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to be, featuring farm animals, craft exhibits, blacksmithing, bowl turning, quilting and many other facets of early life of local settlers.

The Heritage Festival helps tell the story of life in this rugged land more than a century ago, giving visitors a glimpse of the inventive, hard-working, and self-sufficient mountain people who settled this God-fearing community.

Union County was carved from Cherokee territory during the Georgia Land Lottery of 1832.

Many of Union County's early settlers were stal-

wart, spirit-led adventurers, many of which were dedicated circuit-riding ministers and local preachers who faithfully spread the Gospel.

The land was rugged, and it took heart to labor and build and preserve a community nestled in this deep mountain setting.

Many of the first settlers came out of the mountains of North Carolina and many others from Habersham County, Ga.

By 1849, there were 13 Methodist churches in what was called the Blairsville Circuit.

The churches were typical of small churches of the era, simple, but neatly nestled in accessible locations, easily reached by foot or by horse and buggy.

Likewise, the homes were simple and efficient, handcrafted by their owners and carved out of the wilderness that made up the North Georgia Mountains.

The Heritage Festival is an annual tribute to those



Willis Plott on Jaw Harp

early pioneers of yesteryear.

Hosted by the Union County Historical Society, and sponsored by United Community Bank and Jackson Insurance, the festival opens a window to the past and the cultural heritage of the North Georgia Mountains.

The event features hand-made crafts, traditional foods, music, craft demonstrations that include quilting, spinning, basket making, chair caning, needlework and making rugs.

It also features old-time music with live performances by talented musicians on auto-harp, mandolin, guitar and the fiddle.

All activities are centered around the restored 1861 Payne Family log cabin, the Mauney Family barn, the Duncan Family cabin, and other structures from Union County's storied past.

Other heritage activities historically have included sorghum cane to taste, gold-panning, holding or petting goats, mules, a calf, and lots of chickens.

Free and open to the public, the Mountain Heritage Festival is a unique event promising wholesome family fun, and teachable moments for all ages.

For more details, call the Union County Historical Society at (706) 745-5493. Also, visit the Web at union-countyhistory.org.

More details and numerous photographs are available at unioncountyhistoricalsociety.blogspot.com/

Make this a Labor Day Weekend you'll never forget.

## Station 1...continued from Page 1A

main two things that precipitate this construction are the living quarters and the training area."

The additional facilities at Station 1 will be attached at the far side of the fire truck bays. A portion of the facility will be two stories, the front portion will be one story.

"This is a SPLOST project and we're proud to be moving forward with this one," Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said. "We categorize projects and put them in order of priority. We're to the point where we have the funding available to begin work on this site. You can ask any of the firefighters, they're ready for this project to begin."

The county is seeking Requests for Proposals from qualified contractors bidding

for the construction project. A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m., Thursday, in the Union County Courthouse, upstairs in the grand jury room adjacent to Courtroom A.

Purchasing coordinator Pam Worden of the Commissioner's Office said once the RFP process is completed, construction of the facility is just around the corner.

"It takes about six to eight weeks to get the metal buildings in," Pam Worden said.

"It's hard to set a time table for the project's completion, but I'd estimate around next spring, just to be conservative," she said.

Paris is a staunch support of Union County Fire & Rescue.

"We're proud of our

full-time fire department, but we're also proud of our team of volunteers," Commissioner Paris said. "They supplement everything that is done here, with donations that come into the different stations. They've all bought rescue trucks, the Jaws of Life and all the extrication equipment."

"When the local folks support our fire department stations through donations, it just makes our community that much more safer," Commissioner Paris said. "We've got some grants out there for some additional new equipment."

"It's about a \$400,000 grant and the county will have to contribute 10 percent of that," he said. "We're working hard to make our department one of the best in the state."

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War Memorial on Nov. 11, 2012, Spaulding said.

Chuck Honaker, who co-chaired the fund raising drive, and retired Veterans Affairs Director for Union County Roy Hamby, said the funds were collected from a cross section of residents, businesses, civic organiza-

tions, banks and churches.

When the fund drive began, almost \$3,900 separated the Veterans Committee and a fitting memorial to those who served in the War on Terrorism.

Honaker, who helped start the fund raiser, has about 10 pieces of shrapnel still inside him as an unwelcomed reminder of his prolonged service in Iraq.

His hearing was ir-

reparably damaged after an improvised explosive device detonated while he was a gunner on patrol in Baghdad. It severely injured Honaker and killed his friend and Staff Sgt. Bobby C. Franklin, who worked here in Union County. On Nov. 11, 2012, it's very likely that the community will rally at Union County War Memorial for one of the most memorable Veterans Day in Union County history.



Artist/Sculptor Gregory Joranson, of Cumming, has a clay model of the Iraq War pedestal for the Union County War Memorial.

## Rotary In Motion



(L-R): Coach Allison and Rob Murray

Coach Allison, Varsity Head Football Coach at UCHS was our guest speaker at the Union County Rotary Club last week. He gave an update on the athletic program and the upcoming football season. Due to budget cuts the coach and many others have assumed additional responsibilities in order to maintain a superior program for athletes in all sports at UCHS.

Coach Allison was particularly proud of the work ethic the football team has demonstrated not only during practice but during the off-sea-

son weight training. They have attended fundraisers, spent many hours in spring training and of course maintaining good grades to remain eligible for the sport.

The first football game of the season is Friday night, September 7th at 7 PM, the Panthers will play Fanning County. Good luck Coach during the season!

The Rotary meets weekly at Candence Bank. Visit our web site at [www.unioncountyrotyclub.org](http://www.unioncountyrotyclub.org) or call Gene Windham for membership information at 706-781-3230.