



# The Fire Wire

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## Collett Becomes Certified Fire Investigator

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# The Fire Wire

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## ABOUT THE COVER

Cheri Collett recently became one of four females in the state of Georgia to become a Certified Fire Investigator.

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# Capt. Nathan Roper Receives Degree in Fire Administration



*Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, congratulates Capt. Nathan Roper for receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Administration.*

Captain Nathan Roper was recognized on April 13th by Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, for receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Administration from Columbia Southern University recently.

The Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Administration presents the academic foundations for leadership and administration of fire service organizations. The curriculum follows the FESHE-modeled, multi-disciplinary approach, incorporating fire administration, community risk reduction and tactical fireground considerations. The program also encompasses legal frameworks to applied fire service settings as well as a study of employee safety and healthy work environments. This program of study is recognized by the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) through the U. S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy (NFA).

According to Prather, "I truly understand the commitment required to accomplish this goal while fulfilling your professional, family and personal responsibilities. You have displayed the dedication, commitment and professionalism that is reflective of the men and women of Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services."

# Collett Becomes Certified Fire Investigator

Cherokee County Fire Investigator, Cheri Collett, recently received her credentials for being a Certified Fire Investigator. In 1986, the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) addressed a national concern by developing the Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) program. The qualification is a standardized evaluation of a fire investigator's training and expertise. Investigators applying for the certification must complete an extensive application process requiring documentation, earn sufficient points for the achievements in education, training and experience. Plus, applicants have to pass a comprehensive examination.



*Cheri Collett is congratulated by Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather for becoming a Certified Fire Investigator.*

Before a candidate is permitted to qualify for examination, their application must be approved by a review committee. Documentation must be provided to substantiate every point claimed on the application. Certificates, college diplomas and transcripts, and testament letters are considered examples of acceptable documentation.

Collett began the process in 2015. According to Collett, you have to be a fire investigator for 4 years before you can even apply for the process. "This is the only internationally accredited fire investigator program. I went through different training, college, documenting fires that I had worked, courtroom testimony and courtroom testimony courses. I literally went through hundreds of hours of training in order to apply for the certification," stated Collett.

After the application is approved, the candidate must participate in a "closed book" comprehensive proctored examination that is based upon nine reference books and every job performance requirement in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code Standard 1033 which is the Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator. A score of 70 percent or above must be achieved to successfully pass the exam. The first attempt success rate for candidates is less than 10 percent. Collett passed the test on her first attempt last Fall.

Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, recognized Collett for her accomplishment during ceremonies held at Fire Headquarters.

There is currently a total of 1,904 members that are credentialed as Certified Fire Investigators. Eighty-two of those are within the State of Georgia. Collett is one of four females in the state to become a Certified Fire Investigator. Investigators who hold the IAAI-CFI certification are required to re-certify every five years by completing a recertification application and 50 hours of continuing education.

Congratulations to Cheri Collett for becoming a Certified Fire Investigator.

# Twenty-nine Graduate From Firefighter Recruit School



Twenty-nine new fire recruits graduated from firefighter recruit school during ceremonies held March 19th at the Woodstock First Baptist Church. The event began with a welcome from Battalion Chief of Training, Scott Deal, followed by the invocation by Fire Chaplain, Johnny Weaver. The Cherokee County Fire Honor Guard came to the stage for the presentation of colors and the singing of the national anthem was performed by Darrek Cornelison.

Chief Deal returned to the podium to introduce a slideshow of the recruit's experiences during training.

This year's recruit class had two separate companies. Capt. Daniel Carder came forward and introduced 60-year-old fire recruit, George Mason, who spoke on behalf of Company 1, followed by Lt. Chris Martin who introduced recruit, Johnathan Futch, who spoke on behalf of Company 2.

Jim Laughlin and Kristina Wigington, instructors for the recruit class, came next to present four special achievement awards that were presented to three members of this year's class. The W. Clark Waters' Jr. Honor Graduate Award was presented to David Seay. The award was named on behalf of Clark Waters, a Cherokee County firefighter, who passed away in 2004. The recipient of the Pinnacle Award for striving to "reach the top" due to dedication and hard-work in the firefighter recruit school class was presented to Joel Saunders. The Star of Life Award, in honor of Dr. Jill Mabley, who is currently the Medical Director for the fire department, was presented to Denver Ice. David Seay was also the recipient of this year's Academic Award.

After the awards presentation, Harry Johnston, Chairman of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, came forward to say a few words.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Twenty-Nine Graduate From Firefighter Recruit School (continued)

Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson, came to the podium and congratulated the new recruits and welcomed them to the Cherokee County Fire family. Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, came next to encourage the recruits to keep their faith first, family second and their work third in order to have a successful life and career. Prather then asked the recruits to stand for the firefighter oath followed by the presentation of their certificates of completion.

Those recruits receiving certificates were: Wilfred Acosta, David Beasley, Anna Bowyer, Roderick Chumbley, Darrion Cook, Andrew Davenport, Nathan Foye, Jacob Franklin, Brice Futch, Maxwell Garcia, Trevor Gobbel, Leighton Graham, Logan Hart, Benjamin Huthchinson, Denver Ice, Matthew Johnson, Stacey Johnson, Troy Kizer, William Klein, George Mason, Brody Miller, Eli Muse, Hunter Patterson, Matthew Reilly, Joel Saunders, David Seay, Ryan Stancil, Lyle Tobin and Douglas Whiddon.

Congratulations to the new graduates on a job well done!



*David Seay (left) was the recipient of the W. Clark Waters Award and the Academic Award.*



*Denver Ice (left) received the Star of Life Award in honor of Dr. Jill Mabley.*



*Joel Saunders (left) was the recipient of the Pinnacle Award for "striving to reach the top."*

*PHOTO AT RIGHT - Harry Johnston, Chairman of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, speaks to the fire recruits at their graduation ceremony at Woodstock First Baptist Church.*



# Four Cherokee County Firefighters Promoted



Four Cherokee County firefighters were recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Fire Apparatus Officers (FAO) Brennan Jones and R C Vaughn (left photo) were both promoted to the rank of Sergeant on Tuesday night, March 30th.

Brennan Jones and R C Vaughn came to work for Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services in 2014. Brennan currently resides in Rome with his wife, Brianna, and his son, Bennett. R C Vaughn currently lives in Hickory Flat with his wife, Katie, and daughters Aydin and Ryker.

Two Cherokee County firefighters, Andrew Kane and Justin Libby were promoted during ceremonies on Tuesday night, April 27th. Both were also promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Andrew Kane came to work for Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services on September 1, 2008. He currently resides in Holly Springs with his wife, Holly, and their four children, Jordan, Gabby, Stone and Desmond. Justin Libby lives in Holly Springs and started his career with the department on June 22nd, 2015.

Both promotion ceremonies were held at the Cherokee County Fire Training Center. Numerous firefighters, chiefs and family members attended the event. Congratulations to the four firefighters that were recently promoted.



**The Summer Open Burn Ban runs from May 1 - September 30** and includes 54 counties in Georgia. During the summer months, the ozone in the air we breathe can reach unhealthy levels. The open burning ban prohibits citizens and businesses from burning yard and land-clearing debris during this period. This is in addition to the rule that prohibits the burning of household garbage.

# Certificates of Completion and Letters of Commendation Presented



*Fire Chief, Tim Prather, presents Letters of Commendation to Battalion Chief, Brian Ward, Division Chief, Dean Floyd and Firefighter Charles Corbett.*

Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, presented several awards and letters of commendation to several Cherokee County firefighters recently at Fire Headquarters.

Division Chief, Dean Floyd, Battalion Chief, Brian Ward and Firefighter Charles Corbett received Letters of Commendation from Chief Prather for assistance in getting the recent six new fire engines in services as well as getting the surplus trucks ready for their exit.

Battalion Chief Ward and Capt. Jason Williams received Certificates of Completion for the Georgia Chief Fire Officer Course. The Chief Fire Officer Task Force developed the program to ensure that the fire departments in the state of Georgia have qualified, credentialed, and professional leaders and managers overseeing their departments and personnel. The program is broken into 3 types of certification: Georgia Volunteer Fire Chief Certification, Georgia Chief Fire Officer Certification, and Georgia Fire Chief Certification based on the vast diversity of the Georgia Fire Service and the needs of the various types of departments.

Cherokee County Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson, presented Chad Huff with a certificate of com-



*Cherokee County Fire Chief presents the Certificate of Completion for the Georgia Chief Fire Officer Course to Battalion Chief, Brian Ward and Capt. Jason Williams.*



*Assistant Fire Chief, Eddie Robinson, congratulates Chad Huff for completing the EMS Leadership and Management Training Course.*

pletion for taking the EMS Leadership and Management Training Course.

Cherokee County Fire Chief, Tim Prather, stated that Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services now has qualified people within the department to step up when leadership positions become available in the future.

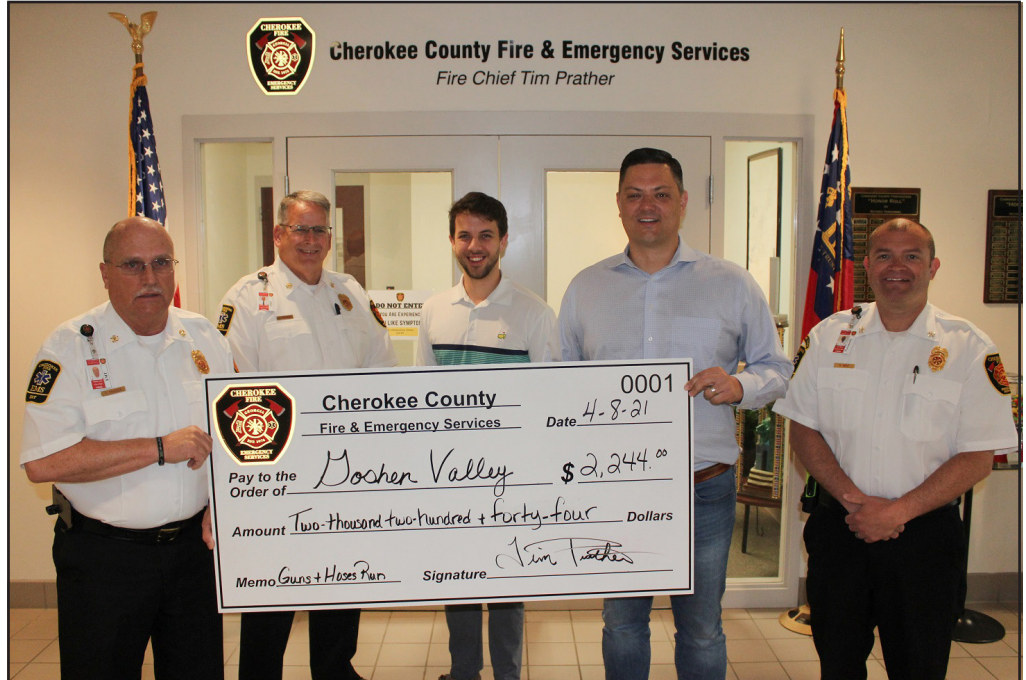
# Cherokee County Fire Presents Check to Goshen Valley Boys Ranch

Cherokee County Fire and Emergency presented a check on April 8th for \$2,244 to Evan Ingram, Community Engagement Coordinator and Zach Blend, Interim Executive Director, at the Goshen Valley Boys Ranch located in the Salacoa area of Cherokee County. The fire department donated their winnings from the recent Guns and Hoses 5K Run that was held on February 20th at Hobgood Park.

Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services has been donating their winnings to Goshen Valley since 2014. Since then, the fire department has donated a total of \$31,858 to support the boys ranch.

Goshen Valley Boys Ranch provides hope and a family-model home for boys who do not have either. This was the 16th annual Guns and Hoses Run that was presented by the Cherokee County Recreation and Parks Agency.

The fire department wishes to thank everyone who came out and participated in the run to help the Goshen Valley Boys Ranch.



Attending the check presentation were ): Fire Chief Tim Prather, Assistant Fire Chief Eddie Robinson, Evan Ingram, Community Engagement Coordinator for Goshen Valley, Zach Blend, Interim Executive Director at Goshen Valley and Shane West, Chief of Field Operations.

## Mass Casualty Truck Put Into Service

Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services recently put a Mass Casualty Apparatus into service. According to EMS Chief, Nate Sullivan, "We recently repurposed our Technical Rescue Apparatus to a Mass Casualty Incident Apparatus to improve our ability to respond to a mass casualty incident."

The apparatus now has the capability to take care of 50 plus patients. The truck can supply crews on scene with necessary medical equipment. Sullivan also stated that Sgt. Brandon Barton and Firefighter, Benjamin Kiefer, were the two that were responsible for making this happen. Barton also stated that Chief Sullivan,



Chief Ryan McElwee, Sgt. Jon Montague and Dean Hege also helped with the project.