

Chef...from Page 1A

three people who are in the food industry in our community that will be judging the food strictly based on taste.”

Guests made their ways around each table, sampling a variety of dishes such as soups, beans, meatballs, chili, salad, dips and desserts.

With 20 different group/dish combinations to choose from, the pressure was on for the guests to vote with their money on which group they thought had the best tasting food.

For the taste portion of the competition, Third Place

went to Providence United Methodist Church for their Bacon-Wrapped Lil’ Smokies; Second Place went to New Union Baptist for their Gourmet Baked Beans; and First Place went to the Blairsville Police Department for their Brunswick Stew.

For the jug competition, the teams that raised the most money from guests were First



The March 9 Super Chef Showdown featured fantastic community support.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

United Methodist Church’s Youth Group, coming in third for their sriracha meatballs; Shady Grove United Methodist Church, coming in second for their Southern Caviar; and St. Clare’s Episcopal Church taking home First Place for their Unforgettable Napa Cabbage Salad.

Also during the event, guests were entered into a raffle

for various prizes, and they were treated to live entertainment by The Swing Set.

Hope House is still looking for volunteers to come and help them run their program, as well as raise funds to keep the organization going.

“We would love for you to come visit us on Monday mornings or Thursday afternoon and see what you

are supporting,” said Executive Director Pam Alexander. “We would also love you to visit and see how you can help. We could use many volunteers, and every bit helps.”

For more information on the organization, visit HopeHouse-UnionCounty.com.



People lining up to taste any number of the delicious dishes available during the March 9 Super Chef Showdown. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Deyton...from Page 1A

The announcement came in the Feb. 19 regular meeting of the Union County Board of Education.

“I’ve known Chad for about three and a half years, when he initially reached out for some help on a case he had,” said Jason Allen, Diversion Program Manager for the DEA’s Atlanta Field Division. “Now, your role, Chad, is going to be having to know what the DEA can do for the school board.”

“So, just a quick overview, there’s things that are available to you guys. We don’t normally come this far north from Atlanta, but because of the relationship that Chad and I have, I’ve already pre-approved everything.”

“We do offer presentations for pretty much everything. We can offer presentations to teachers on drug trends, what we’re seeing, stats. We can really tailor it to what you guys need. Everybody’s got

a vaping problem now, that’s really big.”

Added Allen, “We can also tailor (presentations) to the board itself, to the police department. I’ve talked with many, many police departments across the state ... We can tailor to school nurses, and to students.”

Allen made sure to let everyone know in the February school board meeting that Deyton is a valuable asset to this community.

“After working with Chad for many years, I actually tried to recruit him to come to the DEA,” said Allen. “And that’s not a joke – I really tried very hard.”

“He has a strong sense of community, he was raised here. And he wouldn’t have anything to do with it. I offered him a lot more money than he was making at the time, but he wouldn’t do it. He believes in this community, he believes in being here.”

“I can tell you, the cases we worked, it would have been very easy for him to walk away, many a times. A lot of people wouldn’t have known what he’d learned, and the people who did probably wouldn’t have blamed him for walking away.”

“I feel like it was easy for me to come in, because I got to leave and go to Atlanta two hours south. But if some of the stuff we’d worked had gone bad, he had to live here with those consequences.”

“He upheld his oath when it wasn’t the popular thing to do, and that is the definition of integrity. And I don’t think you could have made a better choice for the person you put in this department.”

Allen presented Deyton with a Certificate of Appreciation that evening for his dedication to drug enforcement, and Deyton also received a copy of his deputization in the meeting.

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