

5K...from Page 1A

she elaborated. "He's been running Cross Country since junior high, and this is his first year running track."

Normally, the operating budget of the Community Council is funded by gifts from friends in the region through an annual campaign.

This year, the council decided to try something a little different with the 5K. Tony Dyer, a Community Council member volunteer, said he hopes it will be "the first of many."

Interim Superintendent of the GMREC Ray Covington added, "I want to thank the Union County government for giving us the facility to use today, but our ultimate goal is to put it on our campus."

The money from the 5K is necessary, because the GMREC funds multiple projects. In fiscal year 2013 and 2014,



more than 4,600 students and adults in the region benefited from the Council's programs.

"Without events like this, we couldn't offer North-east Georgia what we do. It's funded totally by the public,"

said Dyer.

Volunteers work through three program committees - Education, Outreach and Preservation - to fulfill the goals of the GMREC.

The preservation com-

mittee educates the public about the importance of preserving the incredible diversity of native plant species living in our Southern Appalachian Mountain region. The Experiment Station's grounds

cover 415 acres of orchards, test plots, pasture land, specimen and preservation gardens, historic sites and forests.

The GMREC also educates children and adults in water conservation, responsible stewardship, and resource management. The programs for adults are needs-based, but the programs for children vary by grade. For example, kindergarteners go through the Johnny Appleseed program, which teaches the importance of the apple industry to North Georgia.

Kids also get to experience working with scientists in the field. For instance, a popular event last year included a demonstration of seismic activity.

"The kids actually created an earthquake, a tremor, and had the technical equipment right there for the kids to

actually see," said Covington.

"We have a facility for helping education and agroeconomic development, and I just want to bring people up there and show them that," said Covington. "And the council helps me do that through the preservation program, and having the kids come out there."

Dyer said the overall benefit the community receives from the Experiment Station is the greatest reward.

"The best thing for me is seeing the benefits that our community gets from the center, which, by the way, is the oldest experiment station owned by UGA," said Dyer. "They've got experiment stations statewide. Our center is the oldest, got a lot of tradition, and for us to continue with that, and to give that to the citizens, that's enough reward for me."

Egg Hunt...from Page 1A

people, but it's open to anybody that likes to come."

Each year, the recreation department hosts the egg hunt on the Saturday before Easter weekend.

"This is something we've been doing for about 10 years now," said Conley, who has been with the department for seven years. "United Community Bank is a sponsor - they give us a little money to help pay for the eggs. This is something we do for the community to let them know we appreciate them and get them out. Unfortunately, we can't control the weather."

Preparation for the event calls for letting the grass grow up some in order to help camouflage the eggs, and Conley and volunteers show up about an hour and a half before the hunt kicks off to scatter the eggs.

"Typically, they pick them up quicker than we can put them out," said Conley. "It's like a vacuum. There will be one or two eggs the mowers will find when they're out there mowing, but for the most part, they pretty well wipe it clean."

The hunt was organized into age groups: 4 and under, 5 through 8 and 9 through 12. At the end of the hunt, boys and girls from each age group were given raffle tickets for a chance to win age-appropriate Easter baskets featuring toys and candy.

This year's winners were Luke Barnett and Kyla Shumaker, Seth Rutan and Lacey Newton, and Braxton Hooper and Kelly Patterson.

"Considering the weather, I think it went over pretty well," said Conley. "We get some people that come to this that normally don't come to Meeks Park. This is the only event they may come for, and they're not involved in our sports programs and things like that, but they do come out for the Easter egg hunt."

The week after spring break, the recreation department will begin its regular season spring sports programs.

"We'll have games going on, baseball and softball, ages 12U and 10U," said Conley. "We even go as low as 3- and 4-year-olds, our little Smart Start program."



Sheriff's Sale in April



Union County Sheriff Mack Mason asks readers to pay close attention to this week's Legal Advertisements beginning on Page 5B.

Inside today's legal section are details on how to acquire this 4-wheel drive tractor, 3.3 acres of property and a Kawasaki Mule.

It is all part of an advertised Sheriff's Sale of these seized items. Turn to the Legal Advertisements for more details.

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