

School Board...from Page 1A

announced that he had received confirmation that the Georgia Department of Education had accepted the school system's new charter contract.

Murphy said Union County Schools was also granted an Advanced Education Accreditation.

The contract was unanimously approved by the board.

In other school news, the board unanimously approved the purchase of used tools and equipment from Specialty Sheet Metal in the amount of \$37,500 for the Career, Technical and Agricultural Education program, both for the main campus and Woody Gap School.

School Facilities Director Chris Crow said the owner of the business, Donnie Ledford, was retiring and felt



Becky Tracy, Pam Pauley, Amy Rogers, Katy Jones and Misty Chavers were honored for their outstanding efforts in helping kids in the school system, pictured here with Elementary School Principal Jerry Bavero. Photo by Mark Smith

the school could benefit from the equipment. Crow said that the equipment, purchased new, would have cost an estimated \$195,000.

Hill said the equipment purchase would be paid for with SPLOST funds.

Murphy recommended that out-of-county tuition rates remain unchanged from last year at \$500 per semester or \$1,000 per year, which the board subsequently approved. Union County Schools does not allow out-of-state student attendance.

The board also hired Dr. Banks Bitterman as the school district's new athletic director.

CTAE Director Josh Davis and Lesa Byrd of Bank OZK presented their group project from 2019 Leadership Union.

The project consists of a "Union County Workforce Initiative Career Signing Day," with the inaugural event set to take place on Wednesday, May 1, at 10 a.m. at the high school.

"The purpose of the Workforce Initiative is to recognize Union County High School students who are beginning a career going into the workforce right after graduation," Byrd said.

Several awards and recognitions were bestowed on staff and students alike at the April 9 meeting.

Members of the Union County High School Mock Trial Team, which has won 10 Region Championships in a row, plus six District

Championships and runners-up titles at state in 2018 and 2019, were recognized for their exemplary performance.

They were Alex Bailey, Mollie Berry, Emma Hambrick, Duncan Mansour, Tommy Orchanian, Destiny Orellana Irvin, Morgan Peney, Christian Poe, Adalyn Rogers, Sahory Salazar and Hannah Todd.

The High School Agricultural Technology & Equipment ID Team State Champions Miriam King, Alexis Moody, Colby Elliott, and Landon Gregg were recognized.

Orchanian was recognized again for excelling in entrepreneurship. He won First Place in the region and took Seventh Place in the state. He won First Place in the state in Innovation for his heated hammock submission, which he developed in the CTAE INCubator Program last year.

He will compete with his product in international competition in Orlando, Florida, at the end of April.

Braeden Hooper was recognized for having earned Second Place in state competition at the Skills USA CNC Turning event. CNC Turning involves precision lathe work.

Primary School Teacher Jamila Jennings received the Above and Beyond Recognition Award for her work in behavior intervention with the implementation of the Second Step Program.

Parent Liaison Becky Tracy, Student Mentor Pam Pauley, District Social Worker Amy Rogers, Family Connection Leader Katy Jones and Guidance Counselor Misty Chavers were recognized for their exemplary work within Elementary School Student Support Services.

Enotah Garden Club Plant and Bake Sale April 18

The Enotah Garden Club will welcome spring with a Plant and Bake Sale on April 18th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at City Hall, Mayors Park in Young Harris.

Plants, herbs, hanging baskets, in addition to cakes, pies, and cookies will be on sale. A variety of vendors and their wares will also be available.

A garden cart filled with garden related items will be



raffled off at the closing of the sale. You do not have to be present to win.

Come support one of your local garden clubs.