

Relay For Life...from Page 1A



Those gathered for the Jan. 23 Relay kickoff event participated in a prayer circle for survivors, volunteers and 2020 Relay For Life efforts. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

at the universities in the medical labs. We are at the far end of the spectrum of cancer research, and we talk about the standard of care. Standard of care is really what we offer at the cancer clinic.

“So, if you come in with a diagnosis of breast cancer, stage 1, then we offer state of the art standard of care for that diagnoses, and that means that this treatment is what works and what will provide the most optimal outcome.”

Schueneman explained the different phases of research and how the tests and research make progress based on the results experienced in each phase.

“(In phase one), we have a promising treatment or promising drug that works in a preclinical model, whether that’s a petri dish or an animal

model, and that treatment shows promise,” Schueneman said. “Before we actually give the first dose, we have to test to see what dose would be acceptable in a human body, and that is all done behind the scenes.

“After all the behind-the-scenes stuff is done, the purpose of the phase one trial is to find the maximum tolerated dose and look at side effects.”

Following the discussion and a Q&A session with Schueneman, Relay members started planning their teams for the year and working to prepare for the big event coming in May.

Relay is important to both volunteers and survivors, because it helps fund research that has the potential to save the lives of people who are suffering the effects of cancer.

“I am also a survivor,

so each year, I look at it from a survivor’s standpoint, but I also look at it as support for each other and the community coming together with a common goal,” said longtime Relay volunteer Sue Upchurch. “It’s not just about the event, but it’s about everybody supporting each other and going to the different events and progressing up to the main event that we all work on in May.

“That always fascinates me, and I know we have had changes in size, but no matter how it changes, the spirit is always growing. And the spirit of Relay is what we all do this for, the hugs and the celebration of life.”

The main Relay For Life event will take place at the Union County Farmers Market on May 30 from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.



Relay volunteers played games and had a great time as usual in their Jan. 23 gathering. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Sons of Confederate Veterans annual Lee-Jackson Dinner



The David W. Payne Camp #1633, Sons of Confederate Veterans, held its annual Lee-Jackson Dinner at Brother’s at Willow Ranch, Young Harris, on January 18th. The guest speaker was Civil War author John W. Latty (left) who spoke on the lives of Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson. Camp Commander Mike Pettus is on the right. NTJJan29/26/CA

School Board...from Page 1A

need to know which direction this board would like for us to move.”

Murphy, Crow and Fields presented the board with three options based on how the schools could employ the highest and best use of their properties given state funding parameters, coupled with the county E-SPLOST, to maximize taxpayer dollars while keeping the best interests of the students in mind.

The first option would be to build a new elementary school building for second through fifth grades. The second option would be to modernize and renovate existing structures. And the third option would be to do nothing.

Murphy, Crow and Fields explained that, given the complicated nature of state funding options and timelines – of which there are many – plus the considerations for renovations and the fact that doing nothing would be irresponsible, their recommendation was to plan for a new elementary school building.

Following a lengthy discussion considering the pros and cons of each option, the board approved going forward with a site survey to determine if a new building would be feasible at the chosen site, which is where the bus barn is currently located.

Moving along, Elementary School Principal Jerry Bavero announced the winner of the artwork used for the Union County Schools Christmas cards this year.

“It has been a tradition over the past number of years for a Union County student to compete to see if their artwork would be used for the Christmas card from the central office,” Bavero said. “This year, the elementary school was given that opportunity.”

Of the five artworks submitted by Elementary School Art Teacher Rachel Spratlin, that of a snowman by fourth-grader Lilly Boczar was chosen by a majority of the central office staff.

School Police Chief Chad Deyton and Resource Officer Jeff McConnell announced in the meeting the winners of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education student essay contest and the Daren Award, based on the D.A.R.E. mascot Daren the Lion.

“This our second year with our D.A.R.E. Program, and we wanted to recognize some of our students this year,” Deyton said. “And I want to recognize Mr. McConnell, also. He’s done a lot of work putting this program on. He’s poured his heart and soul into it.”

Fifth-graders Jaxon Totherow won the D.A.R.E. essay contest, and Chetley Cox won the Daren Award. All of the students were given plaques to commemorate their achievements.

Totherow got to read his essay as his family looked on proudly. High School Principal C.T. Hussion and Alternative Education Program Principal Casey Jones presented AEP teacher Jennifer Ludlum with the “Going the Extra Mile Award” for her efforts in helping students to graduate who possibly would have dropped out otherwise.

“Ms. Ludlum, in the classroom, she’s everything from a teacher to a counselor to a mom to a big sister to an aunt. She’s all the above. She does a fabulous job,” Jones said.

As testament to Ludlum’s work, Cody Forbus, Dylan Henson, Nathaniel Ledford, Michael Mounts, Lucas Royston and Sierra Dockery were all granted early graduations from

the Alternative Education Program.

The board approved two out-of-state field trips: one for the middle school band and chorus to travel to Chattanooga, Tennessee, in March, and the other for high school students to travel to Dollywood, also in March.

Students participating in the middle school trip will visit the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera, and the high school trip will visit the Festival of Nations.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Paula Davenport, standing in for Nutrition Director Cindy Jones, announced that an anonymous donor had given Jones a check in December for \$3,500 “to be used specifically for students that are on free and reduced lunch right now.”

“Sometimes those kids incur a charge before their paperwork is all filled out, or they may not be able to meet that reduced amount,” Davenport said. “So that (anonymous donation) completely wiped out the debt for the free and reduced students.”

In other business, the board conducted its annual chair and vice chair selections. The board chose Tony Hunter to be the new chairman and Patrick White to continue in his role as vice chair.

Chairwoman Cindy Odom “passed the gavel” to Hunter, and Hunter conducted the remainder of the meeting.

Finance Director Karen Bundy reported that tax collections were at 30.58% as of November and that tax collections were up in December.

“Currently, (Tax Commissioner Lee Knight) is about 92% or 93% of collections,” Bundy said. “He’s doing great on collections. I wanted to mention that because he is doing such a great job.”



UCES D.A.R.E. award winners in the Jan. 21 school board meeting. L-R: Chetley Cox, Jaxon Totherow, Pierson Palmer, Andrew Nushtayer, Michelle Logan, Lindsey Hammond, Paxton Hamby and McKenzie Bourbeau, with SRO Jeff McConnell and Police Chief Chad Deyton. Photo by Mark Smith