

County recreation programs growing

Director wants new employee to manage activities

By CHARLES OLIVER

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In just its first year of play, the Whitfield County Parks and Recreation Department soccer program is serving 31 teams and some 320 players.

"We've already had a lot of requests for spring soccer, and we expect that will probably about as big," said Director Brian Chastain.

Chastain met Thursday with County Administrator Mark Gibson and county finance officials to discuss his 2016 budget request. Board of Commissioners Chairman Mike Babb and Commissioner Lynn Laughter sat in on the meeting.

Chastain presented a request for a \$1.054 million budget, up from projected 2015 spending of \$935,000 and \$937,000 in the 2014 budget.

The only new item in the budget is salary and benefits for a new program coordinator, which would total about \$32,000. Chastain said the growth of the department's various programs requires a new position to help schedule the programs, train officials and help with planning.

The department currently has six full-time employees, including the director.

"We also have three or four people who help us out part time," Chastain said.

The department's youth baseball/softball program typically has 105 to 110 teams totaling about 1,600 players, Chastain said. Meanwhile, its football program serves about 600 athletes, its cheerleading program around 450 and its basketball program usually has 800 to 1,000 players each year.

"You are serving quite a number of players," said Laughter.

Most of Chastain's requested increase is due to the department's share of county pension contributions and health care.

"We were at 121 percent funding (for the pension), and for the last few years, we weren't putting anything in, letting it draw down," Babb said. "Now, we are at 100 percent, and we want to keep it at that level, so we are going to have to start putting money back into the pension."

After final meetings with

➤ Please see REC, 3A

The gift of giving back

United Way's major donors meet during Peacock Palooza

By MARTIN MARTINEZ

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While speaking at the United Way of Northwest Georgia's Peacock Palooza Thursday night, Bernie Marcus, the co-founder of The Home Depot, reminded those attending the event to be mindful that not everyone in the community is as fortunate as they are.

"There are many people in this community, I would say in a 25-mile radius, who are barely surviving on minimum wage, who are barely able to pay for their food," he said. "This a constant thing that happens in our community. In the last few years we know that average income of people has gone down dramatically and the cost of living has gone up dramatically. People are struggling."

The Peacock Palooza, held at The Farm, was a part of the United Way's kickoff festivities. During the event the organization recognized Julian Saul, founding chairman of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society of Northwest Georgia. The society is made up of individuals who contribute at least \$10,000 to United Way. According to United Way officials, the society has contributed



MATT HAMILTON/The Daily Citizen

Bernie Marcus speaks with Julian Saul Thursday at The Farm during the United Way of Northwest Georgia's Peacock Palooza.

almost \$12 million to the organization since its chartering in 1996.

"I think that what you do is admirable," said Marcus. "You

people get to go home eat your square meals a day, send your children to private schools. Well people out there don't have that. I think we have to share what we have and I believe that we have to do it in our communities, I'm a big believer of that. It give you great satisfaction and fill your heart with joy."

Marcus, who was the keynote speaker, spoke to a crowd of local business leaders and other prominent figures of the community. He reminded them of the importance of being mindful of how one donates money.

"It's not just about giving money, it's about making sure the people who get that money are using it successfully and know the areas where they are using it," said Marcus. "I think United Way does a good job of this."

Saul spoke on the history of the society and how it was founded. He mentioned his hope that the young leadership in the community will step up and begin contributing.

"We need more young blood in the organization," said Saul. "Maybe they'll step up and we can get 100 members."

Also during the event, United Way announced a new initiative to attract permanent capital.

"We want to build an endowment," said Ken Jackson, a

➤ Please see EVENT, 6A

Comic, music to be featured at Carter Hope Center fundraiser

By DANIEL BELL

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Staying at the Carter Hope Center in Dalton was a life-changing experience for Calhoun resident Daniel Hopkins.

He had been in other addiction treatment programs before, but the rigid nature of those other places didn't work for Hopkins. He didn't like being told when to go to sleep, when to wake up, when to eat, and so on.

The Carter Hope Center offered something entirely different, he said. Instead of enforcing a strict set of guidelines, they taught him to consider his choices and what the outcomes of his decisions would be.

"The were a lot of things I had never experienced before," he said. "The biggest thing was acceptance."

The center is hosting its first "Unity with the Community" event Saturday at the Wink Theater at 8 p.m. The fundraising event features live music and

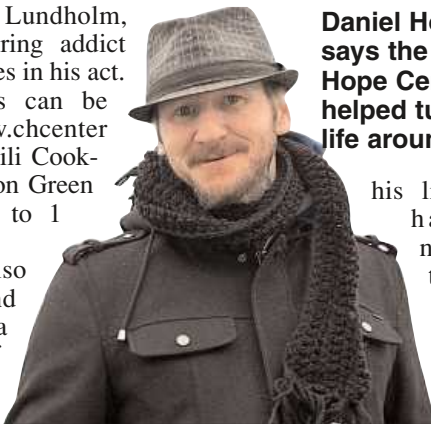
comedian Mark Lundholm, himself a recovering addict who uses his stories in his act. Advanced tickets can be bought at www.chcenter.com or at the Chili Cook-Off today at Dalton Green from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We will also have a band and testimonies of a graduates of Carter Hope and how it has changed their lives," said Tracy Harmon, the center's marketing and public relations director.

Hopkins is one of those graduates, having gone through the program following a year in jail.

"I had a highly rebellious spirit and no direction," he said. "The long and short of it was that I was a compulsive failure. Every opportunity I had I screwed up."

Hopkins said he was in jail when he just gave up and started praying. He said he told God that he would trust that whatever happened next was the right thing for



Daniel Hopkins says the Carter Hope Center helped turn his life around.

his life. What happened next was the Carter Hope Center; he was ordered there

upon his release from jail.

Carter Hope Center is a residential therapeutic recovery community for those suffering from addictive diseases. Specializing in alcohol and drug addiction recovery, it is a nine-month stay facility with 35 beds for men and 10 for women.

"We provide a structured and safe living environment to those individuals that are in need of long-term residential program," explained Harmon. "We encourage spiritual, physical and emo-

IF YOU GO

What: Unity with the Community
When: Saturday, 8-10 p.m.
Where: Wink Theater
Cost: \$25 general, \$45 VIP in advance or \$30 general and \$50 VIP at the door (if available).

tional recovery from drug and alcohol addiction."

The program worked well for Hopkins, who has been clean for five and half years. After leaving the center he found an apartment in Dalton. He started dating a woman from Calhoun and later got married. He earned an associate's degree in religious studies and is now the worship and small groups pastor in Chatsworth for Rock Bridge Community Church, a position that allows him to minister and share his story.

"I'm living the dream now," he said, adding that he owes it all to the Carter Hope Center.

Area jobless rate declines to 6.3% in August

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Metro Dalton's unemployment rate for August was 6.3 percent, down 1 percent from 7.3 percent in July, according to the Georgia Department of Labor. The rate in August 2014 was 9.4 percent.

Metro Dalton is Murray and Whitfield counties.

The rate declined as the

number of initial claims for unemployment insurance, a measure of new layoffs, decreased by 621, or 49.3 percent, to 639 in August. Most of the decrease came in manufacturing and administrative and support services. Over the year, claims were down by 1,245, or 66.1 percent, from 1,884 in August 2014.

Also, the number of jobs in

Dalton increased by 200, or .3 percent, in August to 68,300. The job gains came mostly in textile manufacturing and wholesale trade.

Over-the-year, Dalton gained 1,100 jobs, a growth rate of 1.6 percent, from 67,200 in August 2014. Most of the job growth came in manufacturing, trade, transportation and warehousing, and professional and

business services.

Metro Gainesville had the lowest area jobless rate at 4.8 percent, while the Heart of Georgia-Altamaha region had the highest at 7.7 percent.

Meanwhile, Georgia's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for August was 5.9 percent, down from 6 percent in July. It was 7.1 percent in August 2014.

Forum/Viewpoints	4A
Classified	1C
Comics	8A
Crossword	5A
Dear Abby	8A
Horsoscope	5A
Lottery	3A
Obituaries	7A
Sports	9-11A, 1-7B
Weather	12A



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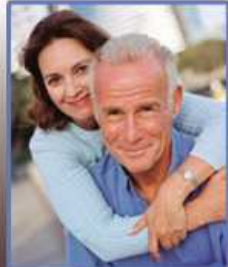
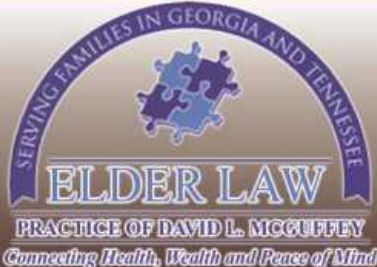
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Georgia School Superintendent Richard Woods attended the Murray County school system’s monthly board meeting to recognize and honor three students. From left are Thomas Petty, a freshman at North Murray High School; Woods; Jacob Quast, a sophomore at Murray County High School; and John David Adams, a senior at Murray County High School.

State superintendent recognizes students from Murray County

SUBMITTED BY MURRAY COUNTY SCHOOLS

Georgia School Superintendent Richard Woods attended the Murray County school system’s monthly board meeting on Sept. 14 to recognize and honor three students: Thomas Petty, a freshman at North Murray High School; Jacob Quast, a sophomore at Murray County High School; and John David Adams, a sen-

ior at Murray County High School. They are among the 110 Georgia students chosen to serve on Woods’ 2015-16 Student Advisory Council. This is Petty’s second year to be selected to serve on this council. He also served on the council during the 2014-15 school year. Throughout the school year, these students will meet with Woods to discuss the impact of state

policies in the classroom. Members of the council will also discuss other issues related to education, and will serve as the superintendent’s ambassador to their respective schools. Members were selected from a pool of more than 1,500 students who applied to serve on the council. “We are very proud of these students, their

achievements and this great honor,” Murray County Schools Superintendent Vickie Reed said. Meetings of the council will be held on Oct. 1, Nov. 12 and March 31 at the Georgia Department of Education offices in Atlanta. The council will also hold two virtual meet-

Event: United Way

➤ Continued from page 1A

United Way board member. “If we are good stewards of the endowment we’ll increase it in value. What that does is it allows us to weather any storm when it comes to people maybe not being able to make their contributions. But also, if we never need to use the endowment for that purpose, we can instead use it to help more people.”

Jackson said the United Way has already received \$2 million in seed money for the endowment from Engineered Floors, Mohawk Industries, Shaw Industries and an anonymous donor. “If we can build this endowment and invest well, we can see a permanent income to the organization that will really help us,” said Jackson. “It doesn’t start and end tonight. It just starts tonight.”

LOCAL BRIEFS

Church men to sell barbecue chicken

The Men’s Fellowship of Chatsworth First United Methodist Church will hold a chicken plate barbecue on Saturday, Oct. 17, at the church at 111 W. Cherokee St. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The “super-secret special sauce” makes “The Best Grilled Chicken in Murray County.” The meal includes half a chicken, cole slaw, beans and bread for \$6. Dine in or carry-out. Deliveries can be made for orders of six or more plates. Walk-ins are welcome. Call (706) 695-3211 for information or advanced tickets. Funds raised will be used for charitable works including Murray Community Christmas, children’s homes, Salvation Army food closets and others.

Ballroom dance lessons offered

The Dalton-Whitfield Senior Center will have group ballroom dance lessons on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 1 p.m. Pre-register at the senior center with a \$5 non-refundable class fee. A dance partner is not

required to participate. For more information, call (706) 278-3700.

Flower show to be at Looper Speech and Hearing

Looper Speech & Hearing Center holds its eighth annual flower show and luncheon “Celebrate Life with Flowers” presented by nationally acclaimed floral designer Sharon McGukin. This event is Tuesday, Oct. 27, at The Farm Golf Club in Rocky Face. Tickets are on sale now. Cost is \$50. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (706)226-4623.

Thursday’s Dow Jones: 16,201.32 ▼ 78.57
Thursday’s NASDAQ: 4,734.48 ▼ 18.27
Thursday’s S&P 500: 1,932.24 ▼ 6.52

	Wed.	Thu.		Wed.	Thu.
Gold	1130.3	1154.1	IntelCorp	28.74	28.48
Silver	14.79	15.15	Tile	23.83	23.44
Altria	54.40	54.61	IBM	143.66	144.41
Acuity	180.93	173.56	JCPenney	9.37	9.33
Apple	114.32	115.00	JNJ	92.99	92.48
AT&T	32.20	32.11	Kroger	36.38	35.96
BAC	15.72	15.55	KimberlyClark	107.86	108.17
BB&T	35.23	35.05	Lowes	68.73	68.48
BP	29.92	30.16	Eli Lilly	86.69	85.35
BristolMyers	61.74	61.80	McDonalds	97.38	97.29
BerkshireHath	129.16	128.83	Microsoft	43.87	43.91
Caterpillar	70.20	65.80	Merck	51.03	50.59
Comcast	57.37	56.82	Mohawk	196.98	192.82
Chevron	76.12	76.89	3M	137.66	137.58
Coca-Cola	38.76	39.15	MolsonCoors	82.79	81.11
ConAgra	39.50	41.07	Pfizer	32.62	32.70
CrownCrafts	7.92	7.89	Regions	8.95	8.92
Cracker Barrel	147.96	145.25	Rock-TennCo	61.97	61.97
CSX	26.58	26.39	Roper	153.34	153.91
Deere	77.69	75.76	BlackBerry	7.17	7.03
Dixie Group	9.80	9.45	SouthernCo	42.95	43.48
Dow	42.58	42.49	Synovus	29.42	29.67
DukeEnergy	69.09	70.32	SunTrust	38.00	37.72
DuPont	47.91	48.03	TMK	56.89	56.85
ExpScripts	83.30	82.43	TotalSys	46.75	46.75
Ericsson	9.35	9.37	UPS	97.57	97.50
ExxonMobil	72.30	72.73	Verizon	43.98	44.09
Ford	13.68	13.65	Vulcan	93.71	92.33
FirstSec	2.49	2.49	Wal-Mart	63.72	63.83
FortunBrands	50.09	49.35	Walgreen	87.44	85.75
GE	25.14	24.91	WellsFargo	50.78	50.55
Google	622.36	625.80	Wendy’s	9.02	9.00
Gold. Sachs	179.41	176.91	Xerox	10.18	10.10
HomeDepot	116.17	116.34	Yum	78.92	78.32

COMMENTARY

Cooking together

As I’ve so often said, life is what happens between events. One night recently, we experienced life together cooking. That’s right, cooking.

We had been running around all day but Mary said she wanted to try a new recipe for dinner. I love to try new recipes — especially when Mary is doing the cooking — so I was all in. By the way, what happened next redefined all in. From the comfort of my bucket chair in front of the television, I can see into the kitchen. What I saw was a bit scary.

The kitchen counters by the range and across by the sink were filled with the ingredients for this new recipe. There was chicken marinating, a large pot starting to boil for pasta and the electric skillet was heating up. Also, a big pile of veggies was waiting on the cutting board. The wise husband that I am, I asked if I could help. The words barely cleared my lips before the answer came back: “YES!”

So I “volunteered.” I was assigned to electric skillet duty. But first, the chicken needed to be cut in 1-inch cubes. This presented the first challenge. The chicken was thighs with skin on and bone in. Ten minutes later, I’d managed to skin and debone two thighs. I mentioned to Mary that this process was going to take a long time. “Oh, that was supposed to be boneless chicken breasts.” No worries, I’ll just grab some breast from the refrigerator. Also, I’ll just add the deboned thighs to the cubed breast meat. I like the taste of dark meat bet-

ter anyway. As I was dredging the chicken meat, I happened to ask Mary how much chicken the recipe called for. “Half a pound.” Hum, I’ve got at least a pound. “OK, we’ll double the recipe.” (Later, I realized that it was a lot closer to two pounds!) Press on

regardless and we’ll just adjust as we go along.

Did I mention that there was wine involved in the recipe? Some may have gotten consumed along the way but fortunately we

weren’t short on wine.

Better get another large pot of water boiling. We’ll need lots more pasta and lots more olive oil and lots more veggies and lots more spices and ... Well you get the point.

Believe it or not, when it all came together, the dish was absolutely wonderful. By the way, the original recipe was for four servings. With all the required adjustments, we ended up with enough to serve 16 defensive line-men. The good news was that it tasted great and we had enough for more meals. We won’t have to ask “What’s for dinner tonight?” for the rest of the week.

However, the best part was that with every adjustment we would laugh our heads off. Life is good especially when you live life to the fullest even in the face of a new recipe that’s running amok.

(If you’d like the recipe, email me at wernerbraun@outlook.com.)

Werner and Mary Braun live in Dalton. He is the retired president of the Dalton-based Carpet and Rug Institute.



Werner and Mary Braun

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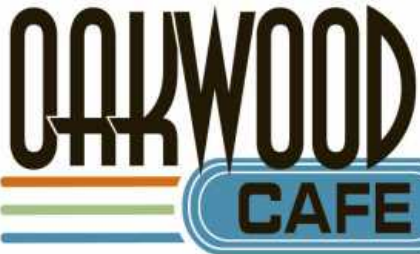
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