

Suches...from Page 1A

get involved and at least keep it open part-time. Of course, they were more than glad to help and we jointly worked on the building.

“It’s just a collaborative effort that nobody planned on what to do or how to do

it but it just turned out. Now, we have this beautiful facility over here.

“We’re so thankful to the hospital that they made the effort to work with us and come over and get this opened. We couldn’t have

done it without them. We’re totally excited.”

Although a full-time physician will not be on staff as of right now, there will be a full-time RN, local Ernie Pruitt, as well as a nurse practitioner who will be at the office two days a week.

Depending on the success of the facility, the hospital board hopes to hire a part-time doctor to visit the clinic one or two days a week after the New Year.

Regardless, residents can still get the advice from expert physicians and other area doctors through the use of TeleMed, a state-of-the-art patented equipment that allows patients to videoconference with other healthcare providers through Bluetooth technology.

“With TeleMed, they can call down to the ER or other clinics and specialists and, for example, actually see in your ear,” said Robin McLendon, Union General Hospital Practice Administrator.

“It’s like the doctor is right here with you.”

The clinic will also have access to Union General’s recent addition, Air Methods, in case of emergency trauma situations. Doubling as a landing pad, the parking lot of the facility will be an easy access point for the company’s helicopter to fly in and out.

While the clinic will still have access to the ambulance service, this new addition will be beneficial for times when getting down the mountain is difficult and hospital care is essential for the patient’s



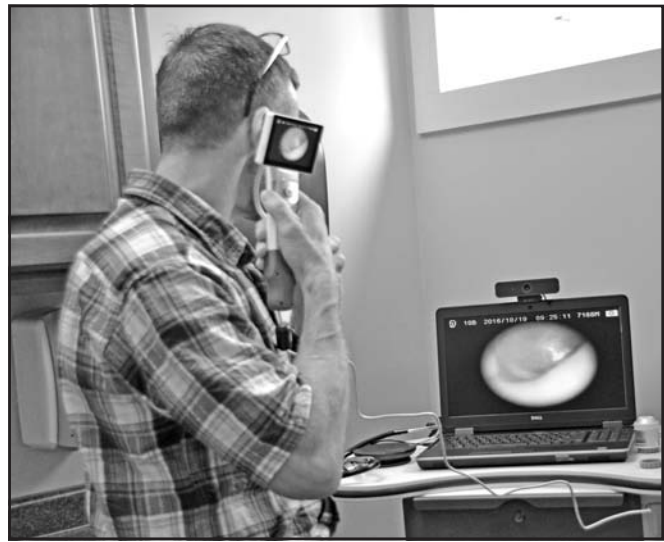
Woody Gap schoolchildren check out the multi-million dollar Air Methods helicopter at the UGH Suches Clinic Open House on Thursday, Oct. 27.

wellbeing.

According to McLendon, this will significantly increase the quality of patient care in the area.

“Just from talking to the people here and meeting with them over the past couple of months while we’ve been building and developing this, they seem so excited,” said McLendon. “Hopefully this will help them take better care of themselves and we’re just excited to participate in this. It certainly means a lot to us and to be here and provide this care to the community.”

The clinic will be open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



This hi-tech piece of equipment gets up close and personal with patients – on screen now is an ear drum.

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could burn for a little while,” said Toppins. “But it would be something that we would monitor and keep an eye on.”

In the forested wilderness of the North Georgia Mountains wildfire can strike at any moment, especially in times of extreme drought like the present – which is why the Chimneytop Mountain wildfire isn’t exactly surprising.

The Rough Ridge wildfire in Fannin County, started by lightning, has burned 1,224 acres as of Oct. 30, and if the wilderness is dry enough to spread wildfire across hundreds of acres from lightning, it is extremely important to safeguard against human activity that can cause wildfires as well.

In mid-October, the U.S. Forest Service declared fire restrictions for the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests, to be imposed between now and Dec. 31.

“Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire outside of developed recreation areas is prohibited,” according to a USFS release. “Fires must be confined to receptacles designed for fire, which are metal fire rings in developed campsites.

“The potential for wildfire activity is very high across much of Georgia, where severe to exceptional drought conditions are being experienced. Commercially available fuel stoves (camp stoves) are excluded from this restriction.”

Along with fs.fed.us, Toppins recommended homeowners, especially those with national forest backyards, to check out firewise.org to find out more about home fire prevention.



Union County Manager Larry Garrett, Union General Hospital CEO Lewis Kelley and Union County Fire Chief David Dyer all attended the Open House.

Harkins

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Suches was able to knock the fire down and save about 70 percent of the home, though what did not burn suffered smoke and water damage.

The cause of the structure fire is thought to be accidental, and no one was injured as a result of the blaze. No other property was impacted by the fire.

Due to drought conditions, the North Georgia Mountains are a tinderbox of dry wood fuel just waiting to catch fire.

The Union County Fire Department is urging residents not to burn anything at all, as a single mistake could kick off a massive wildfire akin to the one discovered on Oct. 16 in Fannin County that continues to burn along Rough Ridge right now.

A lightning strike set off the fire on Rough Ridge, and more than 1,200 acres and counting had already burned as of Oct. 30, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

Though controlled, 3 acres of Union County’s own Chimneytop Mountain are currently burning with wildfire.

Cancer freezing procedure

Freezing procedures available for breast, lung, liver, and prostate cancers. These procedures have been around for years, yet so many people do not know about them. Research information under www.radiologyinfo.org and look up procedure by name, Cryotherapy.