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announcement that alerted teachers the doors were about to open and students would soon be filling their classrooms.

Children marched off to the open doors, some eager, some sleepy, and one even backwards, face buried in his mother's stomach, losing a flip flop in the effort and holding up the line.

One little girl ran toward the front, her father in tow, and exclaimed, "Daddy, I'm going to show you where my classroom is!"

The moving sea of students seemed to be an endless mass of new shoes, as far too many of the sneakers and dress shoes were too spotted to be left over from the previous school year.

It was apparent much preparation went in to picking out the outfit for the first day.

Some of the students that arrived closer to 8 a.m. appeared a little more rushed.

One mother was spotted anxiously stroking her daughter's hair while they walked in. A last ditch effort, no doubt, to have her ready for her first day.

Based on the smile plastered on the child's face though, the girl was confident, with or without tangles in her hair.

Some of the parents dropped their children off out front, sticking their heads out the window to quickly kiss the foreheads of their children before telling them to have a



Above, students hurry into the classrooms on the first day of school; below, Becky Dyer and Bobbie Belanger welcome Jacoby Forrest back to school. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

good day.

As for the parents that chose to walk their children in, they were pulling out camera phones to document every moment of the event.

The children that rode in on the school bus seemed concerned about more than documenting, as seen when one little boy looked at a teacher and asked, "Is it still breakfast time?" He barely heard her confirm that it was, before he ran for the cafeteria.

Over at the middle school, the young ladies and gentlemen were like taller versions of the Primary and Elementary school students, all dressed to the nines, toting new backpacks and wearing new shoes.

Some seemed nervous to begin a new year, but others were already finding friends and walking in together.

Students hopped out of the back seats of their parent's cars, some looking prepared, and some looking anxious, all waving goodbye to their parents as they braved the new year.

Over at the high school, most of the students seemed pretty used to the pattern of walking to class, as they listened to music on their phones and waved to friends, none looking especially nervous about new classes.

Despite the mixed emotions from primary to high school, everyone looked ready to tackle the first day. It is sure to be an exciting year.

Reece...from Page 1A

and Mary Reece's son, Valentine "Fella" Reece came along in 1750, one might have had to wonder if such a reunion would ever take place.

Valentine "Fella" Reece was the only child of William and Mary Reece.

Valentine didn't let his family down. He and his wife Christina actually launched the Reece Reunion, after having nine children between 1770 and 1792.

The line that followed included Jacob Reece, William "Billy" Reece and



A great time was had by all at the 82nd Annual Reece Reunion at the House of Prayer Family Life Center.

ing, it's just a great day," she said. "You always see people that you don't normally get to see. You get to meet new family that you've never even seen before. So, it's a great way to keep up with family and see how their lives have progressed."

Bill Honaker continues to keep up with the Reece Family genealogy, and is married to Hoke and Lillie Reece's daughter, Bobbie Louise.

"It was a better turnout than we thought it would be this year," Honaker said. "A lot of the e-mails that we got from people, they said they couldn't come this year. It was an awesome turnout."

"We had a couple of Reeses that came that spell their name with an 's' instead of a 'c' and they thought they could come to the reunion," he said. "We told them there weren't any Reeses here, only Reeces."

"Family is what keeps bringing us together," said White, the daughter of Carl and Alice Irene Reece Towe. "I remember the reunion for as long as I can remember. I've always looked forward to it. I get to see people that I grew up with in Owlton, it's always exciting."

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Workforce is here to help find jobs

By Heather Poole
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Georgia Mountains Workforce Development is on the move.

The Mobile Jobs Bus has been up and running since the beginning of June, busily serving 13 counties across North Georgia, and recently stopping by the Mountain Regional Library in Blairsville.

Funded by grants, and more personal than the unemployment office, Micah Thomas and his team help those that are unemployed, underemployed, under qualified, or just confused as to how to attain a job across the 13 counties that make up the Mountains District.

Along with providing tuition and on the job training, the Jobs Bus also provides a youth program for those ages 14-21.

This program targets individuals who have an Individualized Education Program, or IEP in school, are homeless, runaways, young parents, or lacking a GED.

They partner with different schools such as North Georgia and Chattahoochee Technical Colleges, and help people who do not know where to begin.

The grants Workforce Development receives help to pay for the tuition.

The Jobs Bus is not just for those who need help with unemployment, Thomas explained that anyone needing

"There were a lot of apologies there, but those folks were very generous, very gracious," Honaker said. "But, overall, we had a lot of first timers, that was good too. When we get new people, we expand this genealogy that we've got. I've got three new lines now to add to our book, and probably 600 people."

Honaker said the secret to the continued Reece Reunion is, well, what everyone else says, family.

"The Reeces have always been a close knit family," he said. "As far back as I can trace, they've always been close knit. Big families living together. When the father or mother gets on up in years and needs taking care of, the children, or brothers and sisters, took in the elderly. Nursing homes were out of the question."

"The Reeces are the most generous bunch of people I've ever met," he said.

help putting together a resume is welcome to come by and use the resume building program on one of the computers in the bus.

A very specific step-by-step program, the resume builder puts all of the applicant's information into the required fields, and then lays out the resume exactly as it should be.

Thomas said he is always willing to look over cover letters and resumes that have already been completed as well. The team also has multiple websites ready that assist in helping someone figure out what types of jobs they are best qualified for such as Onetonline.org, and Snagajob.com.

Because of the printers on the bus, the applicant is able to create their resume and leave with it in hand. Thomas also is dedicated to making the experience a personal one.

After working with the applicant, the team will check in on them along the way to see if they have applied for jobs, and also whether or not they have attained any jobs yet. Then, for the following two years, they will continue to check in on the applicant to see how everything is working out.

Along with the food pantry, and other libraries, Thomas and the mobile unit has recently worked with the Department of Labor, helping them process unemployment claims.

To find out about the Workforce Development and more about the Jobs Bus, visit www.gmrc.ga.gov.