

Blood...from Page 1A



Betty Easter, who has been organizing the Blairsville Community Blood Drive since 1989, gets some help from longtime Blood Drive volunteers Bob and Sandi Bishop.

he brought a good book to keep him company during the donation.

"Any time you can give blood, you're liable to save somebody else's life," said Kennard. "If your blood can save somebody else's life, and you can give blood and not worry about it, do it."

Mark Dehler of Young Harris is a longtime blood donor, and while he usually gives blood in Towns County, he drove over for the Blairsville Blood Drive because he sees giving blood as performing a public service.

"I think people ought to try it and see how they feel afterward," said Dehler. "I'm just one of those, I'd rather try, and if you like it you can do it again. We all depend on it, and God knows when we'll all need it."

Larry "Duff" Conley, director of the Union County Recreation Department, said that he too gives blood while keeping in mind those in need, though there are other reasons to give blood.

"I get my blood pressure checked for free, for one thing," said Conley, who has given blood for 30 years. "But it's to benefit others. I have thick blood, anyhow, so I figure it helps my condition as well."

And for those who are hesitant about getting stuck with a needle, Conley said that "it's not bad at all."

"And it doesn't take that long on a day like today, you're

in and out in 30, 45 minutes," said Conley. "It's not much of a sacrifice."

Donors with smartphones should consider downloading the American Red Cross Blood Donor app, which allows donors to schedule their donation and keep track of what they've given and their blood type.

Furthermore, donors can take part in the Red Cross RapidPass Online Health History System, which takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete but allows donors to fill out certain information at home rather than at the donation site.

"The technology allows blood and platelet donors to read the required pre-donation information and answer health history questions from the convenience of their own computer prior to arriving at a blood drive," according to the American Red Cross website. "RapidPass streamlines the donation experience and can reduce the time donors spend at Red Cross blood drives by up to 15 minutes."

GEMA...

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members, including members of the Sheriff Department, who were all willing to spend the many hours helping to develop this final plan.

Union County's grant was a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant totaling \$24,000. In a PDM grant, the federal government will reimburse the county 75 percent of the grant and the county pays the other 25 percent (\$18,000 federal share and \$6,000 local share). Union County's share was paid by a labor match.

BRMEC...

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run in the Hayesville area. His opposition, Adam Cory Payne, of Hayesville, NC.

Out of Union County, comes three candidates Patrick Malone, and Andrew Smith, both of Blairsville, and Gene Mason, also of Blairsville.

The three hope to replace Greg Owenby, who decided not to seek reelection to the BRMEC Board of Directors.

The nominating committee for BRMEC chose all the candidates in this election. It's a new twist from the previous two elections. Is it a sign that with the changes by members over the past two years has meant something to members in the five-county area? Maybe so.

BRMEC Board of Directors President Steven Phillips said if members feel like there is someone out there that should be on the board, call the nominating committee at (706) 379-3121, or (828) 837-1017.

Those still hoping to run as a petition candidate still have until July 18 to get the needed signatures to qualify to run in their respective county.

One person who won't run is Danny Henson, who was dismissed as a board member because of his partnership with fellow board member Greg Owenby.

Henson told the *North Georgia News/Towns County Herald* on Sunday that he would not seek Owenby's seat. He said he won't say he won't run in the future. As for now, he's content with what he's doing.

Check out the *North Georgia News/Towns County Herald* for more details in the newspapers about this year's elections.

Allegheny Masonic Lodge

Allegheny Masonic Lodge #114 meets 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Dinner 6:30 PM and meeting 7:30 PM.

Puppets...from Page 1A



Dozens of children enjoyed the puppet show at the Union County Public Library on Friday, July 8, and encouraged the performers with laughter and applause.

"We've had really good crowds almost everywhere we went," said MRLS Director Vince Stone. "I'm not sure what the exact number was for today, but it looked like there was over 100 people in here."

"We had the biggest crowd at Towns. There were around 150 total people and Fannin had 100 people as well. We did two performances in Fannin, actually. It's been very well received and accepted and appreciated."

As the lights dimmed in the community room of the Union County Public Library, kids bouncing up and down with anticipation, a 5-minute countdown popped up on a screen projected behind the puppet stage.

Children assisted with the countdown, excited to see the puppets and participate in the opening song, Van Halen's "Jump." Kids were encouraged to raise their hands as high as they could every time they heard the word "jump," as a means to showcase the library's summer reading theme, "On your mark, get set...READ!"

The theme also held an underlying current throughout the show, promoting both reading and fitness.

Russell the Crow paid a special visit at the beginning of the show, riling a good laugh from the crowd by cracking jokes, doing tricks and sharing his latest impersonations of the puppeteers.

The story of "Old Mother Hubbard" was next on the list, but this time with a twist, adding a modern spin to a beloved classic, followed by the telling of "Frog and Toad."

Finally, the show ended with "Tortoise and the Hare," a timeless tale that never ceases to impress both children and parents alike.

Of the many wonderful moments throughout the 30-minute show, 5-year-old Ava Watson narrowed down her favorites after much debate.

"I liked the very first part," said Watson. "My favorite was the dancing and the bird."

Her mother, Lori, her sisters and her aunt, Marge Reach, accompanied Watson at the show and Reach was just as enthusiastic about the puppets as the children.

"I really liked the bear," said Reach. "I really think this is a great idea. I'm so glad that the library decided to do this for the kids. They really enjoyed it and so did I."

After the show, children were invited to meet with the puppets and have their pictures taken with their favorite puppet and puppeteer.

According to Stone, the Mountain Regional Puppet Company will most definitely visit the library system again.

"We'll definitely do this again next summer and we're hoping to have a show at Christmas as well," said Stone. "We're working on a couple famous stories. We based our shows on books so we've picked out three popular children's books that we want to form into a puppet show for Christmas. Our fingers are crossed. We think we can do it. And we're getting a lot of financial support from the Friends of Union County Library. We're very excited about what the future holds."