

Journalism Staff Involved in Community

By **Lacie Warren**
Public Relations Director

The journalism program at Heard County High School has grown since the rebirth of *The Warcry* in 2005, with a constant influx of diverse and talented young writers from each grade level. Since 2005, *The Warcry* has expanded its circulation, delivering over 1,000 copies per issue to high school students, alumni, local businesses, and members of the community. Starting this past spring, *The Warcry* branched out into new journalistic endeavors with the goal of furthering the development of journalism skills of its staff members. *The Times-Journal* and the Heard County

Historical Society offered opportunities to student writers to be published and recognized locally, as well as providing opportunities to gain professional experiences in the business world.

All members of *The Warcry* must conduct interviews, research their topics, and obtain adequate notes or information to compose interesting articles for the school paper. When writing for *The Times-Journal* or the Historical Society, students are expected to not only do the before mentioned tasks, but also attend political meetings, conduct and develop understanding of events occurring locally. Without the knowledge of matters happening within the community, any journalist would be lost when cre-

ating a story. This is no different for the student authors. Caroline Bell, director of the Historical Society, believed researching different events from Heard County's past would "benefit the students" and allow them to "learn more about their community's history." Also a learning experience, attending meetings for the City of Franklin and the Heard County Government allows students to observe first-hand how a government conducts business.

While learning crucial writing skills,

experiencing real-life situations, and developing communication abilities, the staff members offer the community a knowledgeable, well-written report. The students bring a "fresher viewpoint" to the drawing board for Bell and she also "appreciates their ideas." Composing articles for *The Times-Journal* and the Historical Society publically credits these few students for their ideas and full writing potential.

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