

First Baby...from Page 1A

thrilled about the arrival of their newest grandbaby, as is Shawn Carringer, Summer and Katilyn's uncle, who was also on hand to cheer the new baby into the world.

And the Bays couldn't be happier.

"It's exciting," said Lisa about having the first baby of the New Year.

Of course, they were not aware that Katilyn would be holding this honor. They just showed up when the time was right.

"They didn't know that they were going to be the first one until they got here that morning," said Tina Hayes, who is the OB director at Union General Hospital.

Hayes, who has worked at Union General for four years, but has been doing labor and delivery for about 13 years, has seen quite a few firsts at the hospital.

"It kind of sets the tone for the year as to what's to come," said Hayes. "It's the whole New Year, new opportu-

nity, new chance to do things differently – new beginning."

And each year, the labor and delivery staff look forward to the first birth in the county.

"It's always a race at the beginning of the year to see who's going to get the first baby," said Hayes. "Between the docs, too, it's like, okay, who's going to get the first baby to deliver."

But the competition is always had in good fun, even if the parents, as in Lisa and

David's case, have no idea that it might take many days into the New Year to finish that race.

"Who's going to go first?" said Hayes. "There was nobody else in labor when she came in, so she was the only one. And then, we got another labor patient later in the day. But most of the time, you'll have a couple that are in labor at the same time, and they're kind of joking, waiting to see who's going to do it first. It's fun. They enjoy it."

Deer Season...from Page 1A

The biggest point of the presentation centered on the consideration of a single statewide deer season.

Other considerations were the timing of buck-only days, a quota hunt application fee, and changes to the dove season and alligator quotas.

Chief of Game Management John Bowers gave the presentation.

The meeting lasted several hours, with public comments following the presentation, as well as a time designated for questions at the end.

Bowers started his presentation by going over the seven tenets of the North American Wildlife Conservation Model and the importance of adhering to these tenets where hunting regulations are concerned.

One of these tenets is "science is the basis for wildlife policy," and Bowers used this tenet to begin to talk about the research that the DNR conducted to come up with the new policies currently under consideration.

"Science is what we use to set our hunting regulations," said Bowers, going on to say that the DNR is "mandated by law to manage the wildlife resources of this state using the best science we have available."

Science, Bowers pointed out, is defensible in a court of law, whereas setting regulations and managing wildlife via public opinion could create conditions unfriendly to hunters.

"Anybody know how many millions of people live in this state?" said Bowers. "Over 10 million people. You know how many of you are hunters? Maybe, at best, half a million. Who's going to win in the court of public opinion, you or the folks who don't hunt? So, science is key to managing that resource."

So, what does the science say?

"We do an annual survey every year, right after deer season," said Bowers. "And there's more information about it online on our website if you want to go read, but it is a scientific sampling. The error rate is less than 2 percent on it, and it is accurate."

In the 2013 survey, the DNR asked of those who

hunted any species if they would "support or oppose having one statewide season for deer with no deer zones."

Results from the survey reflected support of 63 percent, with only 18 percent of hunters in opposition of a single statewide season. And even those in the sample who hunted strictly deer answered 63 percent for, 18 percent against.

The following year, in 2014, the DNR conducted the survey once again.

"And the results stayed more or less the same," said Bowers. "Sixty-one percent, which would be within that margin of error, support."

Under the current regulations, deer hunting occurs in two zones, or two seasons – the Northern and Southern Zones.

A statewide season would have all deer hunters begin and end the hunting season on the same day.

The main issue with a single statewide season is that "consensus is lacking on the closing date for when a statewide season should close."

In November of last year, DNR emailed an assessment to hunters to obtain a preference for when this closing date should be.

There were four potential dates proposed: Jan. 1, the first Sunday in January, the second Sunday in January and Jan. 15.

Each date had its benefits and drawbacks, such as the first Sunday allowing everyone to end their hunting on a weekend, but the date would vary and take away an average of 11 days from what Southern Zone hunters were used to hunting.

The two preferences were the second Sunday in January, with 35 percent support, and Jan. 15, with 37 percent support.

"For those who don't know, we set our hunting regulations on two-year cycles," said Bowers. "So, we're getting this input, and then we'll develop our proposals. Those proposals will be for the 2015-2016 season, and for the 2016-2017 season. So then, in January 2017, we'll be back with these meetings again."

The timeline for developing the regulations is, in January, the DNR gets public input from these statewide meetings, and in February, DNR staff develop the proposals "first, upon science."

"In March, we take those proposals to the Board of Natural Resources and brief them," said Bowers. "Then at that point, they become official, and we also put out a public notice. We have three public hearings around the state. We also accept public comment on those proposals through email during that time period."

"And then in May, we provide that summary of the comments that we receive through the public notice to the board, and then the board takes action on the proposed regulations."

In June, the DNR begins to develop its popular guide on the regulations before distributing the guide in July.

The DNR is currently accepting public comment through email, and will be incorporating all comments, including those from the public meetings, into the development of a proposed single statewide hunting season.

Georgia Trend...from Page 1A

form the College into a world-class four-year institution with more than 1,200 students across five academic divisions. She was instrumental in raising more than \$70 million for the College's Investing in the Future Capital Campaign and recently opened the \$41 million, 121,000-square-foot Rollins Campus Center, the campaign's focal point.

Cox has converted the once small two-year private college into a major economic engine for the Union and Towns communities.

Tallent has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of United Community Banks from the time it was formed in 1988.

He has also served as President and Chief Executive Officer of United's wholly-owned subsidiary, United Community Bank, since 1984 and currently serves as its Chairman.

Under Tallent's leadership, United has grown from a small, one-branch banking operation in the rural Blairsville, to the third largest bank holding company headquartered in Georgia, with \$7.4 billion in assets and 102 banking offices covering four states in the Southeast.

Tallent is a member of the board of directors of Georgia Power, the largest subsidiary of Southern Company, and serves as a Trustee of Young Harris College. For more than a decade, *Georgia Trend* magazine has recognized Tallent as one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians.

Several YHC trustees and alumni, including Tallent, '70, were also honored by the magazine including Chancellor of the Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia Henry "Hank" Huckaby, '62, who was named Georgian of the Year, and Georgia Speaker of the House David Ralston, '74, were also named to the 100 Most Influential Georgians list.

Also included on the list is Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, State Attorney General Sam Olens, Secretary of State Brian Kemp, Georgia DOT Commissioner Keith Golden, Georgia Labor Commissioner Mark Butler, Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black, and Atlanta Falcons' owner Arthur Blank.

The magazine suggests

that some of the 100 wield their influence in the limelight; others work behind the scenes. But all of them impact the daily lives of Georgians.

District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch made the maga-

zine's list of Notable Georgians.

He joins a list of notables that include John Schuerholz, Tyler Perry, Dr. Bonita Jacobs, and Shirley Franklin.