

## Veterans Day...from Page 1A

“And it’s a first-class breakfast, not a short-order deal,” McCann said.

The student-led ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. in the stadium with an invocation by Thomas Orchanian, the Posting of the Colors by the North Georgia Civil Air Patrol, and a performance of “The Star-Spangled Banner” by the high school and middle school choruses.

Union County senior Guage Shumaker will serve as master of ceremonies, offering opening remarks and reciting a “Tribute to Veterans.” Shumaker has pledged to join the U.S. Marine Corps following graduation.

The ceremony will feature a joint performance of “God Bless the USA,” “Armed Forces Medley” and “America the Beautiful” by the high school and middle school bands and choruses.

This year’s Quilt of Valor Ceremony will be conducted by Union County students John Cone, Aaron Helton, Christopher Lance and

Alyssa Sweat for two combat veterans.

Union County Senior Hannah von Hof will be the keynote speaker, delivering a speech she is diligently crafting by consulting with teachers and veterans to better understand her task.

Union County Band Director Will Stafford, Chorus Director Alicia Covington and Theater Director Chris Adams will come together to perform “Amazing Grace” on their chosen instruments.

As always in any official veteran event, the Missing Man Table will be displayed in honor and remembrance of those who paid the ultimate price in defending America. U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Justin Smith will speak on honoring the fallen.

Student members of the Future Farmers of America and Beta Club will be helping with the ceremony as well, and the North Georgia Honor Guard will provide a firing party.

Veterans Day is a part of American culture, and the

faculty, staff and students of Union County Schools understand that veterans should never be forgotten or taken for granted – which is why McCann and the students of Union County do their best not to let that happen.

All veterans, their families and community members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Parking for visitors will be available in the elementary school parking lot next to the football field.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place in the Fine Arts Center.

McCann is the point of contact for the ceremony, and he can be reached at 706-745-2216, ext. 1112, or at amccann@ucschools.org.

For weather information the morning of the ceremony, call the high school main office at 706-745-2216. People can also access the website at www.unioncountyschools.org for information and ceremony updates.

## Classic...from Page 1A

high school graduation to pursue a career in agricultural education.

Another thing FFA reinforces for kids is a strong sense of duty, as many of them look closely after animals that they take to competitions like the Georgia National Fair.

“It’s a daily requirement to go to the barn and care for the animal, so it teaches you about responsibility,” King said. “Also, the animals that you get, all the animals have personalities, and they’re just fun to have.”

The Georgia National Fair Junior Competition is the big end-of-the-year event for the goats and the half-way point for the cows, and “it’s what you look forward to all year,” King said.

While at the four-day event, the students attend each other’s shows during the day to both express their support and learn from one another. Then, at the end of each day when all the animals have settled down into their pens, they head out to the fair and have some fun.

And it’s the Georgia National Fair, so it’s huge and there’s always lots to see and do. They are, of course, accompanied by adults.

Hundreds of kids arrive from all over Georgia to compete there, which is why it’s a very big deal to place in the competition featuring two main categories: showmanship and market.

“Showmanship is not about the animal, it’s about you showing the animal,” King said. “Your eye contact with the judge, making sure that you can show off your animal, making sure all its structure is in the right position, its muscle is popping, and its legs are in the right position and it can walk properly.”

“It shows that you’ve worked with your animal and that you’ve been responsible in caring for it.”

Competitors in this category are separated by grade, fifth through 12th. The majority of competitors are eliminated by the judges after the first round of competition, after which the remaining few compete in what is called the “final drive.”

Those in the final drive compete again, and the winner in each grade is named best in the state. Final drive kids are the runners-up.

Final drive kids from Union County FFA were Maggie McClure, sixth grade; Amber Watkins, seventh grade; Michael Bruce, 10th grade; Chandler Collins, 11th grade; and Preston Dyer, 12th grade. Chandler Collins placed fifth in the state for Showmanship.

“Market would be all about your animal and how its structure looks, how much muscle mass it has, if you’re overfeeding it, how thick the bone structure is, how its neck is positioned, and how straight and long its back line is,” King said.

The Market competition is separated by animal type such as cow or goat, then gender. Animals in this category are then further separated by weight class, with all of the following being FFA students.

In the Heifer Show competition, Preston Dyer placed second, Cameron Elliot placed sixth, and Colby Elliot placed 10th. Cameron and Colby are brothers.

Market Heifer competitors did well, too, with Emma McConnell placing first; Amber Watkins placing second; and Alyssa Sweat placing third – all in the same class.

And McConnell’s heifer won Grand Champion Market



The Ag Center recently hosted the Union County Trunk or Treat, which featured the display of several local FFA livestock projects. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Heifer, which is a tremendous accomplishment.

In the Steer competition, Colby Elliot placed second; Michael Bruce placed third; Kaylee Brewer placed fourth; and Maggie McClure placed fifth.

Chandler Collins’ animal won Grand Champion Angus, another stellar accomplishment.

In the Wethers competition, Luci Talton placed sixth. Wethers are male goats.

For the Does competition, King came in second; Kate Dyer was second in a different class; and Makensie Baldwin placed. Does are female goats.

Young Farmer adviser and ag teacher Ryan Talton said he couldn’t be prouder of the kids who competed at the Georgia National Fair Junior Competitions in October.

Talton said those kids whose animals won Grand Champion were called over the loudspeakers to show their animals anytime a demonstration was called for, which was a big thrill for them and all the FFA students.

## Crash...from Page 1A

they will be medically evaluated this week to determine when they might return to work at Station 1.

The man in the other vehicle – identified as Joe Bruce in Facebook posts – suffered multiple broken bones, including broken arms and legs, ribs and facial fractures.

His wife Dawn reported that, fortunately, doctors told her Bruce had not suffered brain damage or internal injuries.

Dawn said her husband was “lucky to be alive,” and she detailed weekend surgery to repair his arm, saying he would have to have other surgeries to fix his legs in the coming weeks.

Due to needed surgeries and broken ribs, Dawn said Joe was “expected to be in hospital

for a couple weeks and then has to go to rehab.”

“I’m so lost and don’t know what to do but pray,” Dawn posted Saturday. “Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers.”

Given the extent of damage to FR-1 and Bruce’s sedan, both vehicles are likely totaled, and Fire Station 1 will be using the former FR-1 – another Ford Expedition but older – as a replacement vehicle.

The accident is currently under investigation by the Georgia State Patrol, and crash details were not available by press time.

“This was a serious accident,” Fire Chief David Dyer said. “We are thankful that no lives were lost. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all involved. We wish them a speedy recovery.”