

# Pre-K...from Page 1A

Pre-K classroom space is necessary."

Steppe talked with Bright From The Start, Georgia's Early Care and Learning program, and was told that Union County is a Priority I County, meaning the Pre-K program is underserved.

The school system has prepared a grant that could fund an additional classroom. The cost would be \$100,000 for teacher, paraprofessional, and classroom equipment, Steppe said.

"There's a good chance that we can get funding, but I can't guarantee that," Steppe told the BOE.

"We know the children served by the Pre-K program, that it helps them later on," Steppe said. "If it was up to me, I'd have every 4-year-old in the county in that program.



Board member Cynthia Byers and Chairman Gary Davenport

It's important and it really makes a huge difference. "I'd like for you to consider funding one or two classrooms," Steppe said. "I think we'll get enough children to fill two classrooms. I think it's critical to do this,

and I know it's a bit of a risk, but I believe the more children we can reach and get enrolled in Pre-K will be benefited overall."

Associate Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Williams said the program is only 7-to-10



Union County Schools Superintendent Gary Steppe

children away from justifying a fourth classroom.

For parents who work and transportation is an issue, Union County Schools offers transportation for Pre-K students, Steppe told the BOE.

"That's a big plus,"

Steppe said. "I don't know of any other Pre-K programs that offer that. It's a real plus for the community to offer the Pre-K program. It gets the young kids off to a really good start."

BOE member Cynthia

Byers supports the Pre-K program.

"I think there's a need and I think with additional space, we'll have a lot more kids signing up," she said.

"Financially, it's a risk, but I think it's a risk worth taking," Steppe said. "We may have to support this with local funds, because we don't know if we're going to get the grant or not."

"It's something we can't afford not to do," Byers said. "This adds to our school system."

If your child, or a child that you know is turning 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, and you're interested in enrolling your child in Union County Schools Pre-K, call (706) 835-4321, and ask for Heather Byers.

# Heroin Bust...from Page 1A

crave more. If he or she does not get another fix, they begin to experience withdrawal.

Withdrawal includes the extreme physical and mental symptoms, which are experienced if the body is not supplied again with the next dose of heroin. Withdrawal symptoms include restlessness,

aches and pains in the bones, diarrhea, vomiting and severe discomfort, according to the website.

The intense high a user seeks lasts only a few minutes. With continued use, the user needs increasing amounts of the drug just to feel "normal," according to the website.

Short-term effects include slowed breathing, clouded mental functioning, nausea and vomiting, sedation; drowsiness, hypothermia (body temperature lower than normal), and coma or death due to overdose, according to the website.

# Branding...from Page 1A



North Georgia News you will find a vision survey that the Chamber would encourage you to fill out and send back to the Chamber.

The Chamber of Commerce along with Union County, the City of Blairsville, and the Union County Development Authority are working on a community branding project.

Under the professional guidance of the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government, the community is in the middle of a collaborative effort that engages a variety of public input, includ-

ing multiple focus group meetings, committee meetings, and interviews.

The survey consists of seven simple questions and asks for the valued opinions of residents.

The process concludes in an integrated document that reflects the needs and desires of the community through a brand statement.

Williams said the project will play a huge role in the future direction of Union County. She asks residents to complete the short and anonymous survey.

The collective results will be incorporated into the final recommendations for the community branding.

The survey can be accessed from the homepage of our website at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com), and on Page 1B of today's North Georgia News.

The Chamber is also happy to provide printed copies or e-mail you a direct link to the survey.

To request additional information, please contact Tobie Chandler at (706) 745-5789 or [tourism@blairsvillechamber.com](mailto:tourism@blairsvillechamber.com).

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