

# Ride...continued from Page 1A



The Copperhead Lodge of Blairsville hosted the event's finale, as it does year after year, with a free barbecue lunch

American soldiers who have since been effected by the attack in 2001, riders joined together to also show never-ending gratitude toward the public safety officers and first responders who continue to serve and protect communities around the country.

On the anniversary of that infamous day over the weekend, on Sunday, Sept. 11, more than 800 motorcyclists demonstrated their patriotism by participating in the annual Ride to Remember.

The ride began in Athens with the event's lead sponsor, Cycle World of Athens, and continued up through seven North Georgia counties, ending the 100-mile ride in Blairsville.

As the bikers drove into the grounds of Copperhead Lodge, they were greeted with carloads of smiling locals, there to cheer on the big-hearted bikers who took the time to "Never Forget."

One couple of the hundreds participating in the event, Steve and Helen Seabolt from Clarksville, made the day a family event, as they rode the long trek with their newly married son and daughter-in-law.

"We had a ball, it was great," said Steve. "We love riding up from Athens to Copperhead Lodge up here in the mountains. All the people who come out for the ride are awfully good guys. That pretty much says it all right there."

"We've been doing this for a couple of years now and

the whole family jumps in and rides up here together.

"This year it's such a great ride, well organized, and it's such a great cause. We can't think of a better reason to ride than to support our troops and to help people remember what today really means."

Mike Hulsey of Gainesville has been participating in the ride since its inception. Joining Hulsey this year on the ride was his wife and brother. While the three joked that the ride gave them something to do, Hulsey said he truly does ride to remember the day that changed so many lives across America.

"Everyone here is so wonderful," said Hulsey. "I missed last year but I generally do this every year. It's such an important thing, really. I know

people in the military, and stuff like this is important to them.

"People of America don't need to forget what happen on this day so many years ago. It was such a tragedy for this nation, and I think it's important for people to take the time to remember that."

After the long ride across winding mountain roads, bikers were treated to an evening of live music and free barbeque, provided by Cycle World of Athens and their many partnering sponsors.

While the day was one full of laughter and joy, all involved knew that without those who continue to put their lives in harm's way, their carefree fun would not be possible. Freedom is never free, and everyone on Sunday rode to remember just that.



First responders played a big role in the ride, from policemen to firefighters and EMTs.

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With the new facility, residential customers will be able to turn right down the newly paved road that circles behind the commercial trash building, around to a pay booth dedicated to household trash customers.

Those using the new area will no longer have to wait for commercial trash haulers to hit the scales, empty their loads, then hit the scales again.

After paying the usual rates - \$1 for regular bags and \$1.25 for large - residents will drive out onto a large, open area containing 16 trash bins and a terrific view of the mountains, a sight that was easily overlooked prior to the renovation.

Four or five cars at a time will be able to pull up directly in front of these trash bins to unload their trash, and if they have any recycling, they'll be able to pull around to the new recycling area.

The transfer station's new recycling area makes it supereasy to toss in recyclables, with big open windows that are clearly labeled, windows cut right into the side of the recycling building that people were used to walking into before.

County residents should be happier with the overall cleanliness and smell of the new facility, too, as the trash will be hauled away on an as-needed basis by Advanced Disposal Services, either every day or every other day.

"Our goal is to provide a new, better, safer service for



This is the new glass recycling container, available exclusively at the Union County Convenience Center located next to the Union County Arena at GA 515 and 325

the citizens of the county that use the transfer station and recycling," said Commissioner Paris.

Scrap metal will still be taken at the Union County Transfer Station - just talk to the person in the pay booth to ask about where to unload it.

As for recyclables, the transfer station will continue to handle Plastics #1 and #2, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard and aluminum.

Of course, the commissioner is excited to announce that the Union County Convenience Center, located next to the Union County Arena at GA 515 and 325, is now accepting glass recyclables.

There's not really any

money in recycling glass, but for at least the next six months, Advanced Disposal Services has agreed to put a glass recycling bin at the convenience center on a trial run of sorts.

"If they come to us and say, here's our cost now that we've got experience over six months of people bringing it in and hauling it and looking at the markets, seeing how much it actually costs them," said Commissioner Paris. "Then at the end of that six-month period, they'll look at it and say, is it something they feel like they can absorb in their cost of doing business here?"

"Or is it so much extra that they've got to come back to us and say, hey, we'll continue doing this, but if we do, the county's going to have to pay X for us to continue doing it. And then we'll have to make a decision - is it worthwhile to the public and the taxpayers to do that, or is it not. What we hope is that it's something they'll be able to do and make part of their business plan."

The cost of the transfer station renovations come in at about \$250,000, funded by SPLOST money.

There is an upcoming second phase to the transfer station renovation, which will cater to the needs of commercial trash customers.

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It did not take long for the two to gather the necessary materials to start the group, and by May 21, eight members of the community joined together for the first planning meeting. On July 19, 1996, the Friends of the Union County Library was officially underway, with an initial membership total of five people.

Since then, the small organization has grown to an outstanding collaborative of 200 members, all of whom share a sole purpose of providing funds and support to the library of Union County.

"It was started to support the library," said Friends of Union County Library President Sally Woodworth. "I think we've grown so much and done so well because people still believe in books here. People still read books. The library has a very large membership base and library patrons."

"I think the library provides so many opportunities, not only through the books, but also the magazines, newspapers and other resources available to members of the community."

More than thirty members and guests joined together at the old school house to commemorate the many projects the group and the library have both accomplished throughout the years.

From the time the Friends of the Library has begun, it has taken on many endeavors, resulting in winning the very first "Fabulous Friends of Georgia" given out by the Friends of Georgia Libraries several years ago.

Members have attended countless workshops, written letters to public officials on behalf of the library and continued to promote advocacy for the Union County Library throughout the years. The group has assisted in moving the library twice, supported movie nights, open houses, reading programs, and purchased thousands of dollars in library supplies.

As an extension of these wonderful methods of outreach in support of the library, Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris previously won the Georgia Library Association's Library Advocacy Award.

"Thank you all for what you do to support the library and for your volunteered time."



Ethelene Dyer Jones and Sarah Partain share stories about the Choestoe Schoolhouse from long ago

said Commissioner Paris. "We have one of, if not the best, library in the area. Thank you all for what you do and what you continue to do."

"I hope we can continue to see the library and the programs grow and grow. It's one of the things I'm most proud of in this county, and I can't wait to see what the future has in store."

No matter what the Friends of the Union County Library seem to do, whether it be the promotion of a program within the library or fundraising to provide the library with new equipment, the organization has gone above and beyond what was expected.

"The best advocacy of any Friends group is the face to face that you have in

the community," said former MRLS Director Donna Howell, a guest and featured speaker in the meeting. "It's where you put up a united front and talk about the good things that the library is doing, the good things that the community benefits from the library."

"That's the advocacy that is vital, and that's the advocacy that this group has just excelled at. I'm very proud of you for keeping that united front and for keeping a face for the mission of the library."

Friends of the Union County Library look forward to many more years to come, assisting in library needs, community outreach and doing what the group does best - caring for the people of Union County.



Members of the Friends of the Library enjoy words of encouragement from honorary guests Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley and Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris.

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The training also gave firefighters unfamiliar with swift water rescue techniques a front-row seat for several exercises designed to minimize risk to the firefighter while maximizing the chances of safely retrieving someone from a swift water scenario, which occurs during times of flooding.

Firefighters strung a tensioned highline across the Nottely River at Meeks Park II, giving them control of a lifeboat they sent manned down the river, and they also used this line to tether individual firefighters in the water.

Other exercises included the use of throw bags, which allow firefighters on shore to get a rope to someone in water or across to another bank, and they practiced pulling people out of the water and into the lifeboat.

The local training is the end result of some intensive training taken by several UCFD firefighters back in June, and the recent publicly held exercises gave these firefighters an opportunity to go over again what they had learned.

One of the main causes of people being swept away in swift water scenarios is when they try to drive across flooded roads.

Firefighter Patrick Schmidt will be the first to say, if there's water on the road, don't go through it, as you never know what's in that water and how fast it's moving - most people would be surprised, he said, how little water it takes to sweep away a vehicle, let alone a person.

"The main thing we want to portray is safety and awareness," said Firefighter Patrick Schmidt. "If we can make people aware of what's going on, of the dangers of not only swift water, but the dangers of everyday life - we're a fire department also, so the dangers of fires."

"If we can educate kids, and kids will go home and say, 'Hey mommy and daddy, the fire department came and talked to us about this,' and the parents listen to the kids, and so on and so forth. If we can get that message out that things are dangerous and we try to prevent it, then it makes



Throw bags are bags filled with rope that are designed to be thrown to people in water or across banks. In this picture, firefighters practice securing one of their own with a careful configuration of throws

our jobs easier and everyone safer."

Firefighter Dustin Lee, who also took part in the training, agreed with Schmidt, adding that if the weather is bad to just stay home, though if residents find themselves in flooding scenarios that could endanger their homes, they should call 911 for assistance.

The Union County Fire Department asks that the community stay tuned daily to its Facebook site, as it is updated regularly with

everything related to the fire department.

"Not only can you follow us on Facebook for swift water events, but we try to post anything that's happened with the weather, whether it be storms, flooding, anything like that," said Schmidt. "If we do training, you can keep track of us, what kind of training we're doing."

"Facebook and social media is one of the best ways to follow us and see what we're doing on a regular basis."

# Hospital Auxiliary Fund Raiser something new and different

Something new and exciting this Fall and Pre Christmas Season! Back by popular request, but they have a different name - Collective Goods - we know them as Books are Fun and Jewelry is Fun. They have enlarged their number of sale items and have become very popular throughout the United States.

The sale will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, September 13 and 14. On the 13th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on the 14th, 7

a.m. to 3 p.m. The sale will be at the Union General Hospital, in the Old Lobby, Deep South Farm Road side of the building. Sponsored by the UGH Auxiliary (volunteers), to raise funds for student scholarships who are training in a health care related field of study, and possible needs at the Nursing Home.

Cash and credit/debit cards accepted. We always appreciate your support! Please tell your friends about the sale!