

Homecoming...from Page 1A



L-R: First Runner-Up Bebe Walts, Queen Joanna Irvin and Second Runner-Up Braedyn Robbins. Photo/Todd Forrest

campuses of Union County Schools beginning at 1:30 p.m. Floats were decorated by the different clubs and sports teams at UCHS, with the majority of the floats taking on a music theme.

The sounds of KISS, The Beatles, the Beach Boys, AC/DC, and even George Strait resonated between the vehicles lined up from the high school, across Glen Gooch Bypass, and the parking lot of each

school. Those aboard the floats played air guitar and drums, portrayed a mock concert with musicians, security, and screaming fans.

The Beach Boys float came with a plastic mini swimming pool, and the FFA float was themed after Strait's hit "Here for a Good Time."

Following the parade, the students gathered back at the gymnasium for a pep rally.

As for the game on Friday night, the Panthers improved to 5-1 on the year with a thrilling 51-46 victory over East Hall as Union County's defense was able to make a game-saving fourth-down stop on their own 3-yard line with less than 10 seconds to play.

The Panthers have now won their last five homecoming games by a combined total score of 235-106 (an average of 47-21 per game).

Air Life...continued from Page 1A



a state-of-the-art helicopter, fully stocked with all medical equipment needed to safely transport patients from Union General to the best location to serve the patient's needs. There is a critical care experienced flight paramedic, flight nurse and pilot on board of the aircraft at all times.

Since the opening of the base in May, 170 patients have received care from the Air Life crew. According to flight members, the crew typically sees 30 to 50 cases a month, most of which are related to strokes or heart complications that need to be transported and treated at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville.

"Tertiary care centers are not in the North Georgia region as of right now," said Derrick Moody, business manager for Air Life Georgia. "The only way to effectively get a patient to one of those centers is by way of one of these helicopters."

In the treatment of many critical cases that come to Union General, timing is of the essence. Before Air Life was available, there were many patients who were

unable to get the care they needed quickly enough simply because of the time it took to cross the mountain to reach NGMC.

Now, the question of timing is not an issue.

"On behalf of Union General Hospital, this has been a huge asset for our community and for our hospital," said Julia Barnett, Chief Nursing Officer at Union General. "What I see on my end is all the lives that this helps save over and over and over again."

"A member of the community had a heart attack last week and we were able to get them from our emergency room to the cath lab at Northeast Georgia Medical in 68 minutes.

"For them to come and be diagnosed and be able to get them to somewhere that can open up their artery and save their life and that heart muscle, it's huge."

According to Jason Grady, NR-Paramedic and NGMC STEMI Coordinator, healthcare personnel have 90 minutes from the time a heart patient enters a facility with a cath lab until the time that their artery is opened. Since

Air Life has been stationed at Union General, patients have been treated in well under 90 minutes, some even quicker than the patient mentioned by Barnett.

"Whether you come to the hospital or call 911, you are cared for better here in Union County and more efficiently than almost anywhere in the state of Georgia," said Grady. "Not only do you have the highest trained nurses, paramedics, doctors and staff, but you have people who are dedicated to this community."

"People have figured out how to make this community work best. And the exciting part is, now, it's not just for this community but it's statewide."

The Air Life Georgia crew hopes to continue this success story with Union General Hospital and NGMC, and look forward to the many years of effective healthcare ahead.

"It's our passion, in Air Life Georgia, to take care of people," said Moody. "It makes it easy for us when we have a community like this that supports us. We feel all the compassion you have for us and we love being up here."



This state-of-the-art aircraft provides critical care services to the residents of Union County and the surrounding areas of Northeast Georgia. Photo/Lily Avery

Stonehenge Senior Living Fall Festival

Come and celebrate with us at our Fall Festival. Fall Festival will take place on Friday, October 7, 2016 at Stonehenge Senior Living, 168 Stonehenge Drive, Blairsville. All are

welcome to come and take part. Activities will start at 2 p.m. Lots of activities and fun will be available. Come and join us! Activities will include: Square Dancing, Ball Pond, Corn

Hole, Dunking Booth and many more activities. Refreshments will be served. Any questions please contact Tara at 706-745-7703.