

Chairs...from Page 1A

DECA competitions. All told, 31 unique and beautiful chairs were auctioned off, and many of the chairs were found at flea markets before being

cleaned up and painted. There were two contests for the "most favored" chair, one online and one onsite at the Community Center, so there were

two winners. Local artist Greta Dawson's "Wonderful World" chair won the onsite contest, and her chair sold for \$200, the highest bid of the night. Sandy Palmerton of Murphy, North Carolina, was the high bidder.

Sarah Aiken, a college student from Jasper, won the online contest with her "Disney Chair," and she took home a \$500 Grand Prize.

For the silent auction, local businesses and individuals donated 32 items that adorned two long tables spanning the entire window side of the large upstairs conference room.

"The Painted Chair Auction was really inspired by people painting animals and eggs and all types of things, and having them at businesses and auctioning them off," said Jill Olson, the DECA advisor for high school students aspiring to own businesses of their own.

DECA is an acronym for Distributive Education Clubs of America, and it is an international co-curricular program for young entrepreneurs much like the Future Business Leaders of America is to business students and the Future Farmers of America is to agriculture students.

"The students come up with a product that solves a problem and build a business

around it," said Olson. "They have mentors from the community and they have guest teachers from the community who teach on certain topics."

The auction is a way "to develop seed money for students to create their prototypes and for them to go and compete," according to Olson, who added that it's possible for a student or students to start a viable business that can last beyond high school.

"It's a really unique program that gives students the opportunity to start a business from the ground up," said Olson.

The entrepreneurship program at Union County Schools started just three years ago, and so is still in its infancy.

"Our entrepreneurship program, students do projects and then compete in those projects at DECA conferences and competitions, and learn leadership skills and do community service, and that's really what DECA is all about," Olson said.

It is not inconceivable that one or more of these students could hit on something that would take them beyond the classroom and into a successful adult career. As a matter of fact, that's the whole point, said Olson.

Local professional auctioneer Justin Duncan conducted the Painted Chair Auction, keeping the crowd in stitches with comments he interjected into his auction chant, otherwise known as "auction calling" or "cattle rattle."



Local artist Greta Dawson with her award-winning "What a Wonderful World" painted chair. Photo by Mark Smith

Narcotics Anonymous

A new NA group called "One Is Too Many" has started meeting in Young Harris at Sharp Memorial Methodist Church. Meetings are being held every Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. The church is on campus and the meeting entrance is through the back door.

For further questions about Narcotics Anonymous please call the NA Help Line at 888-666-3609. NT(Nov14)ZJCA



The auction was a huge success, raising more than \$4,500 for use by future students. Photo by Mark Smith

Marines...from Page 1A



The Marine Corps Ball was well attended in Blairsville on Nov. 10. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

reflection indeed. Many of those have paid the ultimate price of sacrifice that we remember this evening."

Croley compared the Marine Corps to the Roman army in how both recognized their soldiers based on experience. Veterans teach the younger generations everything they need to know about wartime and how to make it through cautiously, according to Croley.

The retired major general also mentioned the importance of the youth in the Marine Corps, since they make up a large portion of today's Marines.

"Thirty-nine percent of our force in active duty is at the rank of lance corporal or below," said Croley. "Then,

67 percent of our force are 25 years old or younger, and 9 percent are female."

The cutting of the cake is an important part of celebrations like the one held Saturday, which features the youngest and oldest Marines present coming forward and accepting the second piece of the cake.

"We give the guest of honor the first piece, then we have the youngest and oldest Marine," said Thomas Potito, one of the organizers for the event. "It's basically a tradition where we pass down our traditions from the oldest Marine. He will take a bite of the cake and pass it to the youngest Marine to bring us all together through the years."

The cake for Saturday's

ball was created by Tonya Ross as an exact replica of the cake cut by Marine Corps Gen. Robert Neller on Nov. 7 at the Pentagon, in recognition of the Corps' 243rd birthday.

To act as a reminder for participants of their fellow fallen Marines and soldiers, a single table was set up and decorated with an empty chair to signify those who could not be with them that evening – the Missing Man Table.

Attendees also brought in toys to donate to the Marine Toys for Tots Program that helps kids in need of Christmas gifts.

The evening concluded with dinner and dancing, and everyone had a terrific time celebrating the 243rd birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps.

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judging of the cattle increased as well.

The more experienced show students walked their cattle in different patterns, and the students were held to a higher accountability of their awareness to the best aspects of the cattle they showed off.

Each judging came down to minor details that set contestants apart, making everything the students did important to their overall placement.

FFA Alumni hosted a raffle during the show for a Big Green Egg cooker to help raise money for the organization.

Each student received a lunch waiver for the event to redeem at the concession stand after they finished their competition.

The cattle show will be an annual event at the Agriscience Center, which will certainly make it easier for Union County students to practice showing off their animals without having to



Turnout for the first Blue Ridge Classic Livestock Show on Saturday, Nov. 10, was solid. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

travel further away.

"We plan to do it here every year in the future," said Talton. "It'll be great for students who want to compete, because they won't have to travel two or four hours away just to compete. We have a wonderful facility here they can use, and we are thankful for the opportunity to host the show here from now on."

Participants of this

show plan to go to the state competition in Perry to compete with other students and show off their skills while gaining experience showing cattle.

The state competition takes place in February, giving students a few months of practice before they go to the next show.