

# Teachers...continued from Page 1A

panel of educators from outside of the local school system interviews and conducts a classroom observation for each of the teachers of the year.

Then, the panel chooses from among these teachers a System Teacher of the Year.

All teachers of the year said that they were grateful to have been awarded the honor by their peers.

Lisa Sweet has been

an educator in Kentucky and North Carolina, and this is her third year teaching English at Woody Gap School, where she attended as a teenager.

Teaching at Woody Gap is a family tradition, as Sweet's mother, grandmother, aunt and other family members have taught at the school.

"Beyond teaching the standards and my content," said Sweet, "my job is creating

opportunities for students to chart their paths in life and to take bold steps to follow those paths toward their goals."

Continued Sweet: "My hope for my students is that they will be resilient, effective adults who make the world a better place, guided by their principles, motivated by a sense of purpose in keeping with their interests and gifts, and skilled in problem-solving."

# Habitat...continued from Page 1A

cutting and group photo to memorialize the happy day.

Lunch included grilled hog donated by Jim Sadler and cooked by Jimmy Porter, Paula's boyfriend.

Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties Executive Director Bryan Thomas said that the local Habitat will be concentrating on its Helping Hands initiative in the coming weeks, but that the organization looks forward to building next in Towns County.

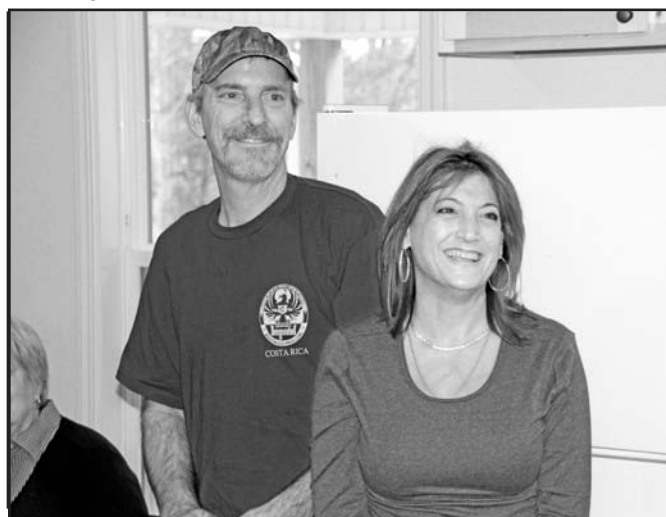
The members and businesses of the community that came together to volunteer and/or provide reduced price goods and services to build the Lirette home include:

Solomon Patrick of Patrick Construction; Builder's First Source; Salazar Roofing; Jim Sadler Siding; Electrician Mike Lirette (father of Michael and Chelsey Lirette); Service Plumbing; Hill HVAC; Budget Blinds; Home Depot; Abraham Patrick, Tile; Southern Cabinetry; Take-A-Break Portable Toilets; Tri-State Gutters; Vulcan Materials; Dean Everett, Grading; Just Foam It, insulation; and Attorney Kenya Patton for the closing.

"Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles," per www.TownsUnionHabitat.org. "Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally through constructing and rehabilitating homes for families that qualify



The Lirettes on the back porch of their newly finished home built by Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties. Photo/Shawn Jarrard



Jimmy Porter and Paula Lirette inside the new Lirette kitchen. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

for Habitat's no-interest mortgage.

"Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every family should have a simple, durable place to live

in dignity and safety."

For more information on how to get involved, visit the Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties website.



Woody Gap School Teacher of the Year Lisa Sweet with several of her students.

Stephanie Stubblefield teaches second grade at Union County Primary School, where she has been employed since 2002.

She also teaches second grade for the Union County Learning Enrichment Center, an afterschool program, and is a hospital/homebound teacher for primary school students who aren't able to attend school on a regular basis for medical reasons.

"I believe that all children deserve the chance to learn and to receive the best education possible," said Stubblefield. "All children are different and unique in their own way, and that is what makes them special."

"I truly believe that God puts these children in my classroom for a purpose, and it is my job to help them reach their greatest potential."

Middle School Teacher of the Year Anna Roxbury has taught in Union County Schools for 19 years.

She is the Title I Building Coordinator for the middle school and teaches a math support class for sixth, seventh and eighth-graders, with a caseload of about 100 students.

Roxbury is married to Robby Roxbury, whom many will know from Union County High School and athletics, and together they have one daughter, Emma, who is in the eighth grade and plays softball



Union County Middle School Teacher of the Year Anna Roxbury with husband Robby and daughter Emma on vacation over the summer in the Florida Keys.

and basketball for the middle school.

"I became a teacher so I could continue to live in Union County near my extended family and to enjoy summer vacations with my family," said Roxbury. "Those were 'selling points' to a 20-year-old."

"I have remained a teacher because of those days when a student who has been struggling with a concept for weeks finally looks at me with tears and says, 'I get it, I understand,' and I can see the lightbulb moment and excitement they feel when they are successful."

Continued Roxbury: "My goal is to foster and nurture a love and enthusiasm for math while boosting student confidence. Due to the fact that I teach a math support class, students are able to work at a pace that is comfortable and individualized for them."

Be sure to attend the Dec. 12 board meeting to show support for the 2017-2018 Teachers of the Year.

The North Georgia News previously reported on Teachers of the Year Camie George and Brittany Jordan.

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