

Reece...continued from Page 1A

honored during the Sunday, July 9, Shady Grove Homecoming at the church.

"It was wonderful, the outpouring of love and appreciation, and it was a great day," said Weldon. "Had a big turnout, a lot of friends and a wonderful meal. I thank the pastor, the trustees and everybody that was involved with it."

Shady Grove Pastor Winfred Pitts agreed with Weldon that the church experienced "a wonderful Homecoming" in a July 9 Facebook post.

"We celebrated 'Weldon and Naomi Reece Day' with 125 in attendance, Johnny Hughes preached a timely message, and our Building Fund offering was \$29,433," wrote Pitts. "To God be the Glory!"

According to Paris' proclamation, Weldon joined the U.S. Army in 1948 and subsequently served in Korea, Germany, Hawaii and Georgia before retiring as a sergeant major in 1969.

He then worked for Bennett Gas Company from 1972 until 2002, and served for nearly two decades as president of the Reece Family Reunion.

"Naomi worked in restaurants in Blairsville, worked in a carpet mill in Dalton, and she was the master seamstress at Homestead Drapery Company, all the while working as a seamstress from her home, making alterations, stuffed animals and dolls to be sold in stores," continued the proclamation.

Weldon and Naomi Reece have attended Shady Grove United Methodist Church all of their lives, and have proven invaluable members of their

church community.

"Their service to the church through their attendance, dedication, serving in various leadership positions within the church, and consistent financial support deserves special recognition from the community that Shady Grove United Methodist Church serves," according to the proclamation.

Also in the July 18 commission meeting, the commissioner accepted an Accountability Courts Grant for the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant in the amount of \$115,765.

"These are funds from the state legislature," said Paris. "They continue to help fund our accountability court and drug court system, which in turn helps keep our jail population down by working to rehabilitate many of these people back into society."

The commissioner also approved a Preventive Maintenance Service Agreement between the county and Mallory & Evans Service Company Inc. for preventive maintenance of the heating and air conditioning units at the Union County Community Center.

That contract will cost \$8,472 for the first two years and \$8,988 for the third year, and will automatically renew each year.

Paris accepted a warranty deed in the meeting for a 3.67-acre tract of land that was donated to the county as a future site of another volunteer fire station and perhaps even another Convenience Center for residential garbage.

"The property is at the entrance of Hidden Harbor

subdivision, which is located just above the Vietnam Memorial Bridge over Ivy Log Creek," said Paris.

Also on the agenda, Paris amended the county's Defined Benefit Retirement Plan, which enables the county to match employee contributions to retirement plans.

Previously, the county would match employee contributions to the plan up to 6 percent, though the plan has been amended as follows:

The county will continue to match 1 percent and 2 percent employee contributions, but if an employee contributes 3 percent, the county will match with 5 percent instead of 3 percent.

"If an employee puts in 4 percent or 5 percent, the county will match the additional percentage," said Paris. "However, if an employee will put in 6 percent, the county will match that amount with an 8 percent match."

Added Paris: "The reason for this increase is that we are in a good economic climate and we do not want to continue to lose employees, so that we want to encourage our employees to remain in our employment."

The commissioner also accepted a settlement statement and warranty deed for the county's purchase of the Davenport property next to the Union County Farmers Market in the amount of \$678,500, as previously reported.

"The county employees are extremely busy this time of the year," said Paris after completing the official business of the meeting. "We're paving several roads in the county, and I had hoped to have a completed list this meeting, but we're still adding some and removing some from that, so I'll have it at the August meeting."

"We have spent nearly \$1 million already this year on road equipment and road projects - paving, gravel, asphalt, surface treatment.

"We are also trying to make plans for the future use of the Davenport property, and working on additional plans for Meeks Park.

"I am negotiating on a couple other small parcels that are adjacent to county property, and have no idea if I will be successful. If so, I'll present



Joshua's Warriors pictured here: Bill Walker, Bill Roysse, Bill Honaker, Gary Radcliff, Chuck Honaker, with Commissioner Paris. Present for meeting but not pictured: Rob Thibodeaux. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

a contract at a future county meeting."

Paris also hopes to present the recently completed 2016 county audit in the next regular commission meeting on

Thursday, Aug. 17, at 6 p.m.

"We are very busy at this time preparing for our 2018 budget," said Paris. "So, even though we're only halfway through 2017 ... we're having

to work on the budget for 2018 because we have to work on getting the budget amount approximated so that we can set the millage so that y'all can get a tax bill before Christmas."

Union County Historical Society Annual Picnic

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