

County Meeting ...from Page 1A

care and professionalism that others like to follow. For this reason, we are presenting Dustin Services Commendation with an Emergency Medical Medal.”



UCFD Lt. Tim Schroeder accepting a Fire Safety Commendation Award from Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter Sons of the American Revolution President Jared Ogden, right, and Vice-President Sid Turner in the Jan. 17 county meeting.
Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Lee also received the Murray King Award in the meeting, presented to him by a very special guest.

King was a member of the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter SAR who suffered a massive heart attack several years ago to which Union General EMS responded.

And though he did not survive the attack, his wife, Kendra, was so impressed with the emergency response that she asked the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter to establish a memorial award in recognition of the EMS.

The Murray King Award consists of a certificate and a check for \$50, and Lee received the award directly from Kendra King that Thursday.

Also in the meeting, the commissioner appointed William Stone and Dr. Elizabeth Wiles to the Union County Board of Health, effective Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 31, 2024.

He accepted the agreement between Union County and CorrectHealth Union, LLC for inmate health services at the Union County Jail. The agreement was a renewal of a 12-month contract, effective Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 31, 2019, for a total of \$151,778.86.

Paris also accepted a warranty deed and settlement statement between the county and W.C. Nelson for the

purchase of 0.48 acres of land adjacent to Fire Station No. 1 on Shoe Factory Road.

The county received gift equity of \$10,000 from Nelson, making the purchase price of the property – appraised at \$20,000 – only \$10,000.

“This property will be used as an entrance to the new training center for Station 1 Fire Department, and we really appreciate Mr. Nelson working with us on this project,” said Paris.

In other Fire Department news, Paris accepted two grants to be used by UCFD, one from Walmart in the amount of \$3,000 and another from Vulcan Materials in the amount of \$2,500.

The \$3,000 grant will be used to purchase an automated external defibrillator, and the \$2,500 grant was used to purchase CPR mannequins – adult and child – for training purposes.

In his Commissioner’s Comments portion of the meeting, Paris offered guests several updates on things happening in his office and around the county.

Auditors are currently going through the county’s finances, and the audit process “will continue over the next five months, with the audit being presented at the end of June of this year,” said Paris.

“We are very proud to announce that we have

finally received our road access easement permit from (the Georgia Department of Transportation) for the new Farmers Market road, which we’ve been waiting on for a long time,” said Paris. “It will be at the intersection of Highway 515 East and the Glenn Gooch Bypass, directly across the road at the signal intersection.”

The commissioner is hopeful that the new road entrance may be paved by the time the Farmers Market opens in June.

Paris touched on the construction of the new pavilion at Meeks Park that is set to begin soon. The pavilion, to be the largest at Meeks Park, will be similar to the one at the Byron Herbert Reece Farm and Heritage Center.

“It will be located above the Sorghum Festival Field and will be accessed by the road to the pool,” said Paris. “Our pavilions receive so much use and are booked solid all summer, so it will be a relief and nice to have this additional pavilion available.”

“The facility will have a fireplace as well as a deck off to one side that will allow a view of the Nottely River. We are very excited about this construction project. As usual, anything we build in Meeks Park will be high quality and something else that our community can be very proud of.”

Also discussed in the meeting, Paris said he’s hopeful the double gym for the rec department, to be located next to the Union County Health Department down from the Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium, will be completed this year, all while looking forward to the construction of some additional pickleball courts as well.

Joining Paris and his guests for the meeting were several members of Boy Scouts of America Blairsville Troop 101, who were in attendance to work on earning their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge.



Local Boy Scouts Parker Scott and Evan Bryan lead the Pledge of Allegiance in the Jan. 17 county meeting, pictured here with Evan’s dad Goodwin Bryan.
Photo by Shawn Jarrard