

# Boy Scouts, Project Chimps team up for Eagle Projects

By Jarrett Whitener  
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Three members of Boy Scouts of America Troop 101 of Blairsville completed Eagle Scout projects benefiting Project Chimps, a Morganton-based sanctuary for chimpanzees retired from biomedical research.

Knox Reed built six large barn owl boxes and six smaller screech owl boxes, which have been occupied by owls used since they were installed.

Having joined the scouts around the fifth grade, the now 17-year-old is happy with the level of dedication he has put into being a Boy Scout and making it all the way to Eagle

Rank. "I got into Boy Scouts and was in there because all my friends were in there," Knox said. "As I matured and aged, it went from hanging out with friends to me wanting to help people and get other things done."

"If you asked me in sixth grade if I would have been an Eagle Scout, I would tell you it wouldn't happen. It was just such a far goal, and it hasn't really set in yet – it has been an honor to get this far."

For his project, Stockton Reed, Knox's twin brother, constructed a teambuilding rope course to be used by Project Chimps employees and volunteers, as well as for

group events associated with the sanctuary.

Stockton completed the project with fellow Scout Isaac Corbin, each young man taking on the building of four sections of the course.

"I have always been an outdoors person and loved doing these rope courses as a kid," Stockton said. "I saw a good opportunity since they had so many of the materials and I didn't need to find much funding. It was just all here, and it was perfect."

The project has been among the highlights of Stockton's entire scouting career, and he encourages other boys to get involved with Boy Scouts while they can.

"My favorite part was probably this project and knowing that I was close to the end," Stockton said. "Scouting is a challenge and is fun. You learn a lot, and it has been my favorite thing I've done."

According to Corbin, 18, the teambuilding rope course he and Stockton built is perfect for Project Chimps, as it mimics the way the chimps in the sanctuary play.

"I kind of went back and forth between projects for a while," Corbin said. "Then finally, Project Chimps offered a few things we could do for projects. Immediately, I knew that it was going to be a good idea."

"I have always gone to teambuilding stuff, so when I heard it was going to be a team ropes course for teambuilding, I knew it was something that I wanted to do."

For Corbin, his time spent in scouts has helped him to develop leadership skills he'll be able to count on for the rest of his life.

"It was years of work, and it felt great to accomplish that after all that time," Corbin said. "Only a small percentage of people in scouts actually



Twins Stockton and Knox Reed of Boy Scouts of America Troop 101 completed their Eagle Scout projects with Project Chimps, pictured here with their father Kent Reed.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

make it to this point, so it is a great accomplishment."

Project Chimps Executive Director Ali Crumpacker was thankful for the scouts' contribution to the sanctuary and looks forward to building on the relationship with Troop 101 for future endeavors.

"We have been working with the scouts recently on a few projects, and we figured it would be best for both of us,"

Crumpacker said. "We had a few scouts from around the area do different projects, and we are hoping to continue that."

The Reed twins are the sons of Kent and Tracey Reed, and Isaac is the son of Rick and Gloria Corbin. Kent is Committee Chair of BSA Troop 101, and all scouting parents are incredibly proud of their boys for their Eagle Scout accomplishments.

## UCHS Prom...from Page 1A



Union County High School students dressed to the nines and danced the night away during their May 1 prom in Young Harris.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Barn in Young Harris, chosen for the copious space available at the venue and for its open-air environment allowing for proper distancing and ventilation.

The Barn also gave students the chance to participate in other activities besides dancing, including lounging and gaming areas, and a marshmallow-roasting station.

As the night of celebration and dancing slowed down, Union County Faculty and Staff took the stage to announce the Prom King and Queen of 2021, going to JJ Littles and Joanna Martin.

Taking the title of Prom Queen came as a surprise to Martin, and she is thankful to her classmates for honoring her in this way.

"I really wasn't expecting it, truthfully," Martin said. "I really didn't see it coming – it blows me out of the water."

When I was a junior, it broke my heart because I didn't think I was going to get a prom because of how their senior year ended."

Added Martin, "To my fellow classmates, thanks for the past 13 years. To underclassmen, just enjoy it while it lasts, because it goes by super quick."

After high school, Martin will spend her first two years of college at North Georgia Tech, with plans to eventually become a special education teacher. She will always remember her special prom evening that very well could have been canceled but wasn't.

Thankful right alongside her were students such as Jeremy Stover, who was happy to be able to have a prom and connect with friends more before they all leave high school.

"It is nice to get out and see all the people you haven't seen in a while," Stover said. "You get to meet friends that you haven't seen in a while and enjoy the night together. It is fun to get out of the house."

After a full year of being in class amid COVID-19, Stover is excited to have made it through to the finish line later this month.

"This year has been pretty good," Stover said. "It has been kind of difficult with all the restrictions we have had, but we all adjusted to it and made do."

Also during the event, High School Principal C.T. Hussion was awarded a Captain America Shield in honor of Principal's Day.

Graduation for the Class of 2021 is planned for May 21 at the Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium, beginning at 8 p.m.

## Remembering Reece: Nell Todd Brown recounts local history

"The Reach of Song," a play written and directed by Tom DeTitta about the life and times of Byron Herbert Reece, was performed on the grounds of the Georgia Mountain Fair and at Young Harris College for 14 Seasons beginning in 1989. Cast Member Nell Todd Brown performed as herself in 580 productions. "The Reach of Song" was named for one of Reece's poems. O'Neil, as called by her father Alvin Todd, said that her father and his poet neighbor, Byron Herbert Reece, were friends. The "Byron Herbert Reece" Dahlia was named "Raspberry Ice Cream Pink" by his friend, Todd. Each year, Dahlias are planted at the Reece Farm.

"Alvin Todd was born on August 6, 1902, and died on April 27, 1988. Starting in 1929 as a truck farmer in Gadsdistown, GA, and marketing about 10 varieties of dahlia tubers, gifts from his mother-in-law, the money from which he paid his property taxes, Alvin Todd built a dahlia farming business. By 1970 the dahlia farm, nicknamed "Lost Hollow," was growing 55,000 dahlia tubers, representing over 500 varieties, that were being shipped to customers all over

the U.S.A., Canada, England, Germany, Holland, and Formosa. Of those 500 varieties, 150 were developed, propagated, and named by Alvin. Some of the notables for which he named dahlias were Martha Berry, Byron Herbert Reece, Dr. Louis D. Newton, Herbert Tabor, Mary Lane, Kenneth Rogers, and Betty Talmadge."

"Alvin's dahlia farm was a family business in which each member of his family (his wife, Zura, and six children) was involved. It was year round work: Spring was spent planting tubers and shipping orders to customers. Summer, they worked the crop. Fall, they harvested the crop, digging and storing the tubers. Winter, they separated the clumps of tubers. Keeping each plant correctly labeled throughout the entire life cycle of the tuber was a very important concern."

"Marketing the dahlias was a year round endeavor, too. Catalogs and price lists were developed and sent to customers; ads were placed in magazines and farm journals like the 'Progressive Farmer.' The farm was open to the public and people came from around the world to tour it and



place orders. They had heard about the farm from former customers and from articles in periodicals, travel guides, and newspapers like The Atlanta Journal-Constitution."

In speaking with O'Neil (Todd) Brown for permission to reference her biographical note about her father, she mentioned that she has lived a very exciting life having traveled in every state, every continent, and 35 countries. She said she is considered well-traveled, having grown up in Suches, Georgia, attended a one-room schoolhouse, Pleasant Valley, until she transferred to Woody Gap. In the past few years, she has planted hundreds of dahlias at the Union County Farmers Market and at the entrance to Meeks Park.

\*\*\*"Remembering Reece" is presented by the Byron Herbert Reece Society.

Jerri Duncan Gill, Chair