

## Hay Baling Accident...from Page 1A

stretcher, AirLife was landing. We got him in the truck, got him some pain medication, and bandaged and stabilized that arm.

"It had some major damage from his wrist all the way up to his upper bicep. It was not an everyday call. It was something that you may not see but every two or three years, so it was a major trauma."

The firefighters freed the man at 4:26 p.m., a mere 21 minutes after 911 took the emergency call. The air ambulance arrived at 4:30 p.m. and left the scene at 4:37 p.m., touching down at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville at 4:58 p.m.

This put the turnaround time for the emergency response

– from the instant the 911 call came in to the moment the man made it to a nearby trauma center – at 53 minutes flat.

It was a remarkable display of first responder teamwork in the face of life or death circumstances, and it likely made all the difference to the man and his family that day.

He suffered a terrible injury, and while the man's condition was not known at press time, Chief Dyer said he expected him to survive the ordeal.

"In my opinion, things couldn't have gone any better to get that done in as short a time as possible," Dyer said. "It was a bad call, but everybody was calm, everybody worked

together.

"It was extremely professional, which is something you want to see when you have something major like that happen in your area. You want to see that level of skill and care come together to help this guy."

Dyer urges people to use an abundance of caution when operating heavy machinery, and especially farming equipment, which is very common in Union County.

"I've been around farming all my life, and farm equipment is dangerous, it can get you in just a second," Dyer said. "No matter how careful you are, one of those machines can grab you up before you know it. He's just lucky he had his phone, and he's lucky that we could be there as soon as we could and do what we could."

Many first responders were involved in ushering the man to safety, including folks with Union County E911 and the Fire Department, as well as EMS and the AirLife medical helicopter stationed at Union General Hospital.

"This is what public safety is all about, everybody pulling together as one to make it happen," said Lt. Millie Baxter of E911. "That's huge. It doesn't matter what your job is – everybody does it to help one person."

"A lot of people pulled together, a lot of different agencies came together and worked as a team. It just amazes me."

## Veterans Mural...from Page 1A

Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the ongoing war in the Middle East.

The Blairsville VVA formally announced the mural in Commissioner Paris' regular meeting in February, and they've kept busy ever since, getting out in the community and spreading the word.

"We're in the process of advertising and trying to raise funds," Kittredge said. "We're estimating the cost of this project at about \$150,000, which

is mammoth for us – we're not drawing from a population of a million people."

Kittredge wants folks to know that sponsorships are available, and that interested parties can buy panel sponsorships to be placed under each panel depicting an American conflict.

People can also purchase pavers for engraving and placement in the mural walkway, including memorial 16-by-16 granite pavers that will be located sparingly along

the path.

Limited edition canvas lithographs of the original art and photographs of each war depicted on the mural will be available for purchase as well.

Of course, donations are always welcome and can be submitted to: VVA Chapter 1101, 78 Blue Ridge Hwy., Blairsville, GA 30512.

The VVA is a 501(c)(19) nonprofit charitable organization of veterans. For more information on the VVA and donating to this cause, see [www.vvablairsville.org](http://www.vvablairsville.org) or at [blairsvillevva@gmail.com](mailto:blairsvillevva@gmail.com).

## School...from Page 1A

The weekly flex/homeroom period has been in practice for several years at the high school, and Hussion said they're looking to better utilize that time spent with students by scheduling it earlier in the day and extending it by five minutes.

Curricular changes in the extended flex/homeroom period will include 15 GeorgiaBEST activities and eight internet/cyber safety lessons spread throughout the year, and the school will continue to deliver state-mandated BRIDGE Act career development activities as well.

Over in Suches, Woody Gap School Principal Carol Knight said she and her staff would be implementing a big new program this year.

"Starting in their sixth-grade year, students can work through the academic curriculum at their own pace," Knight said. "Middle school students who complete the middle school curriculum can move on into the high school curriculum."

"High school students will be using online curriculum for their academics and can complete those courses at the pace that's right for them. If they finish the high school curriculum, then we'll work on getting them into Work-Based Learning and dual enrollment."

Principal Jerry Bavero said that the elementary school would be adding new playground equipment for students, to include a main structure and supplementary activity pieces like tetherball, volleyball, four square, etc.

Academically, the elementary school will continue its emphasis on core subjects – science, math, reading and writing – with several new programs being added in 2019-2020.

"We also have the GeorgiaBEST curriculum that we'll be implementing this year in addition to the Second Step curriculum," Bavero said. "GeorgiaBEST, again, focuses on employability, and Second Step brings in that character education as well."

Joining Principal Millie Owenby in the primary school building this year will be new Pre-K Site Director Amanda Chambers.

Parents are invited to attend two pre-K information sessions at the primary school this week, one on Aug. 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and another on Aug. 2 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For her part, Owenby said that everyone at the primary school was "ready to go."

"We're super excited for the new year," Owenby said. "Just like some of the other schools, we do have the Second Step program starting, along with mixing in GeorgiaBEST, as well as the existing program from Chick-fil-A, the Core Essentials."

"We also have the new math program, and we have purchased a new writing program. Kindergarten used it last year, and we're putting it into first and second grades."

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Paula Davenport said that, due to a lack of federal funds for the district's afterschool program following the 2018-2019 school year, the school system's afterschool offerings will now be funded using local tax dollars.

"The (Union County Board of Education) has decided to pick that up locally in an effort to continue helping some of the kids that need that extra support to get their homework done, to practice whatever they're deficient in, to master those skills," Davenport said.

More information about the new locally-funded afterschool program can be sought at the board office.

Chief Chad Deyton said that everything was going well at the start of the School Police Department's second year, and that all of his resource officers would be continuing to foster positive relationships with the students.

Transportation Director Stanley Garrett has asked that everyone in the community work hard to observe the caution lights and stop lights on school



**Iron Mountain Fence employees putting some finishing touches on the new privacy fence at the primary school.**

Photo by Shawn Jarrard

buses, which indicate that children are getting on or off a bus.

Facilities Director Chris Crow said the maintenance and custodial staff have done a terrific job getting the schools ready for teachers and students to return, and he is eager to share several facilities upgrades with parents this year.

Over the summer, the schools overhauled the drop-off/pickup lines at the primary and elementary schools, which will decrease the traffic congestion backing up on either side of School Circle.

The primary school now features a 6-foot privacy fence around the entire playground area. This will enable the school to let parents line up a bit earlier to pick up children, as now cars can circle behind the school without having to worry about privacy issues with children outside.

Also new at the primary school is an overflow parking lot, which will accommodate staff vehicles on school days and help relieve parking issues during big events like sports games and graduation.

At the elementary school, the drop-off/pickup line has been expanded to two lanes, and a 6-foot privacy fence has been installed there as well.

Parents of rising third-grade elementary students are advised to hold onto their CarRiderPro tags, as that system will be implemented at the

elementary school this year.

In partnership with Union County Government and the Department of Transportation, the school district is currently installing a flashing crosswalk on the Glenn Gooch Bypass for students who regularly walk between the middle and high school campuses.

New high school construction teacher Charley Cattanauch spent three weeks over the summer building a professional-quality, SPLOST-funded pavilion at the middle school with the help of rising senior students Luke Prather and Will Queen.

Along with receiving credit toward the construction pathway, Prather and Queen have earned valuable construction experience as well as bragging rights for having built such a beautiful yet practical structure for outdoor classroom activities.

In light of all the new and positive things going on at the schools, Superintendent John Hill said he couldn't be happier with the job that everyone is doing.

"I've been in Union County Schools for 16 years, and this is the best group of people that I have worked with," Hill said. "They are extremely talented and professional, they love children, and they are very, very strong at working together."

## Sons of the American Revolution Speakers Bureau Presentation

The Speakers Bureau established by the award winning Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter, SAR has been providing presentations to elementary school children and civic groups for over ten years.

These presentations are made by accomplished speakers on the subjects of the Colonial Period of American history and the American Revolutionary War as well as other American historical events.

The Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter of the SAR has won numerous state and national awards and is pleased to make these presentations.

Current presentations include: 1. Demonstration of Colonial household goods-display; 2. Little known facts

about President George Washington-slides; 3. Etymology (word history) and Historical Terminology-slides; 4. Revolutionary War Spies

The National Society of the Sons of American Revolution has the purpose of providing education, preserving history, and promoting patriotism.

Presentation times run from 15 minutes to 45 minutes. The presentations are excellent programs for many civic and other organizations with no cost incurred. All presentations are educational and entertaining with timing flexible.

Contact Chapter President Jared Ogden at 770-855-0007 or Chapter Secretary David Cook at 706-835-5910 to schedule a presentation.

