

Turner...from Page 1A

marriage.

When she was younger, Amelia prayed and prayed for a little brother or sister, though she never guessed she'd get three in one go – and neither did Jennifer and John-Mark.

"I had pretty much given up hope," said Jennifer, adding that the couple tried for many years for a pregnancy before giving in vitro fertilization a shot. "I had three eggs left and I'd already given up. John-Mark was like, well, let's not just leave those three eggs out there – let's give it a go."

Jennifer and John-Mark were financially and emotionally spent after several unsuccessful fertility treatments, but they decided to try one last time for a baby. Their embryologist gave one of the three remaining eggs a zero percent chance of growing, and the other two about a 20 percent or less chance.

To their surprise, the result was nothing short of miraculous, as all three eggs took hold and were developing into the babies the couple had prayed and hoped for during their years of trying for one.

At about the 28th week of pregnancy Jennifer developed preeclampsia, which meant that her three babies had to be delivered by cesarean section at 33 weeks instead of the full-term 39.

Less than a week after being born, two of the girls, Carlyn and Ava, were diagnosed with necrotizing enterocolitis, or NEC, and had to undergo emergency surgery at Egleston.

NEC is a fairly common disease that effects infants, primarily those born prematurely, and occurs when tissue of the large or small intestines becomes injured or begins to die.

Of the two girls, Carlyn's situation was worse, but the doctors were able to save both of their lives that night.

Because of the severity of her condition following birth, Carlyn has experienced health issues over the years. She gets dehydrated easily and is greater effected by illnesses from which other children might just bounce right back.

This is how she found herself admitted to Egleston for the third time this year,



Carlyn Turner with Miss America Betty Cantrell

which was the trip that landed her on the website of *People Magazine*, the *TODAY Show*, in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and now her local newspaper.

Everyone wanted to know – what did you and Chris Pratt talk about?

Pratt is known for his visits to children's hospitals in areas where he is on location filming movies, and his latest project, called *Passengers*, has been filming in Atlanta.

"There were doctors lined up to meet him, there were nurses lined up to meet him, there were all kinds of kids," said Jennifer. "Egleston's like our home away from home, we're there all the time, and I have never seen this place so packed before. He was only going to be there for an hour, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m., and I'm thinking that there is no way we're going to be able to get through to meet him."

Carlyn has been going to Egleston Children's Hospital since shortly after she was born, and the entire staff there knows her as a courageous, outgoing young girl.

When a member of the hospital's staff saw Carlyn waiting in line with her mom to see Pratt, she ushered the two to the front of the line for a chance to speak with the actor.

"He asked me how old I was and asked my birthday, and

I told him I was 8 and that my birthday was Aug. 14," said Carlyn of her conversation with Pratt. "He told me that he had a son, and that his birthday was about the same day as mine, Aug. 17. And he said that he liked my eyes."

Carlyn was unfamiliar with Pratt's work, but her mom said she's anxious to watch some of his movies when she's old enough.

As a keepsake, Pratt gave Carlyn a dinosaur toy from the blockbuster *Jurassic World*, in which he plays a velociraptor trainer. Perhaps even more special, he gave her his time that Saturday.

"He took his time with her, got down on her level, just gave her the biggest, warmest hug, and just was very real," said Jennifer. "I told him how much I appreciated him taking the time to talk to her."

Toward the tail end of her most recent stay at Egleston, after having met Pratt, Carlyn got a visit from Miss America Betty Cantrell, and she thought both Cantrell and her crown were very nice and pretty.

Last year, Derek Hough of *Dancing with the Stars* stopped in and took a selfie with Carlyn.

Who knows who Carlyn, already a local celebrity along with her sisters, will meet next?

Colwell accepted Wesleyan College

Tennessee Wesleyan College has proudly accepted Layne Colwell of Blairsville, GA for the upcoming academic year. TWC welcomes Layne, a current student at Union County High School, to the Tennessee Wesleyan Bulldog family! N(Nov11.218)CA

Candy Cane Market November 14th

The Clay County Chamber of Commerce will host the Candy Cane Market From 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14 and from 12-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15.

The show will be held at the Sequoyah Room, Ridges of Mountain Harbour, Hayesville. There is no admission fee and lunch will be available for purchase. This show will promote more than 40 vendors from the local area including a variety of arts and crafts and different retail shops.

The Clay County Chamber of Commerce encourages you to come out, support our local businesses and shop early for Christmas. For details call, 389-3704 or visit our website at ncmntchamber.com.

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Carlyn with *Dancing with the Stars* Derek Hough



Carlyn with mother Jennifer Turner and her Grandmother Vivian Martin

Voters: Incumbents getting the job done

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Voters left no doubt that they're pleased with their Blairsville City Council as they reelected Martha Cone, Betty Easter, and Rhonda Mahan by a 3-to-1 margin over challenger Frank Pack.

The top three vote getters in the four-person election will serve a four-year term on the council. Cone and Easter each tallied 33 votes, while Mahan received 30 votes, and Pack had 8 votes.

Of the 41 ballots cast, 27 were absentee and the other 14 voted at the poll.

"I want to thank the

voters for their support and I'm excited about continuing our current projects that will improve the City of Blairsville for everyone," incumbent Rhonda Mahan said.

Blairsville voters will return to the polls in two years when the remaining two council seats and the Mayor will be up for reelection.

Barnes...from Page 1A

six brothers who did survived the war to return home to their families.

Homer Barnes and his wife Minnie had six children in Union County: Betty and a twin who died at birth, Lucille, Revonda, Vivian and Vernon.

All five children have lived and reared their children in Union County.

Homer Barnes passed away on July 14, 2002.

Vivian Martin is the proud mother of two daughters, Jennifer Turner and Stephanie Arthur, and grandmother to six girls.

Jennifer is married to Dr. John-Mark Turner, and they live in Blairsville with their four daughters, Amelia, 19, and

Carlyn, Ava and Jillian, triplets aged 8.

Stephanie is married to John Arthur, also of Blairsville, and they now live in Raleigh, NC, with their two adopted children from China, Savannah Me-Lien, 11, and Aili Sarah, 8.

Both Jennifer and Stephanie are schoolteachers.