

Wildfires...from Page 1A

of any type warrant such ban by creating significant risk of fire.

“Such ban, once declared, shall continue until lifted. Such ban can be imposed countywide or limited to a specified area or areas, or limited in other ways. Such ban shall not include fire department training fires nor covered gas grills.”

The ordinance also gave the Union County Sheriff’s Office the ability to enforce the new amendment by issuing citations to violators of the burn ban.

Furthermore, the county has been regularly contacting residents about the burn ban via mobile and email emergency alerts, for which residents can sign up at the

following web address: http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/unioncounty_ga/wens.cfm.

Commissioner Paris also had a couple of signs made up advertising the total burn ban, which are hanging on each side of the Pat Haralson Memorial Drive overpass, visible from both directions of GA 515.

Burn bans have been put in place by the surrounding counties and the U.S. Forest Service, and the Georgia Forestry Commission hasn’t been issuing burn permits for several weeks.

At press time, the Rough Ridge fire in the Cohutta Wilderness of Fannin County was only 20 percent contained, having burned more than 20,000 acres since its discovery on Oct. 16.

The area has been particularly smoky due to the surrounding wildfires, with smoke blowing in from North Carolina’s many nearby wildfires. The Boteler Fire, located just east of Hayesville, had burned close to 10,000 acres at press time, and was only 37 percent contained.

A new fire emerged in neighboring Towns and Rabun counties on Nov. 9, and had burned nearly 5,000 acres on Rock Mountain as of press time Monday. Located just north of the Rock Mountain Fire, Towns County’s Tate City had been alerted to pre-evacuation steps by the U.S. Forest Service as early as Nov. 11.

The constant presence of smoke in the North Georgia Mountains has been causing visibility issues and raising potential health concerns for

area residents.

For those worried about exposure to smoke, the U.S. Forest Service has issued the following:

“Fires throughout northern Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and North Carolina, have the potential to impair air quality. Conditions may change quickly, based on weather, wind direction and fire activity.

“Sensitive groups including individuals with asthma, lung or heart disease, children, older adults and pregnant women should take precautions to avoid exposure to smoke. If you feel like you are having health effects from smoke, see your doctor or health professional as needed. Use caution when driving in or around smoky areas.”

Hussion...from Page 1A

discussing the successes of Union County High School with other schools around the state.

“Really, it’ll be a good opportunity to talk about our kids, our school, our teachers, the board support that we have,” said Hussion, looking ahead. “That’s one thing I noticed down there, is that all the really successful schools had three things: they had

passionate teachers, they had a dynamic principal, and they had district support from the board of education.”

That was a point of emphasis for Hussion, the fact that working with the Union County Board of Education – including Superintendent Dr. Fred Rayfield and Associate Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Williams in the board office – is a positive, constructive experience aimed toward the betterment of students and the community by the continual removal of barriers to learning.

Student achievement is celebrated in Union County Schools. For example, with the recently implemented STEM program and upcoming INCubatorEDU, and the flex periods and dual-enrollment opportunities, students are afforded every chance to succeed and excel at Union County High.

“This is very much a sense of pride for us,” said UCHS Principal John Hill. “We’re extremely proud of Mr. Hussion and his hard work and dedication that he’s provided our students.

“I think this shows and highlights the combined efforts of all of us, but he is just a tremendous ambassador for our school system, and we’re very proud of him. Part of his duties in winning the Assistant Principal of the Year will be lots of speaking engagements, and he’ll travel around the state and speak at conferences.

“In the big picture, we want to help educate all children, not just in our county, but in the state and the country. And I think that he will be able to help other people implement some of the innovative things he’s brought to our school system.”

Of course, Hussion, who has been an educator for 20 years with 10 years in Union County, said he can’t want to get out there and talk about

Give the gift of food to a senior this holiday season

Share the gift of a meal with home-bound senior citizens in Union County this holiday season through the Home Delivered Meal Holiday Gift Certificate Program. Purchase a holiday gift certificate through Union County Senior Center and meals will be delivered to home-bound senior citizens through our Meals on Wheels program.

You can provide a meal for one day, a week, month or year. The cost of one meal is \$3.68, one week is \$18.40, one month is \$80.96, and one year is \$971.52. All gifts are tax-deductible; we are a 501(c)3, non-profit.

Checks should be made payable to Union County Senior Center, “Holiday Gift Certificate Program” and should be mailed or delivered to the following address: Union County Senior Center, 95 Senior Center Drive, Blairsville, GA 30512.

From Thanksgiving until New Year’s Day all meals will be delivered to senior citizens with a special certificate to wish happy holidays from the gift giver. Funding is essential and we have suffered budget cuts in state and federal funding, yet the demand for meals is steadily increasing. Many seniors cannot afford to purchase enough food for a balanced meal and many seniors cannot cook for themselves. Please assist us in preserving this vital program. Thank you for making a difference in your community! For more information, call 706-439-6105.



Hussion’s family joined him for the breakfast reception. Pictured here are Hussion’s wife, Jana, and their two kids, Brady and Avery.



Many of Hussion’s colleagues joined him for breakfast on Friday, Nov. 4, to wish him congratulations and a job well done.

Union County High School, as he recognizes that the school’s successes are his successes and vice versa, which is something the folks at GASSP noticed as well.

“His hard work has led to great results at Union

County High School,” said GASSP Executive Director Melton Callahan. “He is an outstanding educational leader. We are proud of him and the opportunity he will have on the state stage to promote quality education.”