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 Intergovernees voiced opinions on the five and elected bodies working cation resources available at drives the Archway process



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.

priority areas and discussed towards the achievement of UGA to address critical comaction steps for the next 12 months.

The group worked hard to update our goals for the community in a way that is specif-

the goals we set at the retreat," said Stephanie Windham, co-fin-Spalding is the 12th commuchair of the Griffin-Spalding nity in the state to become an Archway Partnership.

Archway Partnership, a unit ic, measurable and timely. We of public service and outreach communities include Canwill continue to meet through- at the University of Georgia, out the year to hear updates connects Georgia communities Sumter, Pulaski and Washingmental Collaboration. Attend- from the various organizations to the full range of higher edu- ton counties. The community

munity-identified needs. Grif-Archway community.

Other current Archway dler, Grady, Habersham, Hart, 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 — Carollynn 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 nurse," Stansell said. work without the super-

Heath, a six-year veteran who works in Columbus.

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

A CRNA can administer every type of anesthetic and provide care for all surgeries, including an openheart 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 chal-

"I always wanted to be a

As a youth, Heath also

vision of a doctor," added 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 criticalcare setting.

One must then receive a master's degree from an accredited nurse anesthe-

sia program.

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

Heath expects to see many more CRNAs in the

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

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 per-

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.

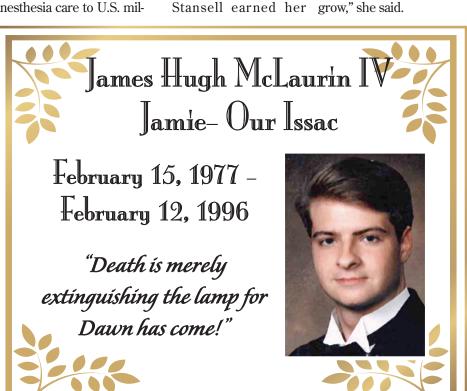
The motion was seconded by Haw-

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 the animal was unfit for the surgical procedure.

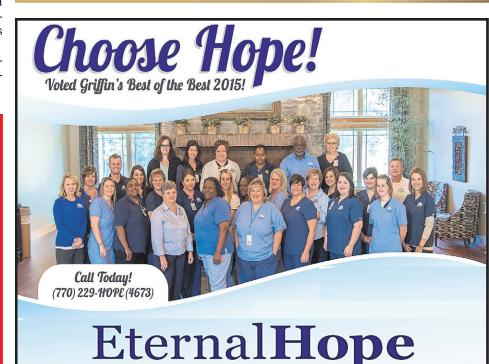
Both will be enforced only on a complaint basis, Animal Control has previously said.



Without my sweet peach, life would be the pits! Happy Valentine's Day Pam!!

Smooch smooch,

Ben



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