

CCRPI...from Page 1A

kids go to post academics that don't need remediation.

"Basically, are we really preparing our kids for college and career," Dr. Williams said. "All of that is calculated for CCRPI, especially for the high school."

The criteria are different for each level, elementary, middle school and high school, Dr. Williams said.

"For us, being the third year, we've had gains in our high school each year," he said. "When you look at all of the high schools in North-

east Georgia in the 13-county Pioneer RESA, you basically have one per county, plus six in Hall County.

"Out of the 19 high schools, Union County High School had the No. 1 ranking in Pioneer RESA," Dr. Williams said. "The score was an 84, and that was up from 2012, which was 79.5. Our high school, being the No. 1 high school in Pioneer RESA is a tremendous success."

"That's thanks to the students, and the parents," he said. "What's nice is that our

students and our parents are demanding more than they demanded before. We want to make sure our kids have the experiences that they need. We want to make sure our kids are performing at a level they should be performing. Ultimately, if they're doing well in school, they are going to stay out of trouble in other areas."

"It's important that we are keeping them engaged day in, day out," he said.

Union County Schools had the highest average score

out of all the systems in Pioneer RESA, Dr. Williams said.

"We had a score of 88.2," he said. "We expect that score to go up slightly; we had one issue that we reported to the state where we felt some data was misreported."

Overall, Dr. Williams said that the final outcome for CCRPI is a testament to the hard work of everyone in the school system.

"We're 16.2 above the state average," Dr. Williams said. "That's truly amazing."

BOE...from Page 1A

initiative to help give at risk students a reason to stay in school through public-private partnerships.

In Georgia, one in three high school students will not graduate—often due to factors outside of their control, such as poverty or inadequate housing.

Approximately 1.3 million Georgians over the age of 18 don't have high school di-

plomas and are not adequately prepared for the workplace. Bringing together public and private partnerships, mentors and positive workplaces, Great Promise Partnership is giving at-risk students a reason to stay in school and succeed, Union County Schools Superintendent Gary Steppe said.

The Union County BOE also approved \$136,426

in change orders for the under construction Union County Schools' Fine Arts Center. Those funds come from the Education-SPLOST proceeds.

The BOE also approved \$89,650 to implement an Energy Management overhaul at Union County Middle School. Facilities Director Keith Ledford told the board that the system would pay for itself

in the first year after completion.

The Board also approved Bowen & Watson as construction manager for the Primary School renovation.

The BOE will meet again at 6 p.m. Feb. 17 for its work session, followed by its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. The meetings take place at the Union County Board of Education.

Small farm conference at Unicoi State Park, February 26-27

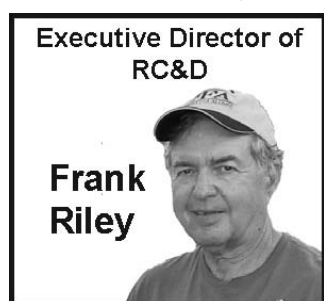
The Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council's mission is to help conserve our natural resources and improve the environment for all of our citizens here in Northeast Georgia. Most of these projects involve helping farmers, many of whom are small, improve their land, farms, and economic wellbeing. There are many government programs that help farmers with information on how to do things better and provide information on new things that they can try to make their farms produce more crops which will improve their economic outlook. The trick for the farmers is to know where to look for this help. Below is a press release on a conference that will bring many experts in their respective fields to Unicoi State Park where small farmers (or any farmers) can listen and learn from these

experts. I will present a session on the things that Chest/Chatt RC&D is doing for the farming community in Northeast Georgia. The conference is sponsored by the Broad River and Upper Chattahoochee River Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) were created in 1937 by the Georgia General Assembly to protect the state's soil and water resources following the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Districts provide a way for citizens to set local resource priorities for state and federal assistance programs. Today, Georgia has 40 SWCDs encompassing all 159 counties. Throughout the state, 370 volunteer district supervisors meet and work to conserve, improve and protect Georgia's natural resources. Each county is represented by at least two district supervisors, one appointed and one elected. District supervisors are unpaid state officials who work hand-in-hand with the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Regional Representatives provide professional support to advance the goals of local soil and water conservation districts. Regional offices are located in Rome, Athens, Milledgeville, Dawson, and Statesboro. Districts hold regular monthly meetings to plan their work and determine local needs for soil and water conservation and resource development. SWCDs work on a local level to promote statewide conservation goals.

Chest/Chatt is a member of 5 Soil & Water Conservation Districts in our 13 county work area... Towns, Fannin, Rabun, and Union counties are covered by the Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation District that meets monthly



Executive Director of RC&D

Frank Riley

or Frank Riley Executive Director Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council at frank.crced@gmail.com

in Blairsville and is chaired by our own Dr. John Kay. The Small Farm conference is free if you are among the first 120 to register and the contact information is listed below and all you have to do is call to register and get the free tuition.

The Broad River Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with the Upper Chattahoochee River Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, will be hosting a small farm conference Feb. 26-27, 2015, at Unicoi State Park in Helen, GA. The goal of the conference is to educate farmers with small-scale operations on ways to improve their operations and make them run more efficiently and profitably. The two-day conference will feature general sessions that will cover major agricultural topics, as well as breakout sessions that will cover unique topics of interest to small farming operations. Registration for the conference is \$225 per person. However, through sponsorship from the Broad River Soil and Water Conservation District, the first 120 people to reserve a spot will receive a fully-paid scholarship for the event. Registration must be received by Feb. 20, 2015.

For more details, and to register for the event, contact the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Region II office in Athens at (706) 552-4479

Scam...from Page 1A

said.

The Union County Sheriff's Office has received numerous calls from residents telling law enforcement that they had received automated calls from the Internal Revenue Service explaining that they were going to be sued if they did not return a call back to a certain number that was provided, Sgt. Osborn said.

"The IRS will send you a certified letter or will be knocking on your door. They will not be sending automated messages to you threatening to sue you," Sgt. Osborn said. "This is just another way of phishing for your personal information, and or maybe as we have seen many times before preying on the elderly. Please don't respond to these calls."

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