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North Georgia News
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While many locals travel to nearby Brasstown, North Carolina, to experience the popular New Year's Eve event of watching the annual Possum Drop, area members of the Union County Senior Center did not have to travel far to watch a less controversial dropping of a possum.

Senior Center Director Kathy Hill and Administrative Assistant Phillip McGlamery brought the center's Second Annual Possum Drop to life using a fishing pole and a small, cute, plush possum, handmade by Judy Brown, a crafts volunteer at the senior center.

The drop took place on Friday, Dec. 30, in conjunction with the center's New Year's Eve celebration and daily moon luncheon, which was enjoyed by more than a dozen of the center's members.

"We've been having the New Year's Eve Party for several years now," said Hill. "It wasn't until last year that we started the Possum Drop, though."

"Judy Brown was making all these little miniature animals for us and she was making these little possums. So I said, we should have ourselves a possum drop, and she said she'd have to make a bigger possum for us and she did."

"But people can come in and buy the little possums, and everyone goes crazy for them. There are some people that volunteer here that have bought a possum for their entire family. They're just so cute and seem to be a huge hit."

Patrons attending the New Year's Eve Party commemorated the New Year with brightly colored party hats, festive beads and jubilant noise-makers, making for a cheerful and enthusiastic celebration.

Before the little possum made its grand debut, senior center members enjoyed the good eats of a traditional New Year's meal consisting of ham, greens, black-eyed peas, cornbread and ambrosia. A delicious dessert of ice cream followed the dropping of the possum, because no good celebration is complete without scrumptious sweets.

The Union County Senior Center is a day activity center for senior citizens of

Union County. To become a member, residents must be at least 60 years old, though any residents interested in volunteering or becoming involved at the center are welcome to stop in any day during the week.

A plethora of activities are available for members to enjoy, all free of charge, of course. Of the many craft opportunities offered, on Mondays, artists Richard and Barbara DeRoxtro host a weekly art class where members can paint, draw and enjoy the meditative experience of creating.

Tuesday mornings at the center are spent gearing up for an active line dancing class taught by Judy Hair, and Tai Chi and Yogi are also available at the center each week through the instruction of Pat Tomczyk.

Healthways Silver Sneakers Classic and Circuit classes are provided almost every day of the week as well, along with a chair exercise class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, providing exercising opportunities for any ability.

The senior center also offers an Alzheimer's Respite class for caregivers on Wednesday and Friday. However, those interested must be approved before attendance, but can contact the center for more information.

In conjunction with the countless activities, members also can enjoy a free lunch Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m., and the center provides a Meals on Wheels program for members who are unable to make a trip to the center.

Meals on Wheels offers both hot and frozen meals to patrons, and is offered Monday through Friday as well, through the help of many devout volunteers who donate their time for the betterment of others.

Those who wish to become involved with the Meals on Wheels program may contact the senior center at (706) 439-6105, or drop by the center during the week.

The senior center is located at 95 Senior Center Drive in Blairsville, and is accessed through the entrance of North Georgia Technical College from GA 515.



Party hats and favors made the rounds at the annual New Year's celebration at the Union County Senior Center.



The Union County Senior Center is located just inside the entrance to North Georgia Technical College, off of GA 515

Misty Mountain Quilters donate to Chatuge Regional Nursing Home



(L-R): Joanne Olson MMQG and Chelsey Phillips, Activities Director, Chatuge Regional Nursing Home

The Ladies of the Heart to Heart Outreach of the Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild have been busy all year making quilts, walker bags, wheelchair bags, and fidget pads useful to the nursing homes in our areas. On December 14th, Nelda Knight and Joanne Olson, co-chairs of Heart to Heart, visited Chatuge Regional Nursing

Home in Towns County with a donation of these items for their residents. "We try to keep our quilts colorful and bright" said Joanne Olson, "and the bags and pockets are a wonderful convenience item for the residents". For more information on MMQG or Heart to Heart, call Nelda Knight 706-897-3104.

ICL courses for Winter 2017

The Institute for Continuing Learning (ICL) at Young Harris College has announced a diverse array of courses for the Winter term. The Institute offers a wide range of educational opportunities for mature adults who are interested in intellectual stimulation as well as cultural enrichment and shared interests.

The Course Previews are Saturday, January 7th at 10:30 a.m. in the Wilson Lecture Hall of the Goolsby Building at Young Harris College. The course instructors will provide a brief overview of their upcoming courses. This event is open to the public. The Winter schedule has 12 courses offered, so there should be something of interest for everyone. The ICL Bulletin & Course Announcements have been posted on the iclyhc.org web site, under "Bulletins".

Learn To Play Bridge – starts 1/17 for 7 weeks.

Flannery O'Connor – starts 1/17 for 4 weeks.

Beginning American Sign Language – starts 1/17 for 7 weeks.

Birding and Birdwatching – starts 1/18 for 6 weeks.

Who In The World Is Gustavo Dudamel? – starts 1/18 for 6 weeks.

Poetry – starts 1/19 for 6 weeks.

Cosmology: The Physical Origin and Nature Of Our Universe – starts 1/19 for 5 weeks.

Urban Entomology – starts 1/20 for 6 weeks.

Financial Workshop – Your Source For Financial Education – starts 1/23 for 4 weeks.

Fad Diets – starts 1/23 for 4 weeks.

What's Brewing With Craft Beer – Exploring the History, Styles and More – starts 1/25 for 3 weeks.

Fly Fish Tying – Class Limit 5 – starts 2/1 for 4 weeks.

The Institute's curriculum committee continually reviews members' interests and expands the curriculum accordingly. Individual course registration fees normally range from \$12 to \$24 each. ICL offers a new series of subjects every quarter, commencing in January, April, June and September.

For more information please visit www.iclyhc.org for registration and detailed course information or call 706-379-5194 and leave a message or send an email to icl@yhcc.edu. You can also find us on Facebook as "ICL at YHC".