

Relay For Life...from Page 1A

with her Southern Pecan Cobbler.

Attendees of the Farmers Market enjoy the addition of events like the dessert contest.

"It's really neat that the Farmers Market has events like this, and the dessert was amazing," said attendee Beth Sterling. "I usually don't have too much of a sweet tooth, but they were all so good today. I can't say that I have an absolute favorite, but the carrot cake was great."

"I think that the Farmers Market having events like this brings in more and more people every week. I come kind of frequently, but every time I come back, I notice how many more people are here than the last time, and there's always something new going on. It makes me want to see what's going on when I'm around here."

The Union County



Hungry Farmers Market attendees tasting desserts and giving donations in the June 22 Dessert Contest.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Farmers Market has something going on every Saturday through October, with the next event being Heritage Day on June 29.

For more information on upcoming events at the Farmers Market, visit UnionCountyGA.gov/Farmers-Market.

S.A.F.E...from Page 1A

husband, but God gave me a good man and good life, so I wanted to give back and help others. They say you don't get paid as a volunteer, but I get paid every day when I walk out to my car to do this."

Another volunteer, Sarah Rieke, has been with the organization for 25 years.

"My next-door neighbor brought me to one of the meetings, and it hadn't even been established into an outlet store yet," said Rieke. "It has such a valuable meaning for abused women and children, and I just fell in love with the organization and what they do to help those that need the help."

Volunteers received gifts from the organization in the appreciation event, as well as prizes during a raffle in which they were all entered.

S.A.F.E. is always



Roy Perren as Elvis Presley in the S.A.F.E. Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on June 21.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

looking for more volunteers to help with the many aspects of the organization, including its Blairsville and Young Harris thrift stores.

For more information on becoming a volunteer, call S.A.F.E. at 706-379-1901.



Volunteers of S.A.F.E. Inc. go out of their way to help women and children in the community.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Board of Education...from Page 1A

called "Crisis in Schools."

In other school news, School Finance Director Karen Bundy reported that the 2018-2019 school audit came back clean, with some findings for upgraded controls over financial reporting.

Bundy, along with Superintendent John Hill, urged the board to hire Mauldin & Jenkins CPAs & Advisors for future audits, which the board did unanimously.

Hill gave a brief year-in-review summary of the 2018-2019 school year in the June 18 school board meeting.

"We have really hammered team focus," said Hill. "Team focus is what wins championship ball games. It's what makes business and industry successful, and it's also what makes schools successful."

"We completed strategic planning during the 2018-2019 year, our vision and mission - Union United and Success for All. Advanced ed and charter renewal this year was completed. We created a police department. We implemented safety upgrades around the campus."

"We have our Governance Teams in place. All staff participated in professional learning. We completed leadership annual retreat. We had monthly meetings with our whole group, we had bi-weekly meetings with our principals, and bi-weekly meetings with our directors."

One of the most important initiatives to come out of the

leadership team annual retreat strategic planning session was poverty awareness, said Hill, highlighting the necessity of administrators and teachers being aware of each student's circumstances so they can act accordingly.

Hill also touted the system's increased transparency and communications, training, evaluations, the creation of an Employee Handbook, the overall financial health of the district and more.

"We've increased our revenue," said Hill. "We've decreased some costs. Next month, we'll be able to report to you hopefully what we're going to carry over from this year's budget once the salary accruals are taken out."

"We have focused very hard on increasing and improving school culture and climate and employability. We've been involved in things like the Chamber Board, Rotary, Kiwanis, various other civic groups. And honestly, we've spoken at any event that we've been invited to."

"So, that's the year in review for our central office this year, our highlights."

Also in the meeting, Misty Friedman of the Georgia Department of Agriculture presented the Georgia Grown System of Distinction Award to former school nutritionist Courtney Waller, recognizing a farm-to-table event she put on for students.

Waller left the school system at the end of May, with Cindy Jones taking over as

nutritionist.

Young Farmer teacher and FFA Adviser Ryan Talton welcomed Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council Executive Director Frank Riley to the meeting.

Riley thanked the board for recognizing the Chest-Chat RC&D Council as a Union County Schools Partner in Education in last month's meeting, which he was unable to attend.

Moving along, the board unanimously approved an upcoming overnight field trip for both the high and middle schools to the nation's capital, and Hill made clear that school leadership would continue to scrutinize such trips to make sure they are of sufficient worth to justify the cost.

The board also unanimously approved all bid recommendations made by Assistant Superintendent Murphy for propane, gas and diesel fuel, fire extinguisher service, waste management, pest control, tire service and fire sprinkler inspection service.

Continuing, the board unanimously approved the Department of Human Resources Second Step Program Grant, the Union and Towns contract for Alternative Education Services, and the Family Connection FY2020 contract.

The board unanimously approved the April 2019 Financial Report, the FY2020 Budget, the 2019-2020 salary schedules and the new Employee Handbook.

Register now for Miss Georgia Mountain Fair

The pageant is on Monday, July 22nd, application deadline is Sunday, July 14, 2019. Applicants must be between the ages of 17-24, never

been married, nor have children. Money and prizes will be awarded. All information can be found on the website for the Georgia Mountain

Fairgrounds!

If they have any further questions, feel free to contact Sonya at 770-480-4777, or sonyamcc@bellsouth.net.