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Alex Roberts, Holley Kemp, Matthew Nickerson, and Christy Owen were sworn in as members of the local department.

"This is the first of many classes. Your training has just begun, you have joined an elite group of firefighters," Chief Worden told the group.

With family and friends on hand, one-by-one, each new firefighter received their badges, the first step on their firefighting journey.

"It takes a special person to get out late at night to help a person who has fallen, but can't get up," said Firefighter Doug Pruitt, who helped the group throughout its training.

"Continue to strive, this is just the beginning. Never let the minimum standard be your maximum achievement."

Chief Worden said he couldn't be more proud of a



Union County Firefighter Recruiting Class 101 reporting for duty. The group of seven firefighters became the first recruiting class in the department's storied history. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

group. "They worked hard, for everything that they achieved,"

he said. "With Commissioner (Lamar) Paris' continued support, we'll continue to keep

cranking out these recruiting classes and continue to build on one of the best firefighting units in the state.

"We're proud of everyone we have here," Chief Worden said.



UCFD Fire Chief Charles Worden helps Holley "Turtle" Kemp with her badge. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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for the prize drawing.

After all the eggs had been "hunted" and all had settled down, Discover Church Children's Minister and emcee Lawson Eller began drawing the four grand prizes. It was a tense time as he methodically announced the numbers for the first grand prize of the day, a large stuffed dog, which was won by Aiden McCart. Nick Pyrlík waited patiently as his number was read off and he came forward to collect the next grand prize, a Leap Frog. Eller then drew for the next to last grand prize, which was a Kindle Reader and Liam King won it. He then reached into the bucket to draw the main grand prizewinner who would receive the coveted X-Box.

Tyler Blackwell came forward to claim his prize.

"This was a great turnout for our first sponsorship of the Egg Drop and if all goes well we hope to be here next year for the ninth annual Egg Drop. All went great even though we couldn't get the helicopter in here. That was a little disappointing but, overall it all was really good," declared Eller. "I would also like to thank Mr. Paris and Park and Rec for all their help in putting on the Drop. They were great."

Karina Henderson, 7, said it best.

"The best part is getting to hunt the Easter Eggs and waiting on the Easter Bunny to come," she said.

The egg hunting was

good this year as all the kids had a good supply of eggs to take home and if you were hungry, the food was free as well and the hotdogs looked very tasty. It was a big event that helped a worthy cause. Make plans now to attend next year's Egg Drop so you don't miss out on all the fun.

