

Dyer...from Page 1A

chief. David was a lieutenant in the fire department, and he has been in the department as a volunteer and part-time paid firefighter for years (since October 1990).

"David really has the experience, he's still a young guy and he knows the operations inside out," Paris said. "He's always been a hard worker, he's always been involved in rescue operations.

Charles and I feel David knows our system already, and we felt like he was the right person for the job."

Chief Dyer said filling in on the job in the interim has been quite overwhelming.

"There is a lot to do," Chief Dyer said. "I've just been trying to learn all that I can learn from Chief Worden and all the staff here, and do the best I can do.

"I've been with the Union County Fire Department since I was 18 years old," he said. "It's been a huge part of my life. Most people grow up and they want to be a fireman when they're a kid, but it never really hit me until I was in high school and I wanted to be a fireman. I've loved it ever since.

"The best thing about it is, you never know what's go-

ing to happen next," he said. "It keeps you interested; you never know what is going to happen next.

"There's more to fire departments today than fighting fires," Chief Dyer said. "There's the HAZMAT aspect, Emergency Management, rescues and we do a lot of pre-fire planning. The latter is a big aspect of the fire department now."

Worden...from Page 1A

everything good for Union County.

"How lucky can we be that he's training (David) and has trained him to be our new fire chief and still have Charles there for 911 and Emergency Management," Paris said. "Charles will be a mentor for David, and we're lucky to have the best mentor in the business."

Chief Worden was honored recently with the Emergency Management Association of Georgia's Legends Award. The award honors Chief Worden's career achievements during his more than 20-year career in public safety.

Worden became Union County Fire Chief in early 1993. In May 1993, Worden became the county's second career Fire Chief.

Meanwhile, Worden also attended EMT school at North Georgia Tech in the first

class from that institution that began certification through the National Registry. For several years, Worden worked part-time at Union County EMS. In 1997, when EMA Director Hughes Chatham retired, Worden was appointed as Union County's EMA Director.

In 2004, after a reorganization of the 911 Center, Worden was tasked with serving as the 911 Director and overseer of Union County 911 Mapping.

During this period, Union County was completely re-mapped for 5.28 scale in order to ensure more efficient response of emergency services. Additionally, signs were placed at every building in Union County as a part of that effort. Worden was at the head of that operation from start to finish. Additionally, Worden was able to secure funding for an all-inclusive backup mo-

bile 911 Center that he hopes Union County will never need to use.

Union County Fire Department at one time consisted of five stations with seven career employees and a varying number of volunteers. Under Worden's leadership, Union County Fire Department has progressed from having two firefighters on shift to four firefighters on shift with a total now of 14 career employees. There are now 11 total fire stations throughout Union County. About a year ago, the fire department took control of a new Fire Station 1 and Emergency Operations Center that will serve the county proudly for many years to come.

Worden was diagnosed with bone cancer during the summer, but has continued to work as much as he can to direct operations at Union County Fire Department,

Union County Emergency Management Agency, and Union County 911.

He has successfully completed a round of radiation treatments and is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments that are almost done.

"Charles Worden is such an amazing gentleman, and we have been so fortunate to have him in charge of our Emergency Services in Union County for so long (E-911, Fire Department and Emergency Management)," said Paris. "The average citizen does not realize what an asset it is in any type of emergency or natural disaster, to have a man who has dealt with every type of situation and intuitively knows what and how to react.

"I have been blessed as commissioner to have someone that I could always call on when needed, and he was always there," Paris said.

Payne...from Page 1A

In the civil seizure process, the Sheriff's Office ended up with 12 firearms, Sheriff Mason said.

"They'll all be sold at auction except one; there's an AR-15 that we will convert to department use," the sheriff said. "TVs and surveillance

equipment will be sold at auction, along with the remaining 11 firearms.

"Our motivation of working drug cases is not seizure of property, it just goes along with it," Sheriff Mason said. "If they're going to sell the drugs that cause all these

problems in society, then we're going to seize their property by law if we can. Seizures offset the use of tax dollars to stop these crimes."

The Sheriff's Office uses funds from civil seizures to buy equipment, pay for training, purchase vehicles

and weapons. "That's what we'll do with these funds," the sheriff said.

"Our main motivation is getting this stuff (drugs) off the street," Sheriff Mason said. "And we're trying to keep people off drugs."

Burglary...from Page 1A

Dec. 28 and discovered the burglary, Union County Sheriff's SSgt. Darren Osborn said.

More than \$5,000 in items was taken from the residence. Those items included chainsaws, socket sets, a pair of \$300 Maui Jim sunglasses, and TV and stereo equipment, Sgt. Osborn said.

"We feel like there's someone out there that knows these individuals," Sgt. Os-



born said. "We need the public's help in making sure these gentlemen don't get the opportunity to do this again.

"Anyone with any information about who these men might be, call the Sheriff's Office at (706) 439-6066,

or call our anonymous tip line at (706) 781-1973," Sgt. Osborn said. "All names will be kept confidential."

Career Coach Coming to Hiawassee

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Career Coach is coming to Hiawassee.

The Coach will arrive at Towns County Library, 99 South Berrong St, in Hiawassee on Thursday, Jan. 8, at 10 a.m., and remain there until 2 p.m.

The mobile unit is an extension of the state's one-stop workforce delivery system. It provides computer and Internet access in order to meet the needs of the community in resume and cover letter development; online job searches; career interest assessments; skills testing; mock interview simulation; use of skill enhancing software; and exploration of training eligibility.

"Individuals seeking assistance through the GMWD must be a resident of one of our 13 counties or is currently or has been employed by a company whose business is currently operating or has operated within the Georgia Mountains service area," Career Coach Micah Thomas said.

"Our Service Area is comprised of Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White counties," Thomas said.

The unit will be available to assist individuals with searching and/or applying for jobs online, writing a resume and/or cover letter, discerning career interests, or would like to learn about tuition assistance and on-the-job training programs.

"Please stop by," said Thomas. "Please share this event information with anyone you know that might benefit from our services."

Georgia Mountains Workforce Development is operated by Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, which is headquartered in Gainesville.