

McBride...from Page 1A

last week. McBride, daughter of Paul and Rachel McBride, comes from an Air Force family, with a paternal grandfather and great-grandfather who were both Air Force veterans.

"I'm excited, very excited," Paul McBride said. "About two years ago, she thought about the prospect of potentially going to a service academy, being from a service family already.

"It's definitely something that is meant for her, and she's really going to excel at it because of her work ethic and demeanor and her personality.

"From a service standpoint, it's always good to see young men and women go out and want to serve their country," he said, adding that he feels his daughter looked up to those students from previous graduating classes who went into the military, especially military academies.

"Proud, honored, excited," Rachel McBride said of her daughter's

accomplishment. "(We're) very honored that she chose to do this. The determination, the hard work, the perseverance that it takes to achieve your goals; don't ever give up on them."

Alecia Frizzell, Union County STEM Director and one of Evelyn's teachers, sat right up front at her student's appointment ceremony.

"I'm super proud of Evelyn," Frizzell said. "She has worked so hard, above and beyond. She took as many of the hardest classes you could possibly take and did more than what she was ever required to do.

"She knew from day one what she wanted to do. She set herself a goal and made it happen. So, I'm very proud of her. It speaks volumes about the type of students that we have. They're very driven. They're motivated and they want to be successful. And she's a STEM baby - I've had her since the beginning."

High School Principal



Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Johnny Deloach presented McBride with her appointment to the Air Force Academy last week, which she gratefully accepted. Photo by Mark Smith

C.T. Hussion was among the administrators at the ceremony, and he said McBride certainly deserved all she had worked for and more.

"I mean, she's got a five-star personality, ability level, smarts, she's a track star - she's got it all," Hussion said. "I'm

just proud of her. It's been her goal ... it's in her family's blood.

"As a principal, to have so many kids from a small community like this not only going into the military but also the military academies, it really means a lot. It's a special thing. We've had five (students join military academies) in four years."

Thousands of students apply for an appointment to the Air Force Academy every year, Deloach said, with only a select few being able to pull off what McBride was able to accomplish.

"I think it's a great opportunity," Deloach said. "Her being one of only 180 to get an early appointment out of almost 15,000 applications, that really says a lot about her personally. The selection committee is saying, 'She's a success. Don't let her get away.'"

Qualifying...from Page 1A

Independent candidates will file candidacy paperwork in the courthouse directly with Elections Superintendent Stevens.

All paperwork must be notarized, and fees should be paid when filing for candidacy.

Qualifying fees, which were set by Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris in a county meeting in January, are as follows: Sole Commissioner, \$2,918; Tax Commissioner, \$1,492; Clerk of Superior Court, \$1,492; Magistrate Judge, \$1,492; Probate Judge, \$1,492; Sheriff, \$1,492; County Coroner, \$155; Board of Education Posts 1 and 3, \$108; and County Surveyor, \$54.

Once candidates have paid their fees, they will be

entered into the state databank by Elections Superintendent Stevens, and their names will be published for public viewing.

Qualifying at the courthouse is for county office candidates only, excepting state court judge candidates, who also qualify locally. Candidates for federal and all other state offices will need to qualify next week in Atlanta with the Secretary of State's Office.

Paperwork for qualifying can be found on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ga.gov.

Once there, click on the Elections tab at the top, then hover over the Candidate Info tab, and in the dropdown menu that appears, click on 2020 Qualifying Packet.

On the very next screen, click on the "CLICK HERE"

link to access the packet, which contains explicit qualifying instructions for each office.

Information for individuals wishing to qualify for federal and state office can also be found within the qualifying packet.

A complete list of qualifying candidates for the various public offices will be posted inside the courthouse on the afternoon of Friday, March 6.

For more information, or to find out how else to obtain qualifying paperwork, contact the Union County Board of Elections at 706-439-6041.

Be sure to check out the March 11 edition of the North Georgia News for coverage on qualifying candidates.

Early Voting...from Page 1A

voters will need to declare a political party to receive a ballot, and they will be able to declare a different political party when voting in the May 19 General Primary.

Election Day for the Presidential Preference Primary, in which voters will be selecting a presidential candidate to lead their party of choice, will be on Tuesday, March 24, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. That day, voters should report to one of the 11 pre-assigned Union County precincts.

Registered voters who will be at least 18 years of age by Election Day will be eligible to vote during early voting, though Monday, Feb. 24, was the registration deadline for voters looking to participate in the Presidential Preference

Primary.

For information on applying for an absentee ballot, visit the Georgia Secretary of State's Office website at sos.ga.gov; swing by the Union County Registrar's Office at 65 Courthouse Street in Blairsville; or call 706-439-6016.

Through last week, the Registrar's Office hosted demonstrations of the new voting equipment being used in this year's elections. However, there will be no more demonstrations ahead of early voting, as office employees are currently busy setting up equipment for the election.

Instructions for using the new equipment will be available during early voting and on Election Day for individuals who did not swing

by the Registrar's Office for an equipment demo.

Voters can access mvp.sos.ga.gov ahead of the election for information on voter registration status, mail-in application and ballot status, poll location, registration information on file with the county office, sample ballots and more.

The next election to be held after the Presidential Preference Primary Election is the General Primary Election on May 19, during which voters will be selecting candidates for various local, state and federal offices to lead their party of choice in the Nov. 3 General Election.

The voter registration deadline for the May 19 General Primary will be April 20.

Friends of Union County Library help celebrate Dr. Seuss' 116th Birthday

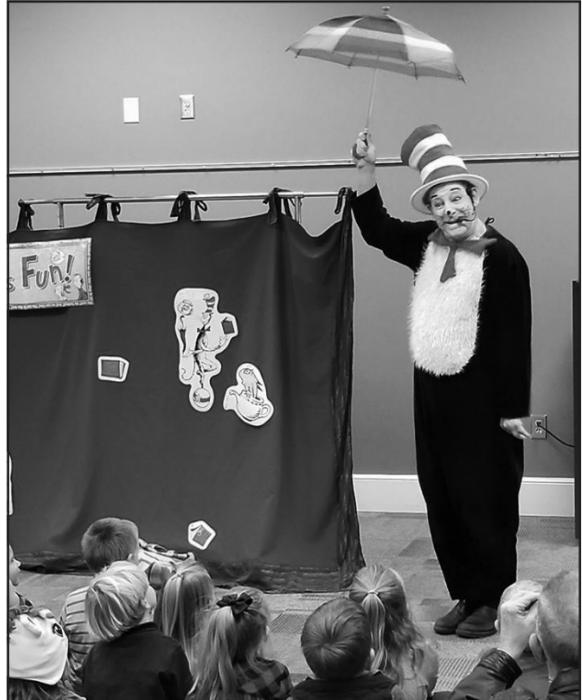


Advocating for Libraries, Literacy, and Lifelong Learning

Union County Public Library's February 24 storytime celebrated Dr. Seuss' 116th Birthday with a special visit from the Cat in the Hat and FOUCL was pleased to provide each family attending their own "Cat in the Hat" book. This is just one of the many ways we support our local library and encourage literacy and lifelong learning.

The FOUCL Adult Winter Reading Challenge continues through Friday, April 24. Logs and a list of 2019 award-winning books are now available at our library on the bookcase outside the Friends' Room, to your left as you enter the building, and on our website (foucl.org).

On Wednesday, March 18, beginning at 2 PM in the Community Room at our library, we are sponsoring a free-to-the-public showing of a book-based movie. You can help determine which of two Best Picture Oscar winning movies is shown by voting with dollars and cents. Choices are: "The Sting" - based on the nonfiction book "The Big Con: the Story of the Confidence Man" by David Maurer - or "From Here to Eternity" - based on James Jones' first novel by the same name. Votes (money) will be counted on March 5 and the movie choice will be announced the following week.



Cat in the Hat performance

FOUCL is also sponsoring our first "Community Read". Our selection is "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean. This nonfiction book begins with a devastating 1986 fire at the Los Angeles Public Library. One small part of the book explains how saturated library materials are "saved": "Overnight, the city managed to procure thousands of cardboard boxes, fifteen hundred hard hats, a few thousand rolls of packing tape, and the services of Eric Lundquist, a mechanical engineer and former popcorn distributor who had reinvented himself as a expert in drying out wet things.

The notion of putting the books in with groceries didn't faze Lundquist, since

he'd freeze-dried his first salvaged books alongside a summer's worth of peas and carrots from his garden." That's right, they recruited volunteers to move and freeze them and then, eventually, dry them out because if mold had been allowed to grow, all the books would have had to be destroyed. The unsolved mystery of what started the fire, the history of libraries, and the behind-the-scene workings of a library are all included.

Library lovers, book enthusiasts, and historians will all enjoy this book.

Read the book and join us for a discussion in the Community Room at Union County Public Library on Friday, April 24, beginning at 1 PM.