

Hospital...continued from Page 1A

tal is a premier 45-bed, non-profit healthcare facility located in the beautiful mountains of North Georgia. Union General is committed to providing high-quality cost effective healthcare to each of their patients and promoting wellness throughout their community. Their commitment to providing the most sophisticated and compassionate care is making them the First Choice Provider of comprehensive medical care in their region. Union General is a Certified Chest Pain Center, Accredited by DNV GL Health Care and has received the Women's Choice Award for being "One of America's 100 Best Hospital's for Patient Experience" four

years in a row. Union General also owns and operates more than a dozen other health care affiliate facilities within the surrounding area, including a sister Hospital, two Nursing Homes, Dialysis Center, Wellness Center, Child Care Center, several Rural Health Clinics, and an Outpatient Rehabilitation Center, just to name a few.

HomeTown Health, LLC is an organization of more than 70 rural and small hospitals, located throughout the southeast, which collectively pursue ways to help our hospitals survive in this environment of tremendous budget cuts from the state and federal level.

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popular destination can return to normal, and visitors can enjoy all the amenities that the Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area has to offer."

The repair project at Lake Winfield Scott involves removing and replacing

portions of the water control structure in the lake itself. Therefore, construction equipment will need to utilize the full width of the Hwy 180 Bridge during these dates and times in order to complete the work.

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They also provided for an additional 20 kids for a total of 120.

That's 120 Christmas mornings provided for, and Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll will be the first to tell people that usually the kids will buy for their entire families.

So the number of people who get Christmas mornings thanks to the efforts of Blairsville Shop With A Cop is clearly more than just the kids who attend.

And Chief Carroll, along with Municipal Court Clerk Cindy Neely, is looking to take the same number of kids this year.

In order to do this, they need to collect donations from the people of Blairsville and Union County, and they have about a month to do so, since the kids are going shopping on Dec. 10.

Shop With A Cop works like this - the school system, through Family Connection, finds out which children have the greatest need. Those children are then selected to take part in the Shop With A Cop program, up to 100 or however many children they have the funds for.

It's a great opportunity

for police officers to network with school-aged children. Plus, the officers get a kick out of seeing the faces of the children as the youngsters realize they'll be bringing Christmas home to their families.

Many volunteers make the shop a reality, such as the police officers themselves, their husbands and wives, sheriff's deputies, and also members of the Blairsville Cruisers.

All students will be treated to lunch after the shop.

Shop With A Cop has grown from 12 kids the first year to around 100 a year now, which wouldn't be possible without community support.

Neely and Chief Carroll would like to thank the community for their support, which has been coming in, and for the continued support of those who have yet to donate this season.

"I just can't say how much we appreciate the outpouring of love in the community," said Neely. "It just comes every day. We got a gentleman the other day who came in, and he said, 'We're heading to Florida six weeks early. Here's your donation.' So, it's good - it's really good."

Donations can be dropped off at the Blairsville Police Department, and checks can be made out to Shop With A Cop and mailed to P.O. Box 307, Blairsville, GA, 30514.

Dancing...continued from Page 1A

proud of all the dancers and everyone involved. This is going to help so many children in our community.

"I just want to thank everyone who helped in any way throughout this whole fundraising event."

The dancers competed to win one of two awards, the People's Choice Award and Judge's Award. A combined score of each couple's costumes, choreography and technical performance decided the winner of the Judge's Award.

People's Choice Award was determined by which couple received the most votes. Votes were cast by either purchasing tickets from couples or donating money in the name of a couple to Enotah CASA before or during the show.

Kris Berrong and Dr. Claire Worthy won first place for the People's Choice Award with an exciting, toe-tapping clogging number. Runner-Up for the People's Choice Award was dynamic duo Renee Deibert and Rick Kmet, performing a ravishing classic dance.

Showcasing a heart-warming lyrical number, Andrew Smith and Aly Sanchez were awarded the Third Place prize for the Judge's Award.

Berrong and Worthy took home another prize, staking claim on Runner-Up for the Judge's Award.

Finally, winning the coveted Mirror Ball Trophy was Jeff Davis and Martina Gibboney, showing their masterful skills as both dancers and actors with a rendition of

characters from the classic TV show, "The Munsters," set to a modern routine.

"I'm very excited that we won," said Gibboney. "We put a lot of work into it and we raised a lot of money for a great cause. I'm just so excited about it. I definitely didn't expect to win."

For the dancers involved, while this event was fun and free-spirited, and competitive natures did come out, the most important thing was raising funds for a most worthy cause.

United Community Bank was the presenting sponsor for the evening. Other sponsors for the event were Budget Blinds, Forever Truths, Total Body Recovery Paint and Auto, and Union General and Chatuge Regional Hospitals.

The Dancing with the North Georgia Stars couples were as follows: Harry Steiner and Molly Brendle; Mary Lynn McKenzie and Roy Perren; Bob Levy and Brett Taylor; Pat Griffin and Ron Proto; Andrew Smith and Aly Sanchez; Dr. Claire Worthy and Kris Berrong; Lee Knight and Angela Thompson-Puleo; Amy Harper and Kenan Olsen; Sam Hamby and Lynn Hayes; Jeff Davis and Martina Gibboney; and Renee Deibert and Rick Kmet.

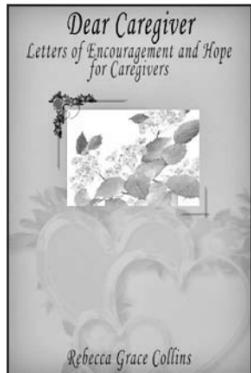


Union County's own Jeff Davis and Martina Gibboney won the 2016 Dancing with the North Georgia Stars competition on Saturday, Nov. 5.



Steven Phillips and Candace Lee emceed the event, while Linda D'Angelo represented the Enotah CASA.

Rebecca Collins book signings



Local author Rebecca Collins will have two book signings for her new book for caregivers: *Dear Caregiver, Letters of Encouragement and Hope for Caregivers*.

The author will be at Inspirations Book Store in Hiawassee on Saturday, November 12th from 1-4 p.m. and at Sensational Shakes in Blairsville on Monday, November 14th, 1-4 p.m.

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