

# Renovate...from Page 1A

not getting as much money as we had hoped to get."

Student population is up at the high school, however, so projects there can expect to receive about \$115,000 more in state funding over the previous year, but Union County Schools Assistant Facilities Director Chris Crow said in the meeting that they had anticipated the state's contribution to be closer to \$600,000 at the primary school.

Student population is up since the primary school was built in 1984, hence the need for classroom additions, but based on last year's number of full-time equivalent students, the state calculated its total contribution at \$349,650.

"There's not really much we could have done about it regardless, but they're paying



Construction is underway to build 10 new classrooms at Union County Primary School. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

for about five classrooms of the 10 on the addition, which is still not a bad deal," said Crow.

The meeting was called in order to approve the funds so that construction could begin as quickly as possible before students come back to school.

"We want to get the concrete poured for the addition and the steel up," said Superintendent Steppe. "That gives us about four weeks. We'll have to hustle, but we think it'll be a safer situation."

Construction is expected to be completed by Jan. 1 on the 10 classrooms and hallway with bathrooms, all of which will lead from a corridor near the cafeteria of the primary school, out toward the playground area.

"There's no room in this building, so the 10 classroom addition is going to let us spread out a little bit more, give people more room," said Crow. "There's no storage - every little nook and cranny is full of something. This is going to help us out a ton."

Other projects are ongoing at the primary school,

including renovations to the roof and the installation of a new HVAC system, which are expected to be completed by the time school begins in August.

"You get 30 years on a building - it's just like a house, you've got to do something to it," said Crow.

# Scams...from Page 1A

so give us a call. That's what we're here for."

Captain Williams opened with some words of advice.

"Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it's probably too good to be true," she said.

Her first example, a nationwide scam that has increased in popularity during 2015 - an Internal Revenue Service scam.

The caller will identify himself or herself as an IRS agent and notify the victim that they owe Uncle Sam for a delinquent tax bill and need to pay up immediately.

"First, if you think you owe money, call the IRS," Capt. Williams said. "If you know you don't owe them anything, then hang up."

According to Capt. Williams, other ways to determine that the agent is a fraud is, the IRS will not contact you by telephone - they will send a letter in the mail first. Another example: The IRS also

won't ask you to pay anything without giving you the opportunity to appeal. They also will never ask you to send the money using a prepaid debit card or ask for your debit card or credit card number to pay the bill. Finally, the IRS would never threaten to call the local police if you cannot, or refuse to pay.

"These scammers try to get you by threats and intimidation," Capt. Williams said. "That's why they target the elderly and those who are most vulnerable in our society."

Detective Henderson went in another direction to discuss other instances where the elderly are preyed upon - elderly abuse.

In order to properly recognize and respond to those crimes, the Sheriff's Office recently underwent training to help identify, prevent, and prosecute the abuse of senior citizens.

"Over 2 million vulnerable adults are at risk for some type of exploitation in

the State of Georgia alone," Henderson said. "That exploitation can be scams, physical abuse, mental, verbal, and sexual abuse, along with neglect. Those suffering from Alzheimer's or dementia will be the most vulnerable."

SSgt. Osborn answered questions from the audience following his discussion on computer scams and social media; he also touched on scams mentioned earlier in the session.

"Whenever you're on social media, mainly Facebook or Twitter, do not give your birthday out. Do not give your Social Security number out to anybody. Not over the phone, not anywhere," he said. "That's the first thing (scammers) will try to get is your Social Security number and your birthday."

"If you go to the drug store, they're going to ask for your birthday, and that's fine, just don't give them the year. That's what I do. They should already know the year. Once

they get your name, Social Security number, and birthday, they've got you."

Another scam is a caller will tell you that you didn't report for jury duty and you owe \$250 or a warrant will be issued for your arrest.

"That doesn't happen anywhere in the United States. If you don't show up we'll knock on your door and say, 'hey, come on, let's go, you've got jury duty.'"

Following the one-hour session and question-and-answer segment, everyone went home feeling a little better about the next time the phone rings or when a strange e-mail appears in their inbox, thanks to the men and women of the Union County Sheriff's Office.

"It's an honor to be here," Sheriff Mason told the audience. "We're here to serve and protect you and do it to the very best of our ability. Sadly, there are so many scams out there nowadays that a lot of people are getting caught up in."

# Market...from Page 1A

welcome to bring your own bowls, knives, measuring cups, spoons, funnels etc. but they do have these items at the cannery for your use.

The plant is located at 148 Old Smokey Road in Blairsville. For more details you may call (706) 439-6030, and visit them on the web at <http://ucfarmersmarket.com/Cannery.aspx>, or contact them by e-mail at [cannery@uniongov.com](mailto:cannery@uniongov.com).

As for the Farmers Market, Saturday will be Sweet Corn Day, which leads up to one of the most popular events of the year, the Green Bean Festival, which begins July 25th.



The Blairsville Maid, Dot Patterson, believes in the Cannery at the Union County Farmers Market.

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