

More Than Just the Unity Run XVII

The Unity Run set for Tuesday, September 28 beginning at 5:00 with a 1-K Kid's Run and at 6:30 with the 5-K Run Walk. This event has more than just running and walking in the plans. DJ Donny Holmes will be at the start with music and entertainment. To get runners warmed up for the 5-K Elsa Gonzalez of Fitness First of Calhoun will be leading Zumba at 6:00 in the parking lot at Gordon Central. Zumba is aerobics with a Latino swing and lots of movement. Try it out before the run guaranteed to loosen you up for the run!

The Gordon Central Blue Wave Band will play while the 1-K Kids run their route and start the 5-K race with the National Anthem and the runners theme "Rockie". The official starter for this year's 5-K will be retired Captain Wayne Brown of the Calhoun Police Department. Captain Brown has coordinated the law enforcement for 16 years so it seemed only fitting to have him start the race the first year he retired.

There will be entertainment all along the route. Returning this year, The Great Revival of Acoustic Songs and Sounds, G.R.A.S.S., a bluegrass and folk mix band that began after being invited to play in a festival at Southeast High School. Mrs. Westmoreland, former Calhoun High's principal realized their talent and had them play for senior send-off assembly in 2009. Dean Ruth and Avonne Waddell performed together for the first time at the assembly and from that performance other opportunities developed. Chris Sapp joined the band and they have been performing together ever since. They will be on the corner of Barrett Rd. and Dews Pond near the first water station provided by one of the many Girl Scout Troops supported by Gordon County United Way.

Mid-way up Heart Break Hill on Meadow Lane, the Daisy Troop from Girl Scouts will be manning the water station as the runner attack the hill and continue on to the next band on the corner of Boulevard Heights and Line St. Entertainment will be provided by PerFeKt Peace. PerFeKt Peace was formed in the spring of 2008 in Plainville, GA. The name was chosen based on the excellent chemistry among the group and inspiration based on band member Jon Stewart's scriptural, tattoo ISAIAH 26:3."It's that PerFeKt Peaceful Place we reach together while playing our music." Jeff Gazaway, bass guitar, said "Our goal is sharing our music in the essence of light, love, and unyielding friendship." This local band mixes its love for the Lord with contemporary music and great sounds from the past. The band members are Jeff Gazaway, guitar and vocals, Ryan Burney, guitar and slide guitar, John Stewart, guitar and vocals and John Laddage percussion, guitar and vocals.

As the route continues down Line St., another water station is available to the runners at the corner of Line St. and College St. across from Calhoun First United Methodist Church. All along the route agencies support by United Way will be on the road side cheering the runners and walkers on to the finish line. As the runners turn the corner at BB&T Park, Sonoraville High School Band will be performing. The BB&T Park has

been the assigned location for SHS Band since the Unity Run moved the finish line to Downtown Calhoun. Always a crowd favorite, Matthew Loyd, new director of the SHS Band, will have his first experience with the Unity Run. As the runners continue to Amen Corner at the Starr-Mathews building, they can see the finish line with cheerleaders from all three high schools cheering the runner while the Calhoun High School Band plays. As the entertainment continues DJ Kevin Casey will continue the music and Elvis will be on hand to performance while the results are being tabulated.

Food vendors, music, entertainment and fun await everyone at the 17th Annual Unity Run on Tuesday, Sept. 28. Even if you can't run or walk come downtown and enjoy the party. This event is the annual Kick-off for the United Way Fund Campaign and a wonderfully community event. For more information go to www.gordoncountyunitedway.org or register on line at www.active.com or call 706-602-5548. Registration forms are also available at the Calhoun Depot.