

Halloween...from Page 1A

"Instead of having a haunted house this year, we're going to do a dance as a fundraiser for Station 10," said UCFD 2nd Lt. Alan Foster of Station 10. "We teamed up with North Georgia Technical College to hold it out there, and it will be just a good old Halloween Dance."

Funds raised by the dance will directly benefit Station 10, which is a good cause in the county.

"We have a letter drive every year that we send out to the business owners and landowners in the county to support the stations," said Foster. "This year, we were about \$2,000 short from what we usually get. We usually get roughly \$9,000 to \$10,000 every year, and this year we were just right at \$7,000. Of course, it's been rough on everybody, but we came up with the plan to do more of

a fundraiser this time to see if we can raise more funds to run the stations on."

Above all, Foster hopes that everyone who comes to the two-day dance has a great time this Halloween.

For folks looking to do a little community trick-or-treating, Hometown Halloween on the Square will be going live on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the Downtown Blairsville Square.

"We have 38 merchants signed up so far coming from outside the square, plus whoever is on the square," said Blairsville Downtown Development Authority Program Manager Darren Harper. "They come out, they distribute candy—that's always the main goal, to get candy into kids' hands, give them something to do, somewhere to trick or treat."

During the Hometown Halloween event, the Blairsville Square will be closed to traffic, ensuring a safe, family-friendly outing.

"This will also be an opportunity for merchants to hand out business cards and brochures, and to tell parents about what they do and the services that they offer," said Harper.

As in years past, Harper will be looking to add an appropriate Halloween ambience to the two-hour event.

"We'll have spooky music playing on the old courthouse PA system so that there's a little bit of an atmosphere created," said Harper, who will also be adding lights to the old Union County Courthouse to enhance that atmosphere.

Kids, and even adults, are encouraged to wear costumes, and make sure to bring something to carry all that candy.

"Just have fun," said Harper. "It's one of the more chaotic events we have on the square, but at the same time, it's very confined. First Baptist Church has Trunk or Treat that same night, so they have two places they can go and trick or treat."

Parking will be available in and around the Downtown area, and the square will be closed by 5:30 p.m., so people should find a parking spot before then.

"We just encourage people to come," said Harper. "If you are a business and you've never participated, this is a good year to do it. It's a great opportunity for you to market your business. If the weather holds like it has been, it's going to be a great night for it. It snowed last year, so it was really cold, and everybody hates to put on a great costume and cover up with a coat. I think we'll have good weather for it this year."

Fly In...from Page 1A

donate their time and airplanes to make these opportunities available.

The current EAA Chapter 1211 president, 19-year-old Caleb Gessman, started out as a Young Eagle at the age of 12, and he's now in his second year at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

As a prime example of what the EAA's Young Eagles program can do for kids and young adults, Gessman sees the annual Fall Fly In as an opportunity to continue that work, as well as to promote grassroots and recreational aviation in general.

"We usually do the Fall Fly In about the same time every year, and this is at least the fifth time we've done it

consecutively," said Gessman. "It's fundraising with the byproduct of fun. Mostly, we just get donations for the chili, where some people drop \$2 in and some people drop \$20, and this year we raised \$618."

Money raised by EAA Chapter 1211 goes toward Young Eagles scholarships and chapter business.

"We've got people from all over Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee — they come in, they eat our famous chili, socialize," said Randy Boland of Blairsville, a longtime pilot and active EAA member. "We're trying to get new pilots. There's a shortage of new pilots, and we introduce them into flying, like we did with Caleb."

Member Jim Olson of

Murphy, NC, is an experienced plane builder. He has built several airplanes from kits throughout the years, including planes that were commissioned by people who liked what they had seen him build.

"When you build, you can build it the way you want, and a lot of times it's cheaper than trying to buy something already built," said Olson, who is a retired firefighter from Tampa Bay, Florida. "Building one, it gives you the choice of putting what you want in it versus buying a factory built one."

Olson has been a member of EAA Chapter 1211 since he moved to the area 10 years ago, and he has seen an increase in membership since joining the organization.

Membership dues are only \$20 a year, and people interested in joining the EAA don't have to be pilots to

become involved.

"We have an annual holiday party that you get your dues back just in the food that we offer," said Olson. "We've got some guys that aren't pilots that are interested in aviation, so you don't have to be a pilot to be a member. This is a local chapter, and then they have the national chapter, which is the Experimental Aircraft Association in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The biggest airshow in the world is at Oshkosh once a year."

There is also an Eagles program for people interested in getting into general aviation who are older than 17, and those interested in either the Young Eagles or the Eagles program should attend a monthly EAA Chapter 1211 meeting at the Blairsville Airport, on the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

Softball...from Page 1A

ground after delivering a pitch. After returning to her feet, she got her ankle taped and returned to the circle where she would toss a complete game.

"Laken had turned her ankle right before the Region Championship, and I think it was weak from that and just gave out on her mid pitch," Union County Head Coach Jessica Stewart said. "She is on crutches but is expected to play on Thursday."

Fortunately, the Lady Panthers' bats made life easier on Chambers by providing double-digit run support.

Leading the Lady Panthers' offensive onslaught was junior Kendra Tanner, who finished 4-for-4 with 4 runs, 3 RBIs and a walk.

In Game 2, sophomore pitcher Jillian Lawn got her sixth start of the season and

pitched Union into the Elite 8 by striking out six and allowing just one earned run.

Junior Lydia Arrowood went 2-for-4 with a pair of runs, and senior Karley Nix scored twice. Lawn and senior Maddie Garrett each drove in a run.

On deck for the Lady Panthers is Gordon Lee High School, the No. 1 team in Class AA, and arguably the No. 1 team among all classifications.

The Lady Trojans are currently riding a 26-game winning streak and are the proud owners of a 31-1 record, so Coach Stewart is well aware that her squad can't afford

to commit half-a-dozen errors and expect to get the win, like they did at Lamar County.

In fact, the Lady Panthers will need to bring their A-game in all phases.

"Gordon Lee hit 5 home runs in their second round series, so I know they can hit, and they also have a very good pitcher," Coach Stewart said. "We will have to put the ball in play on her and not have six errors against a team like that."

But don't expect Union County to go to Columbus with a 'just happy to be here' attitude. Coming off a State Runner Up finish in 2010,

nobody expected Union to go five years without a single trip to the Elite 8, and Coach Stewart is stressing to her team the importance of making the most of this opportunity.

"I've told the girls how special it is to make it to Columbus year after year," Coach Stewart said. "It's always our preseason goal. These seniors and juniors have been hungry to get to experience this. The freshmen and sophomores are going to get a taste, and I hope it gives them a little more motivation to not let another five-year gap between our next trip back."

"This will be my fourth time going to the Elite 8, and I'm just as excited as ever. I'm so proud of all 18 girls that have pushed each other and worked hard since we started in June. They deserve to be able to go to Columbus and enjoy the ride."

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