



Zakurdaev, 6, son of Yelena and Dmitriy Zakurdaev of Woodstock, relaxes on an inflatable raft at the lake. Left: Jed Heuton, 3, son of Jeff Heuton of Woodstock, begins sculpting his masterpiece in the sand Tuesday afternoon.

Cherokee Tribune photos by Lyns Cullinan

Nonprofits gear up for their own donation drives

Groups gathering items for students

By Brittany Hackett
Cherokee Tribune Staff Writer

"We mostly get asked for things for elementary and middle school kids."

— Lynne Saunders, founder, Papa's Pantry and Family Ministries

With the school year fast approaching, organizations across Cherokee County are gathering supplies to distribute to students in need.

MUST Cherokee provided school supplies to 1,099 kindergarten through 12th-grade students last year. Officials expect to help even more children this year due to an increase of students in need in the county, according to Kim Loesing, director of the nonprofit Christian ministry in Canton.

"We were shocked last year with the number," said Ms. Loesing, adding the shorter summer vacation has caused some delays with the distribution.

"The supplies haven't come in as soon as we'd hoped," she said.

Grace to the Nations, a nonprofit Christian organization, provided 100 to 125 students in need with school supplies last year. Spencer Nix, director of the organization, said he believes they will

be helping more students this year.

"It increases every year," He said. "Probably about 150 this year."

Papa's Pantry and Family Ministries Founder Lynne Saunders said she would not know how the shortened summer vacation will impact their distribution efforts until after school starts.

Typically, churches and people from the community will adopt a family through the organization and provide the needed supplies. The most-needed supplies are backpacks, crayons, washable markers, travel-size tissue packages, and small bottles of

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Day laborer hit, dragged by U-Haul truck

From staff reports

A Hispanic man was seriously injured when he was hit by a U-Haul truck Monday in southwest Cherokee County and dragged for 20 feet.

The man, whose name, age and city of residence were not released by police, was hit at the Smart Mart on Bells Ferry Road just north of Highway 92 shortly before 9:45 a.m.

Georgia State Patrol Trooper Brian McQuaig said the victim was one of a large number of day laborers waiting at

the store hoping to find work that day. When they saw the U-Haul turn into the parking lot, the day laborers rushed the truck.

McQuaig said that when the truck began to drive away, the victim grabbed it briefly before losing his balance and falling under the truck. The driver did not realize the man was under the truck until people began yelling, McQuaig said.

When Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services personnel arrived on

the scene, they determined the victim, who appeared to be in his 20s, had been dragged underneath the truck for about 20 feet.

The man suffered serious injuries to the right side of his head and abrasions to both arms, according to EMS Battalion Chief Danny West. He was flown by helicopter to Atlanta Medical Center in stable condition.

The driver of the U-Haul was not charged in the accident, which remains under investigation.

Small businesses report growth; county wins designation

State award recognizes local efforts

By Ashley Fuller
Cherokee Tribune Staff Writer

Small businesses in Cherokee are growing as county leaders work to improve conditions so companies can perform better.

The Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority of Cherokee County have joined to win the Georgia Depart-

ment of Economic Development's Entrepreneur Friendly designation.

The certification, which is awarded by the Georgia Department of Economic Development, recognizes counties as a good place to do business.

The two groups have formed an advisory board for the project. While interviewing 50 small businesses in the

county, the board learned the companies plan to hire 150 new employees in the next couple of years.

"These are businesses that started small and continue to grow and financially impact the county," chamber President and CEO Pam Carnes said. "These are jobs for our residents and are important for the community to make us a county where people can live and work."

Jobs created by smaller businesses sometimes go

unnoticed but are just as important as new businesses coming to the county, executive director of the development authority.

"If a new employer located creating 150 new jobs, the community would be ecstatic," she said.

The board plans to interview a total of 75 small businesses, with surveys to be completed by the end of the week.

After the interviews are

conducted, the board will develop a list of issues brought up by businesses that need to be addressed. For example, if the survey shows that businesses think they are weak in sales and marketing, the chamber will offer marketing workshops.

"We are looking at the survey responses to see how we can strengthen the educational opportunities in the county," Mrs. Carnes said.

After the board has assessed the top issues

among the county's small business and developed a way to address them, the board will make its presentation to a state panel. The panel will decide whether the county deserves the designation.

Mrs. Carnes said she hopes the board will appear before the state panel in the fall and she hopes to hear about a decision on the designation by the end of the year.

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