

First Baby...from Page 1

both sides are Doug and Nancy Hughes, of Blairsville, as well as Carroll and Betty McKinney, of Hiwassee.

Kembra said that her pregnancy was smooth sailing from start to finish, and she and Evan both agreed that little Kampton has been a blessing from God.

The couple also shared more than a few kind words about Dr. Davis and his staff at Women's Health, as well as for Union General Hospital – from the CEO to the janitorial staff.

“What a blessing, everything about it,” said Evan Hughes. “From the time we found out we were going to have a baby to the time (Kampton) got here, just perfect.”

After having carried

Kampton for 39 weeks, Kembra said that Kampton is nothing short of a miracle.

“It's exciting – I don't know how to explain it, it's amazing that this was inside of me,” said Kembra Hughes, cradling her newborn son.

The Hughes family was thankful for a gift basket for baby Kampton, provided by the Union General Hospital Auxiliary, which included many useful items such as handmade bonnets, bibs, blankets, baby wash and more in a baby bathtub.

Kampton joins a growing family, with Evan's sister Kelly Helton and her husband Jason, with their children Lily, 8, and Harley, 6; and Kembra's sister Anisa Roberts and her husband Jason, with their children Eli, 12, Lila, 10, and Tate, 9.



Evan Hughes wraps his son in a blanket, a skill he perfected on Kampton's older brother Kolby

“Our families, both families, we're a really close family,” said Evan Hughes. “When one member of the family hurts, everyone hurts.

If one's happy, they're all happy. It's just like a well-oiled machine, the whole family, all the way around on both sides.”

UCMS...from Page 1

Trout in the Classroom is an excellent hands-on supplement to the Life Science curriculum at UCMS, one that emphasizes a variety of disciplines, including ecology, biology, engineering, economics and conservation science, just to name a few.

“I want to expose my students to everything,” said Tallman. “Trout in the Classroom exposes them to a whole different science set of careers, and it makes them take care of this beautiful place in which they already live.”

The program runs year-round, as students take the trout



Teachers Jacquie Tallman and Connie Garrett walk Trout Unlimited visitors through what the class has learned lately

all the way from having just hatched to fingerlings, which they will then release in a local stream come May.

New to the school system this year, the Trout in the Classroom initiative puts the lives of hundreds of fish into the caring and capable hands of Tallman's students.

Every morning throughout the school week, student volunteers take extra care in monitoring the pH and ammonia levels of the water in the custom-built fish tank that houses the trout.

If the pH is too high, for instance, students must add a fish-safe chemical compound called pH Down, while other students complete equally important tasks of scooping fish poop and feeding the fish.

Feeding time is a big hit in the classroom, both with the fish and the students. When the fish first came to class from the hatchery last semester, they were young, and so mainly just stayed near the bottom and let the food drift to them. Now, the fish practically jump out of the water when it is time for food.

And on weekends and holidays, when students aren't around to care for the fish, Tallman and her co-teacher, Connie Garrett, split the responsibilities.

Taking care of the fish requires that students think through every aspect of the trout's existence within their classroom.

The tank is round with an adjustable current of whirling water to encourage the trout to swim, as in the wild. The tank is blue to block out UV rays, encouraging growth. The fluorescent lighting over the tank has been minimized by the school's maintenance personnel, which is favorable to the fish.

If just one factor is off too much, fish will die – a current that is too fast, a pH that is too high – and students begin to realize the delicate balance of nature, the importance of conservation.

“What we want to see happen is exactly what is happening,” said Trout

Unlimited member Larry Culpepper, who is a former Union County educator. “The kids are learning to appreciate how delicate the ecosystem is, and how much we as keepers of that – we don't need to be polluting. We work at trying to improve the habitat.”

Trout Unlimited, a national organization with local chapters, has a main mission of preserving and protecting cold water species of fish, like salmon and trout.

The local chapter makes a difference in Union County by getting into streams that are overgrown with invasive plant species, or overrun with brush and pollutants, and clearing/cleaning them out.

Another way the group furthers its goals of stewardship is through its outreach opportunities, which now include Trout in the Classroom, and the local members stop into Tallman's classroom regularly to see how the students and fish are doing.

Not only have Trout Unlimited members donated every single resource to Tallman's classes for Trout in the Classroom, when all is said and done, the members will

have donated countless hours of their time, as well.

By the end of the semester, the kids will have learned how to tie flies for fly fishing, and they'll also know how to preserve the habitats of cold water fish species, which are stocked in streams locally by the hatchery.

Conservation is a goal of the hatchery, of Trout Unlimited, and of the kids in the classroom, and Tallman hopes to continue and perhaps expand the project and the partnership in school years moving forward.

Culpepper, Frank Retter of Union County, and Larry Bundy and Jim Hancock, both of Towns County, act as a committee for Trout Unlimited to advise Tallman's classroom, as well as Kelly Taylor, who manages the hatchery and provided the fish and his expertise to the class.

“If anyone is interested in becoming a part of Trout Unlimited, we meet the second Thursday of every month at the Union County Community Center, at 7 p.m.,” said Culpepper. “If you enjoy fishing for trout, or are interested in conservation and working in stream projects, then you're welcome to come and join.”

Robbery

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had been terminated, and felt like he was owed money.

“The white male went in and bought a quart of oil, keeping the female attendant distracted. And while he was distracting her, Oviedo went to the back office and got the key to the safe. He got \$416 out of the safe and went to leave. The attendant attempted to stop him. He wouldn't stop, and he went behind the counter to get his alcohol permit that the county issues.

“She tried to stop him, but he grabbed her arm, pushed her out of the way, and went out the door. We've taken warrants on Oviedo for robbery and simple assault. We do not know who the other male is that was with him. If anybody has any information on their whereabouts, please notify us.”

Anyone with information, call the Union County Sheriff's Office at (706) 439-6066.