1A

there's another death, but I can't say who it was or who did it. You've got to come to the show."

The new theater program exceeded initial expectations by such a degree that, due to class size limits, only about 80 students between all the grades were able to sign up for the four classes being offered this semester at the middle school.

Next semester, another batch of students will take the introductory class, and in subsequent years, sixth, seventh and eighth grades will be offered grade-specific levels of instruction in the dramatic arts as students make their way through the program.

Of the four plays being performed this year, two will be afterschool productions, which students must audition for and prepare for outside of class instruction. The fall afterschool production is *Death by Chocolate*, and there will be another in the spring, which will be a musical.

The other two productions for the year will be school-wide, with all 80 students from each grade level involved.

"We have one show that's going to be Nov. 20 for this semester, and all four classes will perform on that one show," said Massey. "They'll have their own individual class responsibilities. It's called *Channel Surfing*, and it's going to be a mix of commercials and sitcom parodies."

In choosing the fall afterschool production, Massey said she wanted something with a good conclusion, and after reading through many scripts, she settled on *Death by Chocolate*, which finds a middle ground between drama and comedy.

"It's a little bit of both," said Massey. "Obviously, you're going to find some drama when somebody dies, but it also has some really funny moments, and you have to listen for them because they're really subtle. But if you're listening carefully, you pick up on that subtle comedy, and it's very amusing."

Because the dramatic arts are relatively new to Union County – the high school just started its first ever drama program this school year also, under the direction of Chris Adams – Massey has a few tips for new theater patrons of the community who turn out to show their support for the kids.

"My advice to the audience is always to react however you feel out loud, so that the cast knows that you're surprised or sad or excited,"

said Massey. "The actors need to know those things. It helps them understand what you as an audience need for them to do to help make the show better. If it's funny, laugh out loud. If it's sad, cry out loud. If you're excited, applaud. Just give the actors what they need, and they'll continue to give you that good show."

Cabin Coffee Co., located on the Downtown Blairsville Square, is currently offering a special drink named after the show.

"They have actually made a *Death by Chocolate* drink," said Massey, adding that the drink is poison-free. "Nobody will die drinking it, and it is delicious. You can go into Cabin Coffee right now and order a *Death by Chocolate*, and they will also be selling it in the lobby after the shows."

"The proceeds from those sales will come directly back to the middle school's Theater Arts program. We're really excited about that, and the drink is, dare I say, to die for. They're going to run it up until the show, so up until Halloween, and if it sells well, we can probably get them to run it a little longer."

Massey, who is immensely proud of the hard work her students have put into this production, hopes that everyone in the community takes the time to attend the show.

"Please come out and support these kids," said Massey. "They have worked very hard. They are excited to perform for the community. They're excited to show off what they can do as middle school students, and they're going to give a quality show."

Convenience...from Page 1A

Paris met with Advanced Disposal to see about bringing two additional garbage disposal sites to the county in addition to the Transfer Station.

Around that same time, the Union County Saddle Club went to the commissioner about finding more parking for the arena, and the two initiatives came together when the county purchased land adjacent to the arena.

"Any time they have a big event down here at the arena, we can actually use the lower part of the Convenience Center for added parking," said Garrett. "So far, we have had nothing but great compliments about the Convenience Center. People are excited and very happy with it. We're going to see how this works out and monitor the usage of it, and our plans are to look at adding one more Convenience Center within the county later on."

The Convenience Center will be staffed during operating hours, and Brandice McClure, who has been with Advanced Disposal since May, will be the person on duty Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

"Residents are so excited," said McClure. "They're glad that we're here, they're telling

me how convenient it is that they don't have to drive all the way into Blairsville anymore."

County resident Tom Greiner stopped by the Convenience Center on Saturday, Oct. 24, to see what the center had to offer.

"I think this place is terrific," said Greiner. "I'm glad to see it. Now I don't have to go all the way out to the other end – I just live at the top of the hill there."

Brent Weisman, also a county resident, received an extra special treat during his visit on Saturday – a dog biscuit for his ride-along pet.

"This is great," said

Weisman. "It's convenient, the price is right, recycling is doing the right thing for the environment. I see only upsides."

Garrett would like to thank SPLOST Projects Manager Mike Thomason and the contractors involved in preparing the site for Advanced Disposal to install its facility, which, one week in, was already serving hundreds of residents.

"It's a clean environment here," said Garrett. "Commissioner Paris and Advanced Disposal have talked, and they guarantee residents that this Convenience Center will remain clean."



BOE...from Page 1A

Community members will form an advisory board made of business leaders from Union County as well as neighboring counties.

Students who enroll in the year-long course will develop a business idea, make a soft pitch to the advisory board, continue to work on their idea, and at the end of the year make a hard pitch in hopes of getting funding for their product or business.

Funding for student businesses will come from an account that the school system will set up to receive funds from business partners within the community, and the students, not the school or advisory board, will receive the proceeds from their business ventures.

"It's a curriculum that's going to allow our kids to work through business models, and to work through their concepts, to work through their ideas, and it's just our staff kind of facilitating and nurturing their ideas," said Williams. "And it's using people in the community who have experience in areas that we don't have experience – it's people who do it day in and day out."

"It's people who, they set up businesses and they know what works and what doesn't. But at the same time, it's going to allow our community to see the ideas our students have, and kind of where we as a community, and also our future as a nation with our kids, what their ideas are. What are they coming up with, and how can we help support them in what they're trying to

accomplish?"

Another program designed to embrace the future of American entrepreneurship was approved in the meeting, and the school system is aiming for the fall of 2016 to begin implementing the Mobile Maker Training program.

Union County Schools is an Apple computer-based school system, and Mobile Maker Training will teach students to code and build apps within the Apple software ecosystem.

"It doesn't matter what

kind of business you go through now, every business, if they're going to be successful, is going to have some type of app support with it, either through a website or through some app, but there's going to be some coding in the background that's going to connect their business to technology," said Williams.

The INCubatorEDU Program was approved for purchase by the board at a cost of \$20,000, and Mobile Makers Training and Content was approved for purchase at a cost of \$6,800.

Voting...from Page 1A

City Council elections are nonpartisan, and the top three vote-getters will be elected to serve on the council for a term of four years beginning in January of 2016.

Residents can vote early at Blairsville City Hall during normal operating hours, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., through Friday, Oct. 30.

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., and votes will be tallied immediately following the close of the election, with results being posted outside City Hall once tabulation is complete Tuesday night.

The regular meeting of Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley and City Council, which normally takes place on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 10, to accommodate for the elections.