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COMING SOON TO CURRAHEE: WW II BARRACKS



Patrick Hall and Gary Bellamy of the Camp Toccoa at Currahee Project watch Jeffrey Meeks and Seth Roesch hammer barracks walls into place.

Buildings using original camp materials going up

BY TOM LAW
THE TOCCOA RECORD

Wooden panels of a U.S. airborne training barracks that had not been used for their original purpose for some 65 years, returned to the base of Currahee Mountain last Thursday morning.

The panels – or sections – were nailed into place by members of the Camp Toccoa at Currahee Project and their allies, Roesch Construction.

The panels are being used to re-construct four barracks buildings at the former Camp Toccoa training site just off Dick's Hill Parkway about five miles south of Toccoa.

When finished, the restored barracks can be used by groups to spend the night at Camp Toccoa and provide visitors a glimpse into what life must have been like at the training camp where, during World War II, some 16,000 to 18,000 paratroop-



Bellamy lends a helping hand – and a hammer – to Jeffrey Meeks.

“...it’s moments like these that make it all worthwhile.”

– Gary Bellamy,
Camp Toccoa at Currahee volunteer

ers received training before entering action in Europe and the Pacific.

When the camp was dismantled in the early 1950s, the panels of the barracks buildings went to Steve Lathan's grandfather who used them to construct poultry houses.

“Once Steve realized what the chicken houses were made of, he contacted us and said we could have them,” Gary Bellamy of Camp Toccoa at Currhee volunteer said.

Then came the work of measuring and numbering each panel to instill some sort of order in the reconstruction, according to Patrick Hall, also a Camp Toccoa at Currahee volunteer.

Hall spearheaded that organizational effort.

Bellamy and Hall were on site last Thursday along with Seth Roesch and Jeffrey Meeks of

SEE **BARRACKS A4**

Dog attack victim spurns rabies shots

BY J. TODD TRUELOVE
THE TOCCOA RECORD

Shawn Willard moved to Stephens County from the midwest in 2017.

He says he might be moving again soon due to what he described as a lack of communication from governmental entities after he was bitten by a dog on Friday, March 16, in the Defoor Road area of Stephens County.

Willard said the dog bite came while he was walking his two dogs — Mimi, a great Pyranees Lab mix, and Lucy, a terrier/poodle mix.

“We were out walking and two pit bulls came across the yard and targeted my smallest dog,”

Willard said.

Lucy took off running back toward the house while Willard and Mimi fended off the pit bulls.

Willard sustained a puncture wound on his hand and later drove to Urgent Med for treatment.

Mimi's injuries were more severe and had to have 25 stitches to close the wound.

“One dog bit at me and just nicked me,” Willard said. “One ate a section of (Mimi's) leg.”

He said that both of the canine attackers wore collars and were “well-cared for.”

It's what happened after

SEE **ATTACK A4**

County’s ISO rating lowered

BY J. TODD TRUELOVE
THE TOCCOA RECORD

Stephens County's ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating was lowered from 5 to 4 earlier this year.

The lower rating means local property owners should see a savings in their insurance policy rates.

duction was the construction in recent years of three new fire substations.

That construction was funded through a voter-approved one percent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) approved by county voters.

Gettys said those new substations allow the volunteer fire departments to cover all areas in even the most rural areas of Stephens County.



This 1999 model fire truck has been moved from Tate's Creek to Holcomb's Access.

“There was improvement across the board,” Stephens County fire department coordinator Jamey Gettys said. “They rate you on the water system, the fire department, the communications...”

Playing into that ISO re-

The new substations are located at the Currahee Club, Black Mountain Road and Holcomb's Access on Lake Hartwell.

“We also saved (the county) a quarter-million dollars by moving a fire engine from a station where it wasn't being used very much to the Holcomb's Access station,” Gettys said.

The engine previously housed at Holcomb's Access was a 1987 model while the newer one, com-

SEE **FIRE RATING A4**

FAILURE TO DIM HEADLIGHTS LEADS TO DRUG CHARGES — PAGE A2



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