

# Hooper...from Page 1A

"I feel like Ms. Krieger has helped me a lot outside of her class in high school," said Hooper. "I did take her

class and she helped me a lot with my English skills that way. But then, when I took my college class, she was still

willing to help, which I thought was great, and she was also willing to help me with my scholarships."

Krieger taught Hooper Honors American Literature, and she said the honor was all hers, adding that she looks forward to serving as Hooper's STAR Teacher.

"As a student academically, but also just as a human being, she's very deliberate in what she does," said Krieger. "She has purpose, she always knows why she's doing what she's doing. She's focused."

For his part, Union County High School Principal C.T. Hussion is certainly proud to have both Hooper and Krieger serve as representatives of the school.

"We knew McKenzie was a very special student from the get-go," said Hussion. "She's always looked for the most challenging teachers and courses, and she's just mature beyond her years."

Continued Hussion: "It doesn't surprise me at all that she chose Ms. Krieger as her STAR Teacher. Ms. Krieger is well known for being one of the teachers that not only provides rigor and prepares students for the next level, but also has a great rapport with the kids."

Hooper and Krieger will be honored in the upcoming "Evening with the STARS" event on Feb. 22, sponsored by the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.

# Daddy/Daughter...from Page 1A



Photo by Lily Avery

Part of the special evening for the girls and their dads was a limo ride during the dance.

North Georgia Tech in hopes of having enough space to cater to all of the families wishing to participate.

This year was the largest attendance the event has had to date, with 225 filling the event space at the college, and Conley said that, unfortunately, he had to turn away several who wanted to attend.

"We maxed out last year at 200 and were able to squeeze a few more in this year," said Conley. "But this is all we're going to be able to fit in this venue, and there really isn't anywhere larger that we could move it to."

"We try to accommodate everyone the best we can, so having to turn away people isn't easy."

Of the 225 who were fortunate enough to snag a ticket to the event last night, one was Ed Lawrie, Minister of Music at First Baptist Church Blairsville, who brought his 6-year-old daughter to enjoy a night of being treated like royalty.

"This is our second time coming to the dance," said Lawrie. "We came last year. We had a great time last year, and she was so excited to be able to come out again this year. It's a lot of fun and really means a lot to both of us."

To Lawrie, the event is more than dancing and fine dining and limo rides – it is another opportunity to show his little girl that she is important to him and that he

wants to take time out of his day to do something special, just for her.

"This is one more way to bond with my little girl," said Lawrie. "As someone who works, as most dads do, it can be hard sometimes to find time to spend with your daughters, so this is a very special time."

"It's something that she's going to remember in the years to come. I'm very glad that I'm able to spend this time with her."

And Lawrie surely was not the only one, as dads and daughters alike packed to the dance floor throughout the evening, enjoying a night of fun and togetherness.

# Development...from Page 1A



Photo by Shawn Jarrard

The Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Union class joined Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley and city council for the Feb. 6 regular city meeting.

near the parking lot access to downtown.

The council voted to make DDA Board Member Bob Head an honorary member of the DDA board, and to appoint past DDA Board Member Robert Rogers to the board once again.

City council also hired Ed Marshall to begin the transition into Storman Glass' position as airport operator at the Blairsville Municipal Airport. Glass will be resigning in May to answer a higher calling to become a minister.

Mayor Conley said in the meeting that the long-term plan for Marshall is for him to take over as airport manager when John Hamler retires several years from now.

The council approved a measure to start allowing water customers to pay their bills with debit and credit cards, though implementation of the new payment structure is on hold until the city irons out the details with the bank.

Pastor Bill Honaker led the invocation in the Feb. 6 meeting, and participants in the 2018 Leadership Union class of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce attended as part of their course requirements.

"This 14-week course develops leaders for Union County to reach a higher quality of community life," per VisitBlairsvilleGA.com.

"Participants identify and enhance their individual leadership styles through training sessions, discussion panels, field trips and a community service project.

"They also explore various aspects of our community including our government, economic development, non-profit organizations and more."

# National Sojourners Chapter forming

The Blood Mountain National Sojourners Chapter #555 will be having their monthly meeting on February 15 at Steve's Cookie Jar restaurant in Blairsville at 6:30 p.m. Masons who are either a U.S. military veteran or honorably discharged from the U.S. military are encouraged to come join us for an evening of food, fellowship and military camaraderie. We will tell lies, stories, and the "Been There, Done That" tales that we experience. For further information, please contact "Whitey" at 478-997-1011. NFG614Z11CA