

Neighbors of Union County



MORE THAN THE RDA... | 4U

HOW big? Community columnist Pat Donovan writes about a whopper of a turnip in the Wesley Chapel community that weighed in at more than most newborn babies.

Our lives
Our news

WAXHAW
WEDDINGTON
INDIAN TRAIL
MONROE
AND MORE...

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THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008



SECTION 1

Our Towns

Indian Trail 'Poor Man's' meal Saturday night

VFW Post 2423 will hold a "Poor Man's Supper and Bakesale" 4-8 p.m. Saturday at the Post, 100 VFW Lane, Indian Trail. Cost is \$5 a plate for all you can eat buffet or one-plate take home. Menu includes fatback, cabbage, potatoes: 704-821-9753.

Stallings Hearing on budget changes Monday

The Stallings Town Council will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. Monday at town hall, 315 Stallings Road, to hear comments from citizens regarding changes to the budget. The issues include stormwater, a condemnation agreement with Hendrick Automotive, and a police memorial contribution to Union County. Information: 704-821-8557.

Union County Red Cross disaster workshop for kids

Union County 4-H and the American Red Cross of Union County are presenting a series of disaster workshops for kids ages 11-19. The first workshop March 17 will show how to develop a family disaster plan. The second on fire safety is April 10. The final workshop on weather disasters is May 13. All are 6 to 8 p.m. at the Union County Agriculture Center, 3230 Presson Road, Monroe. Information: 704-283-3740.

Union County Applicants sought for scholarship

The Urban League of Central Carolinas is accepting applications for the 2008 Bi-Lo/Urban League Scholarship. Each year, the parties award \$2,500 scholarships to high school students in the Central Carolinas area. Download an application form at www.urbanleaguecc.org. Applications are due by March 17.

Union County Candidate for N.C. auditor to speak

Beth Wood candidate for N.C. Auditor, will speak at the March 10 meeting of the Democratic Women of Union County. Wood, a CPA, served in the state auditor's office for more than a decade and previously served in the state treasurer's office. The meeting is at Hilltop Restaurant in Monroe; dinner at 5:30 p.m., program 6:30 p.m. Information: 704-764-3785.

We want your photos

Help us fill our Scrapbook page

Neighbors of Union County wants to publish snapshots of your family, pets and gatherings. Please email them to union@charlotteobserver.com. Or mail to Scrapbook, Neighbors of Union County, 132 S. Main St., Monroe, NC 28112. Include your name, address and daytime phone number. Please identify those in the photo left to right.

Online Extras

The latest news, blogs and tips are updated regularly at www.unionneighbors.com

On downtown wish list: Wi-Fi

Monroe officials hear company presentation; they'll make a decision down the road

With high-speed Internet access limited, wireless network is coveted service

BY MIKE TORRALBA
mtorralba@charlotteobserver.com
MONROE | City officials are talking about ways to get Wi-Fi in downtown Monroe, where high-speed

Internet access is limited. A Charlotte-based firm, WildFire Connections, says it can set up an outdoor wireless network that would be entirely advertiser supported.

The City Council on Tuesday heard a presentation from the company but did not make a decision. A council subcommittee first will have to discuss the proposal, council member Bob Smith said.

Community Wi-Fi networks have been tried or discussed in cities around

the nation, but many have folded. Charlotte was one. Last fall, Charlotte ended negotiations with Internet service provider EarthLink after concerns about the proposal's financial viability.

High-speed Internet is not widely available downtown. It's limited to city hall and a few businesses, Assistant City Manager Mark Donham said.

Improving access to broadband Internet has been a problem in other parts of Union County as well, particularly in the middle third of the county, a swath

following U.S. 601 and including Unionville and Fairview.

WildFire's managers say their network would be advertising-based and wouldn't require taxpayers to foot the bill. The ads would be visible as a user logs in, said Bob Dunlap, managing partner with WildFire, in an interview.

The company has similar arrangements with small cities, such as Concord and Statesville in North Carolina and York, S.C. In addition to regular ad-
SEE MONROE | 2U

'It's Air Force One. ...

You can't say no to something like this.'



Matt Micozzi, who owns Detail Magic Mobile Detailing in Indian Trail, was one of about a dozen detailers nationwide who took part in restoration efforts for the Museum of Flight in Seattle.

Local man helps restore history

BY JODI KEESLER
jkeesler@charlotteobserver.com
For his detailing business in Indian Trail, Matt Micozzi usually spends his days working on cars, SUVs, trucks and RVs.

Then, last summer, a friend asked Micozzi to come to Seattle to help restore some of the nation's most historic aircraft - including the first jet-powered Air Force One that carried U.S. Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy from 1958 to 1962. "How could I say no?" Micozzi says. "It's Air Force One ... You can't say no to something like

this." Owner of Detail Magic Mobile Detailing in Indian Trail, Micozzi was one of about a dozen detailers nationwide who took part in restoration efforts for the Museum of Flight in Seattle.

He got an e-mail from a friend in the business, Renny Doyle of Attention to Details in Boise, Idaho. Doyle's company was hired to preserve the aircraft. Doyle was a mentor for Micozzi and contacted him for help.

Micozzi, 41 and a retired NYPD sergeant, moved with his family to Union County about sev-

en years ago. He started the detailing business with his wife, Joanne, about two years ago.

Along with cars, trucks and other vehicles, Micozzi has detailed small private planes and a regional jet.

In late summer, he went for five days to the museum just outside Seattle, working outdoors as tourists passed through the planes. He was a team leader for a group that detailed the exteriors of two aircraft - the old Air Force One and a Concorde supersonic jet.

SEE AIR FORCE ONE | 2U

URNS DOWN \$60,000 FEE

School board says no to cell phone tower in Weddington

BY SHAWN CETRONE
scetrone@charlotteobserver.com
School officials have turned down a proposal from AT&T to build a cell phone tower on school property in Weddington, forgoing at least \$60,000.

The media behemoth had asked to lease for \$12,000 a year a plot of land on the 88-acre property where Weddington Elementary, Middle and High schools sit.

The school board voted no in a recent meeting, based on recommendations from committees from the three schools. According to a memo sent to school

board members, the committees agreed that the tower wouldn't benefit the schools in any way.

Some cited safety concerns. "There were just too many unknowns," said Weddington Elementary principal Mike Sabrinsky.

Parents and faculty worried about kids climbing on the tower, said Sabrinsky, who is chairman of a committee that reviewed the proposal.

They also worried about the long-term effects of radiation, he said.

SEE SCHOOLS | 2U

Some Union teens choose LDS prom

Imagine a high school prom where dates are optional, the dress code is modest and the lyrics are clean. Imagine one that's free.

Students from Union, Mecklenburg and surrounding counties have enjoyed such annual gatherings since 2003 through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The LDS proms, as the students and parents call them, are for ages 16-18 only and are held at a different LDS church throughout the region each year. This year's is March 15 at the LDS building on Lazy Lane in Mooresville.

The proms draw up to 150 students from as far away as Shelby to the west and Monroe to the east, parent Patti Hosford of Huntersville said. Students are of the LDS faith, but others are welcome as long as they agree to the dress code and other prom rules, she said.

"As a parent, I love the concept of the 'modest' prom," Hosford told me in an e-mail this week. "It is a safe environment for my teenagers. The clothing, music and dancing is tasteful. Lewd behavior is not acceptable. There is no drinking. There is no checking into a hotel at the end of the dance."

"Some of the kids head to the bowling alley after the dance, maybe hang out watching movies, or get something to eat, but they all come home excited

SEE MARUSAK | 2U