

Warriors...from Page 1A



Kurt Hilbish was a key organizer of the Joshua's Warriors dance on Saturday, and he served as DJ for the event. Photo by Mark Smith



Herman Clowney, Jack McKechnie and Gary Ratcliff dressing the part during the '50, '60s and '70s dance on April 6. Photo by Mark Smith

Dyer...from Page 1A

others during real disasters.

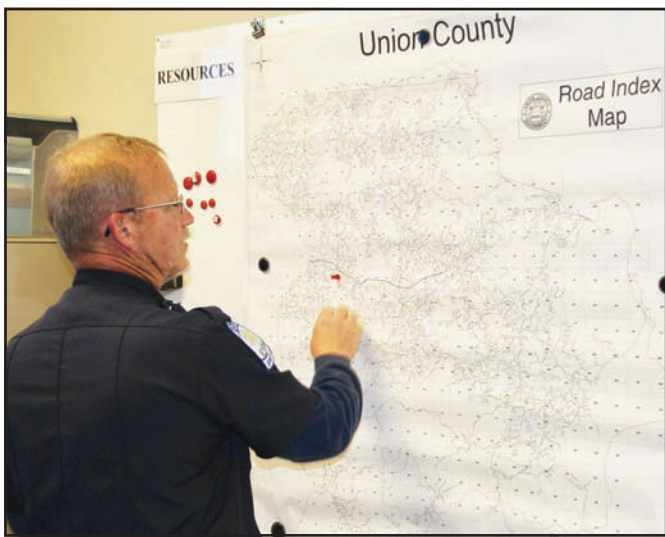
One of the reasons the new setup works so well is because it allows first responders in the EOC to clearly map out a course of action once enough information about an emergency is collected and properly categorized.

"That was our test, to try to get everything set up and to follow our procedures to be able to go from a reactive to a proactive response," said Dyer. "That way we can get a handle on it and start moving toward making a difference instead of just reacting to what's happening to us."

In the February exercise, the storm system being roleplayed had already killed a number of individuals on its way to Union County.

Heavy rainfall was the major concern that day, and the EOC worked to collect information and organize responses to several areas of flooding, including a swift water rescue involving a car swept into the river.

"We've had a lot of potential disasters and storms come through, and we've opened the EOC up before, but now, we're just trying to carve away at all the little bitty details about it to make



Union County Deputy EMA Director Richard Jones allocating first responder resources during a February training exercise. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

us more efficient," said Dyer. "We're trying to do the best we can do."

"So, practice, practice, practice. If we can practice every bit of these things in a scenario, then we'll be more efficient when the real thing does happen. It'll be less having to think about things, 'how do I set this up, how do I set that up?'"

"It'll already be set up, and then we can really focus on

the problem instead of focusing on how we're operating in here. That's what we've been working at, and we can always improve."

Dyer said he and his team are currently working to plan and schedule another exercise for the near future, and they're in the process of updating the county's Five-Year Hazard Mitigation Plan, to be finalized this summer.

Christ-centered men's group whose mission is to restore, preserve and protect the God-given rights and freedoms endowed in the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. This statement can be

found at www.joshuaswarriors.org.

"I believe in what they're doing," said Bob Naegler, who attended the event with his wife Sherry. "I haven't found a lot of organizations that I'm ready to

put time into, but this will be one of them."

Added John Babatz, who also had a blast at the event, "It's a worthy cause, and any kind of discipleship in the body of Christ is a beautiful thing."

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