

Blaze...from Page 1

Chief Dyer said that early synopsis of the fire's cause indicate that a metal container of ashes from the wood heater might have ignited the blaze.

"It's our understanding that the homeowner set a metal container of ashes outside," Chief Dyer said. "That's what most people do. We believe the high winds on that day took those hot ashes into a stack of nearby firewood, which was real dry, and that com-

bination started the fire."

Chief Dyer said the smoke alarms inside the home awoke the family and allowed them to get out of the home unharmed.

"There were two people inside the home when the fire started, and they got out of the home unharmed," Chief Dyer said. "They got out okay, with no injuries."

The family spent Sat-

urday with a neighbor, and the American Red Cross took care of them from there, Chief Dyer said.

As for the home, the structure was still intact, Chief Dyer said.

"About 50 percent of the structure burned," Chief Dyer said. "The contents, well, I say that those were a total loss. The fire went through the entire house, the wind was

whipping. We stopped the fire where it was when we got there, but the damage was already done.

"There wasn't a hydrant nearby, but we never ran out of water, we had tankers from all of our stations there, with one exception. We had a great water shuttle," Chief Dyer said. "I can't say enough about the effort. It was a total team effort."



Weary...from Page 1

"We had a ton of weather briefings and everybody was there," he said. "We knew what we were up against, and we prepared accordingly. I can't say enough about the teamwork involved, everyone was on the same page, and we knew what we had to do and how to do it.

"Just when we thought we had it made, then the courthouse flooded," Commissioner Paris said. "A brass cutoff valve related to the sprinkler system gave out and we had a mess at the courthouse.

"It did some minor damage, we've got some work to do," he said. "We've turned it in on our insurance. I can't say enough good things about Serve Pro. They came in with a ton of people and



equipment and we're almost dried out.

"That ordeal began to unfold just as we're getting that snow late Friday," he

said. "If that had happened an hour and a half later, then we've got some serious damage because the courthouse would have been empty."

Weather...from Page 1

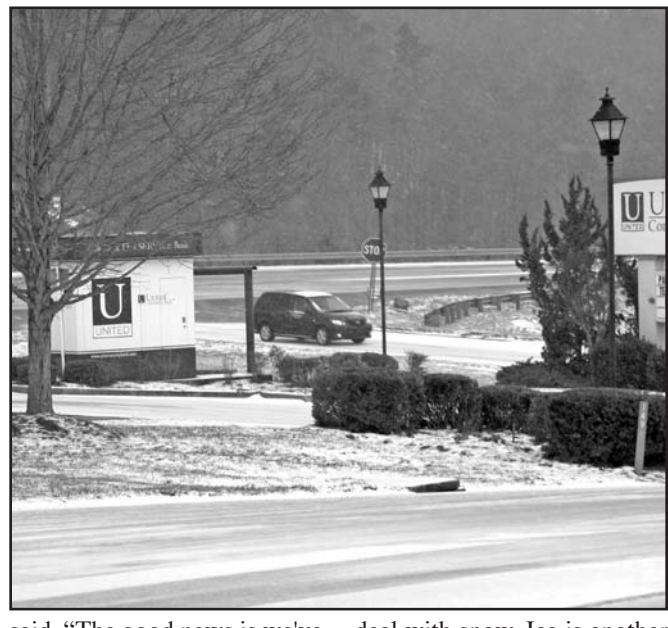
ing target," he said. "Tonight they're calling for an inch or more, they're calling for snow on Tuesday and Wednesday, and also toward the end of the week.

"The situation in the mountains is unique because the temperatures are usually the coldest in the state," Chief Dyer said. "We're always the last to know about weather conditions and usually the ones that get hit the hardest. We dodged a bullet last week, and we're hoping Mother Nature is just as kind this week.

"Our motto is prepare for the worst and hope for the best," Chief Dyer said. "We'll make sure that we'll be able to respond to almost any emergency that we have."

For Commissioner Paris, spring can't come quick enough.

"We've got more weather briefings scheduled," he



said. "The good news is we've got enough salt for this next round of weather. Our biggest concerns are whether we are getting ice or snow. We can

deal with snow. Ice is another thing. It presents problems of power outages, whether we need shelters and whether we need additional help."

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