



L-R: Mike, Kathy, Jessica, Steve and John, all Hills, in the May 23 award presentation at the Union County Senior Center.

which is this region's 13-county Area Agency on Aging, and also for her community that has so generously embraced the needs of the senior center over the years.

"The community is so supportive, and I appreciate all of you and all the seniors who come every day," said Hill. "You're all very supportive in everything we do, and you help us with our fundraisers and our volunteers – you're just wonderful."

"I can't say a whole lot more about what I've done, because if I didn't have you, I would not be able to do any of it, so thank you."

Added Hill: "I have to have the good staff that I have or none of this would work either. They're wonderful. My staff is the best one I've ever had since I've been here."

She thanked Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, too, for making her job easier by being an invaluable resource at the local level, and Paris presented her with flowers and offered a few comments to mark the occasion.

"As all of y'all know, she is one of the most awesome employees that works tirelessly," said Paris. "I've never seen anybody more dedicated in her job than Kathy is."

Also in attendance that day were local senior center members, a number of representatives from Legacy Link, and several of Hill's family members, including her husband Steve and son Michael, and her son and daughter-in-law John and Jessica Hill.

Since coming aboard as director in 2006, Hill has led a number of successful fundraising efforts to support the center's meal programs.

Between the home-delivered Meals on Wheels and the hot meals served at the center Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m., the senior center provides over 2,100 meals a month to qualified seniors.

Last year alone, Hill raised over \$34,000 in the form of donations resulting from a combination of efforts, including an annual letter drive, the yearly hand-made arts and crafts bazaar, a yard sale

with donated items, and the acceptance of local monetary contributions.

Hill also frequently applies for grants. For example, a 2012 grant from Walmart enabled the center to purchase a brand-new Ford Escape to deliver meals to home-bound seniors, and more recently, she received a grant to purchase a composter and build raised beds to grow vegetables on center grounds.

In conjunction with the meal programs, the center is participating in the national What A Waste Program, which is designed to pinpoint and redirect food waste in programs like those available at the senior center.

Alongside the food and fundraising initiatives, Hill is known for being a very hands-on senior center director, advocating for, implementing and personally guiding evidence-based wellness programs offered in the Legacy Link AAA service area.

These programs include A Matter of Balance, Everyone with Diabetes Counts, and SilverSneakers, all geared toward creating healthier, happier seniors in her community.

The Union County Senior Center serves seniors ages 60 and up in Union County with hot meals; provides transportation to and from the center as well as to the drug store and for grocery shopping; and offers exercise programs, quilting, crafts, games and other activities.

Hill's staff members at the senior center are Phillip McGlamery, Tiffany Payne-Martin and Sarahi Lopez.

Legacy Link is the Area Agency on Aging designated by the Department of Human Services for the Northeast Georgia Mountains, serving seniors in the following 13 counties: Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White.

Representatives of Legacy Link in attendance at the May 23 award presentation were Christine Bittle, Elaine Tolan, Lisa Howard and Ginger Ragans.

The center is located at 95 Senior Center Drive in Blairsville and can be reached for more information by calling (706) 439-6105.



The Union County Senior Center staff, left to right: Phillip McGlamery, Kathy Hill, Tiffany Payne-Martin and Sarahi Lopez.

University of North Georgia awards degrees to local 2018 graduates

The University of North Georgia announces degrees and certificates awarded for the spring 2018 semester, including hundreds awarded in commencement exercises held May 4 and 5 at the university.

Graduates include: Emily Arrant, Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood and Special Education, Cum Laude; Christopher Woodworth, Bachelor of Business Administration in Information Systems, Cum Laude; Madison Chastain, Associate of Arts in Psychology, With Distinction; Kimberly Allen, Master of Business Administration in Business Administration; Cody Davenport, Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology-Health & Fitness; Jessica Hill,

Master of Science in Family Nurse Practitioner; Kayla Mashburn, Bachelor of Science in Biology; and Brittany Dyer, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with Forensics Concentration, Summa Cum Laude all of Blairsville, GA. Brooklyn Wood of Suches, GA, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Magna Cum Laude; Allison Page of Young Harris, GA, Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing, Cum Laude; Arthur Hubbard of Morganton, GA, Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

Some 1,250 graduates participated in the first-ever commencement ceremonies in UNG's new Convocation Center. For spring semester, UNG awarded some 1,800 degrees and certificates.