

# Community stakeholders attend second annual retreat

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Elected and appointed officials from across Griffin-Spalding County gathered Feb. 4 and 5 in Carrollton to foster cooperation and understanding on shared topics of vital concern to the growth and development of the community.

The intergovernmental retreat was hosted this year by the Griffin-Spalding Archway Partnership. Participants toured downtown Carrollton, viewing the community's aquatic center, amphitheater, cultural arts center and hotel/conference center. The group also heard a presentation from Carroll Tomorrow, Carroll County's public/private economic development organization.

"The spirit of cooperation we saw at this retreat among the various government and community groups was even stronger than we saw at the initial retreat in 2014. Everyone involved clearly has the betterment of our community at heart," said Chuck Copeland, co-chair of the Griffin-Spalding Archway Partnership.

Griffin-Spalding Archway Partnership presented an update to the group regarding the Partnership's work plan priorities — Community Health and Wellness, Education for a Quality Workforce, Community Development to Enhance the Quality of Life, Community Image and Communication, and Intergovernmental Collaboration. Attendees voiced opinions on the five



Local officials from Spalding County, Griffin, Griffin-Spalding County Schools, Griffin-Spalding County Development Authority and Griffin-Spalding County Chamber of Commerce visited Carrollton on "Big Blue" for their second annual intergovernmental retreat hosted by the Archway Partnership. SUBMITTED

priority areas and discussed action steps for the next 12 months.

"The group worked hard to update our goals for the community in a way that is specific, measurable and timely. We will continue to meet throughout the year to hear updates from the various organizations and elected bodies working

towards the achievement of the goals we set at the retreat," said Stephanie Windham, co-chair of the Griffin-Spalding Archway Partnership.

Archway Partnership, a unit of public service and outreach at the University of Georgia, connects Georgia communities to the full range of higher education resources available at

UGA to address critical community-identified needs. Griffin-Spalding is the 12th community in the state to become an Archway community.

Other current Archway communities include Candler, Grady, Habersham, Hart, Sumter, Pulaski and Washington counties. The community drives the Archway process

through an executive committee of community leaders and local organizations.

The funding partners for the Griffin-Spalding Archway Partnership include the City of Griffin, Spalding County, the Griffin-Spalding County School System, and UGA's Office of Vice President for Public Service and Outreach.

# Nurse anesthetists play big role in medical field, especially in rural areas

BY LARRY GIERER  
COLUMBUS LEDGER-ENQUIRER

COLUMBUS — Carolyn Heath says there is no place a certified registered nurse anesthetist is more important than in rural locations.

"There are 30 Georgia counties where a CRNA is the only provider of anesthesia care," she said.

And CRNAs are the sole anesthesia provider in the majority of 34 Georgia critical access hospitals where anesthesia is provided.

Both Heath and her friend Shannon Stansell are Georgia CRNAs who say many people do not know about their work, though nurse anesthetists have been around for more

than 100 years.

Meeting at the Surgery Center on Weems Road in Columbus, the women, affiliated with Southern Crescent Anesthesiology, talked about the job they both describe as rewarding and stressful.

Neither can imagine doing anything else.

Stansell has been in the field for 15 years. Much of her work is done at West Georgia Medical Center in LaGrange, Ga.

"We provide the same drugs, use the same tools as an anesthesiologist, and studies have shown the care to be as good," Stansell said.

"In Georgia, we can work without the super-

vision of a doctor," added Heath, a six-year veteran who works in Columbus.

They say using a CRNA can be cost-effective for a patient.

A CRNA can administer every type of anesthetic and provide care for all surgeries, including an open-heart procedure or cataract surgery. You can also find them at a colonoscopy. They deliver the epidural providing relief from childbirth pain.

Both Heath and Stansell worked in an intensive care unit before deciding to move to a new challenge.

"I always wanted to be a nurse," Stansell said.

As a youth, Heath also

knew her future was in the medical field.

Founded in 1931, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists is the professional organization for more than 49,000 nurse anesthetists.

According to the organization, CRNAs administer approximately 40 million anesthetics to patients each year in this country.

"We play a big role with the military, going on all deployments," Heath said.

According to the AANA, nurse anesthetists have been the main providers of anesthesia care to U.S. mil-

itary personnel on the front lines since World War I.

Though the CRNA credential did not come into existence until 1956, nurses first provided anesthesia to wounded soldiers during the Civil War.

To become a CRNA, one must first have a baccalaureate degree in nursing, be a registered nurse and have at least one year of experience in a critical-care setting.

One must then receive a master's degree from an accredited nurse anesthesia program.

Stansell earned her

degree in anesthesia at the Medical College of Georgia, and Heath got one from the Gooding Institute of Nurse Anesthesia.

"With this job I use everything I learned," Heath said.

The two enjoy working closely with people, and Heath said pain management is tailored to the patient.

Heath expects to see many more CRNAs in the future.

"As more people learn about this job, you are going to see the numbers grow," she said.

## PERMITS

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE

There have been discussions regarding this going back and forth between the two boards over the past year. And the mandatory spay and neuter and unaltered animal permit requirements go into effect on March 1.

County Commissioner Flowers-Taylor asked if there was any information on what other communities around Spalding County charge for this type of permit.

ACCAB Board member Gayle Hawbaker said that the ACCAB Chairperson, Kerri Gebler and past chair, Vickie Hennessey, had called the surrounding areas to determine what the costs for this type of permit and they found the cost to range from \$25 to \$200. In previous meetings, it had been suggested that fee be at least as much as the cost to have the animal spayed or neutered.

The motion was seconded by Haw-

baker/Flowers-Taylor to accept the recommendation of the Animal Care and Control Advisory board to set the fee for an unaltered animal permit at \$100. The motion carried 4-1.

Owners who apply for an unaltered animal permit must provide proof of rabies vaccination prior to issuance of the permit. An unaltered animal tag/certificate will be provided for every unaltered animal and must be secured to the animal's collar or harness at all times.

There are several exceptions to the mandatory spay or neuter requirement including actively competitive show dogs and cats, hunting dogs, service dogs and working police dogs and those in training, with documentation. State licensed breeders, shelters, rescues, kennels as well as veterinary hospitals are also excluded, as are animals with serious health conditions, with a veterinarian's note stating the animal was unfit for the surgical procedure.

Both will be enforced only on a complaint basis, Animal Control has previously said.

**James Hugh McLaurin IV**

**Jamie- Our Issac**

February 15, 1977 -  
February 12, 1996

*"Death is merely  
extinguishing the lamp for  
Dawn has come!"*

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life would be the pits!  
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Ben

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