



The Fire Wire

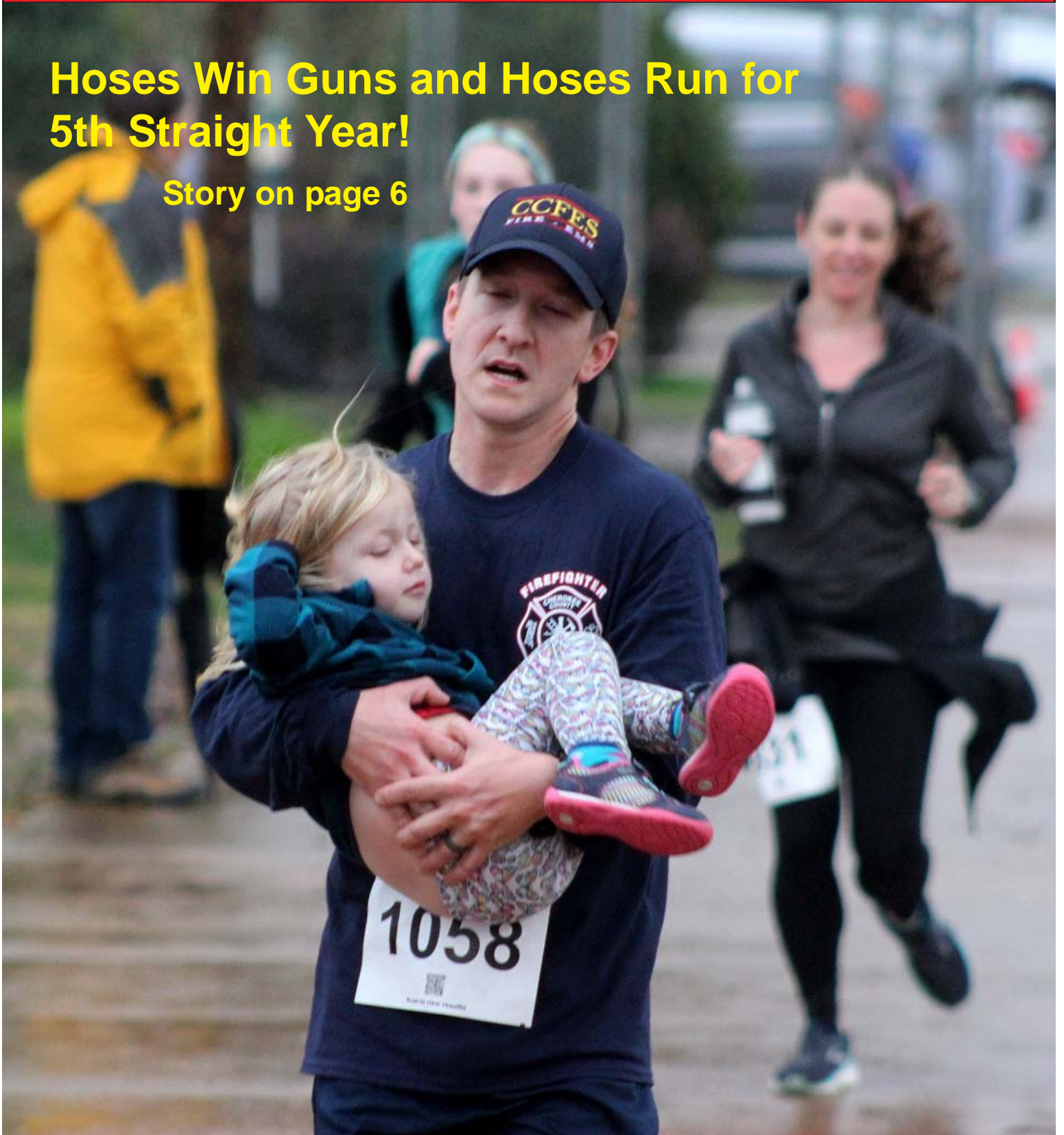
Cherokee County Office of Fire & Emergency Services

March - April

Volume 18 - Issue 2

Hoses Win Guns and Hoses Run for 5th Straight Year!

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The Fire Wire

Published bi-monthly by the
Cherokee County Office of Fire
and Emergency Services

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ABOUT THE COVER: Cherokee County Firefighter, Chris Norrington, carries his daughter, Harper, across the finish line at the annual Guns and Hoses Run.

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Fire Explorers Honored at City Council Meeting



Woodstock Fire Chief, Dave Soumas, and Assistant Fire Chief, Jimmy Eley, thank the fire explorers and their advisors for helping with the open house.

Numerous Cherokee County Fire Explorers were honored Monday night, February 25th, at the regular meeting of the Woodstock City Council.

Woodstock Fire Chief, Dave Soumas, and Assistant Fire Chief, Jimmy Eley, came before the council to thank the explorers for their assistance at the annual Woodstock Fire Rescue Open House that was held on October 13th of last year. The Fire Explorers from Post # 469 were on hand to do firefighter rescue demonstrations, gave station tours and showed fire apparatus.

The explorers were asked to come before the council and were presented with a plaque thanking them for their assistance with the event that was sponsored by the Woodstock Fire Department.

Fire and emergency services exploring is a hands-on program that exposes participants to many career experiences, leadership opportunities, and community service activities. The primary goals of the program are to help young adults choose a career path within fire and emergency services and to challenge them to become responsible citizens of their communities and country. For more information about Explorer Post 469 you can contact Sgt. Michael Sims at 678-644-1377 or mrsims@cherokeega.com.

Ten Cherokee County Firefighters Promoted



Attending the promotion ceremony were (kneeling – left to right) Sgt. Ross Young, Sgt. Cesar Saavedra, Sgt. Tim Carter, Lt. David Miller, Lt. Frank Madonna, Capt. Keith Berryman and Capt. Sarah Love. According to Chief Prather, Love becomes the first female with Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services to be promoted to the rank of Captain. Also attending were (standing – left to right) Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, Battalion Chief, T. C. Capps, Battalion Chief, Chad Davis, Battalion Chief, Scott Deal, Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson and Operations Chief, Shane West.

they were Capt. Chad Davis, Battalion Chief for Field Operations, Capt. Scott Deal, Battalion Chief for the Training Division and Capt. Thomas Capps, Battalion Chief for Field Operations. Chief Prather also recognized Kevin Lanier who recently became a Battalion Chief Shift Commander.

Numerous firefighters, chiefs and family members attended the event. Refreshments were held afterwards in honor of those receiving promotions. Congratulations to all of the firefighters for their recent promotion.

PHOTO AT RIGHT: Sarah Love was recognized for being the first female with Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services to be promoted to the rank of Captain.

Ten Cherokee County firefighters were promoted on Monday night, March 4th, during ceremonies held at the Cherokee County Fire Training Complex, located just south of Holly Springs.

After a brief welcome from Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, ten firefighters were asked to come forward to receive their promotion warrant. Ross Young, Cesar Saavedra and Tim Carter were all promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Two firefighters were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and they were Sgt. David Miller and Sgt. Frank Madonna. Promoted to the rank of Captain were Lt. Keith Berryman and Lt. Sarah Love. According to Chief Prather, Love becomes the first female with Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services to be promoted to the rank of Captain.

Three firefighters were promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief and



Cherokee County Fire Explorers Bring Home 10 Awards from Winterfest



Cherokee County Fire Explorers who attended Winterfest are (Front Row L to R): Cadet FF Maxwell Garcia, Cadet Captain Denver Ice, Cadet Lt. Chris Shorts, Cadet Sgt. Dalton Hamby, Cadet Lt. William Logan, Cadet FF Isaiah Powell, Cadet FF Katharina Tolstiuk, Cadet FF Griffin Hansen, Cadet FF Gabriel Shull, Cadet FF Kenny Robinson, Cadet FF Gene Kachele. Back row: Cadet Sgt. Josh Shorts, Cadet FF Jared MacCracken, Cadet FF McKinley Arnold, Cadet FF Brianne Mazucca, Cadet Sgt. Anna Bowyer, Cadet Sgt. Hannah Pohlman, Cadet FF Timothy Waddell, Cadet FF Tyler Nealy, and Cadet FF Jason Kuhn.

the fire department's explorers have attended the event. Post 469 brought 20 youth and 13 advisors to this event. Also in attendance from the department were Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson, and Retired Fire Chief, Bob Nealy. Many friends and family members of Post 469 were also in attendance.

The post went up against some tough competition to bring home 10 Top-Three finishes! They placed first in Cardiac Arrest Management, Denver Drill, Medical Emergency Management, Pittsburg Drill and Trauma Emergency Management.

Second place trophies were earned in Medical Emergency Management and Trauma Emergency Management.

Plus, the local fire explorers earned 3rd place in Honor Guard Competition, Rapid Dress Individual and Table Top Display Contest.

The events involved the explorers performing forcible entry, hose deployment, hose crawl, victim removal, emergency medical treatment, and much

Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services' Explorer Post 469 brought home ten awards during the 45th Annual Winterfest Competition that was held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The competition took place on the second weekend in February at The Gatlinburg Convention Center with over 3,100 Explorers and Venturers from 26 states attending the event this year.

Winterfest is the largest gathering in the United States catering to Explorers and Venturers and it takes place annually in Gatlinburg, TN. The event is the largest scout assembly that specifically targets co-ed youth ages 14-21, and allows them to participate in a variety of competitive and social activities throughout the weekend.

This was the 18th year that the



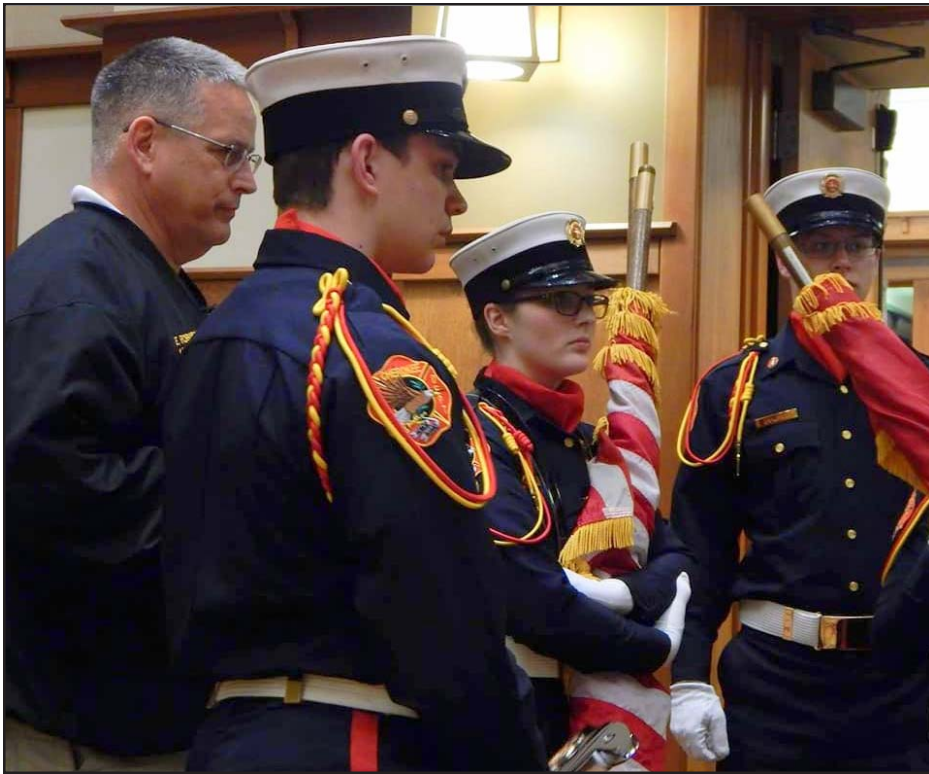
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Cherokee County Fire Explorers Bring Home 10 Awards from Winterfest (continued)

more.

The explorers began training for this year's Winterfest back in the Fall of 2018. They averaged 7-10 hours of training per week and were mentored by career and volunteer firefighters who volunteer as advisors and associate advisors.

According to Tim Prather, Cherokee County Fire Chief, "We have a great group of young people who have worked hard for this year's competition. Many of our current firefighters in Cherokee County were once



The Cherokee County Fire Explorer Honor Guard receive last minute instructions prior to the honor guard competition.



Cherokee County Fire Explorers wait patiently for their next event.

members of our explorer program."

The explorer program is a career based learning opportunity and is open to young men and women ages 14 (and completed the 8th grade) and not yet 21 years old with an interest in learning more about careers in the field of fire & emergency services.

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For more information about Explorer Post 469 you can contact Sgt. Michael Sims at 678-644-1377 or mrsims@cherokeega.com.

Hoses Win 5K Run for Fifth Straight Year



Kim Whatley, the Aquatics Division Director for Cherokee County Parks and Recreation, presents the trophy to Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather.

Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services won the 2019 Guns and Hoses Run that was held Saturday, February 23rd, at Hobgood Park. Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services had the most runners to sign up for the 13th annual event this year making this the fifth year in a row that the fire department has won the race.

Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services and the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office solicit registrations from runners to raise money for their charities. The event was open to the public and runners were asked to pick the team they wanted to run for, Guns or Hoses, and part of their registration fee was donated to an area charity.

The fire department donated their winnings to the Goshen Valley Boys Ranch. The purpose Goshen Valley Boys Ranch, which is located in Salacoa, is to provide hope and a family-model home for boys who do not have either.

According to Lindsey Collett, a representative with the Cherokee County Recreation and Parks Agency, 437 runners signed up for the fire department, while 249 signed up with the sheriff's office for a total of 686 runners participating in the event. Runners for the Hoses team this year included members with the Cherokee County Search and Rescue Team who had 12 members that participated and several boys from the Goshen Valley Boys Ranch including the CEO, Zach Blend.

One of the runners that caught everyone's attention was Cherokee County firefighter, Chris Norrington, who was carrying his 3 year daughter, Harper, when he crossed the finish line. Many of the spectators were wondering if Chris had carried his daughter through the entire run. However, according to Chris, "I actually pushed both of my kids throughout the run in a stroller this year. Then, for the final mile, my 5 year old son, Teddy, wanted to run the rest of the way by himself. Not to be outdone by her brother, my daughter chose to do the same. So, we ditched the stroller and ran. Needless to say, her little legs gave up quickly and I carried her the rest of the way in. It was not my plan, but it kept her happy."

Prior to the presentation of the trophy, the Cherokee County Fire Explorer Honor Guard displayed the colors during the playing of the National Anthem.

The Goshen Valley Boys Ranch will receive a check in the amount of \$5,364.

Citizen Thanks Firefighters



Jamie and Joshua Kreger (center) thanks Lt. Brady Cornelison (left) and Sgt. Chance Conley (right) for their help in saving Jamie's life.

stated Kreger.

Kreger contacted the fire department earlier this year to ask if she could meet with the crew that responded that day. "I know it's been 3 years ago, but, it's really amazing that I survived," she added. Jamie and her husband, Joshua, visited with two of the firefighters on Saturday, January 26th, at Station 19, to thank them personally. Lt. Brady Cornelison and Sgt. Chance Conley, who responded to her call, were eager to meet with Jamie. "Mrs. Kreger credits us with saving her life by talking her into going to the hospital. It was refreshing to find out that something we did made such a great impact on a person's life," stated Conley.

Cherokee County firefighters respond to calls like this on a daily basis and knowing that they may assist in saving a life is the greatest "thanks" they can ever receive. President Abraham Lincoln once said, "Next to creating a life, the finest thing a man can do is save one." Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services thanks Jamie Kreger for visiting the firefighters to let them know that they made a difference in her life.

On November 6th, 2015, firefighters from Station 19 responded to a call off Highway 92 regarding a lady who had high blood pressure, low blood sugar and wasn't breathing normally. Firefighters arrived on the scene minutes later and transferred the 38 year old woman to Northside Cherokee Hospital.

The lady, Jamie Kreger, later discovered that she had severe complications to her left leg and heart failure. "I had no idea how sick I was that morning and I don't know if any of them (firefighters) knew how sick I was. However, it's because of the quick response of that crew that I'm alive today,"



EMS

**MORE THAN A JOB.
A CALLING.**

Chief Floyd and Chief Hughes Retire from Cherokee County Fire Department



Cherokee County Shift Commander, Dan Floyd and Battalion Chief, Kerry Hughes were honored at a retirement celebration for their 60+ years of service to Cherokee County.

Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services hosted a dinner on January 19th at the Ball Ground Community Building to honor Battalion Chief Shift Commander, Dan Floyd and Battalion Chief, Kerry Hughes, who retired from the fire department after 64 years of combined service to Cherokee County.

After dinner and a slide-show presentation, Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, came forward to thank Floyd and Hughes for their commitment and service to the citizens of Cherokee County. According to Chief Prather, "Dan Floyd came to work for Cherokee County EMS on July 16th, 1984 and was hired to work at the Oak Grove Fire Department on April 24th, 1987. During his 34+ years of work with the department, Floyd received five letters of appreciation. In August of 1986, he was recognized as Cherokee County EMT of the Month and was later named Cherokee County EMT of the year. He was

also nominated that year for Region 1 EMT of the year." Floyd was also one of the last remaining members of the Oak Grove Fire Department. He is one of the last of the original career firefighters before the fire department went county wide. The remaining Oak Grove members are Battalion Chief Danny West and Fire Chief, Tim Prather.

Chief Prather also recognized Hughes for his many years of service, too. "Kerry Hughes had 30+ years of service to the department and started his career on July 31st, 1988 at the Little River Fire Department. During his career, Hughes had 3 letters of commendation and 9 letters of appreciation," added Prather. Hughes was one of the last remaining members of the Little River Fire Department. The only remaining member is Battalion Chief Fred Dobson.

Chief Prather then presented Floyd and Hughes with their "bugle" awards. The bugle or speaking trumpet is a reference to a megaphone like device that was used in the early days of the fire service. The two retirees came to the podium and shared some of their experiences in the fire department and thanked everyone for coming to the event.

After the "bugle" presentation, chiefs, battalion chiefs, firefighters and friends came forward to roast Floyd and Hughes with funny stories about their careers with the fire department. Some of the speakers included Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson, Battalion Chief Brian Ward, Former Fire Chief Bob Nealey, Former Fire Chief and District 2 Commissioner, Raymond Gunnin, EMS Chief Danny West and Shift Commander Ryan McElwee.

Floyd and Hughes officially retired from the fire department at the end of last December. We congratulate these two on their retirement and we thank them for sixty-four plus years of combined service to Cherokee County and its citizens.