Bellisimo is open

By Gayle Suggs
For The Crier

The Chamblee Charter High School Musical Club presented the musical comedy, “Once Upon a Mattress,” last month in Chamblee’s Black Box Theatre. The audience learned from the Minstrel in the first scene that this is the “true” story of the Princess and the Pea. The Minstrel arrived at the fictional medieval kingdom ruled by the tyrannical Queen Aggravain, just in time to see the 12th princess attempting to pass the unfair test devised by the queen to determine who will marry her son, Prince Dauntless the Drab. She has decreed that no one in the land may marry until Dauntless takes a bride. But the queen is not convinced that anyone is good enough for her boy. Her poor husband, King Sextimus the Silent, is powerless to rein in the queen because many years ago he was struck by a powerful curse that has left him mute “until the mouse devours the hawk.” Just when it seemed all hope is lost for finding a princess, Sir Harry, leading knight of the court, requested permission to travel to a far-off kingdom in search of a suitable mate for Prince Dauntless. Several weeks later he returned with the amazing Princess Winnifred the Woebegone from the Swamp. The queen and the Wizard devise a new test, convinced that Winnifred will never be able to pass it. But Winnifred is much more than what meets the eye.

Quenisha Perry was hilarious as the overbearing Queen Aggravain. It is tricky to play a bossy, loud, and tyrannical character without becoming strident, but Perry succeeded. McKinley Alden was charming at Prince Dauntless, showing just the right amount of simpering without becoming vapid.

The audience was treated to the lovely voices of Caleb Wike (Sir Harry) and Kaitlen Jordan (Lady Larkin), the romantic leads of the show. Not only did they handle their balls beautifully, they looked the part and had great chemistry together as the young lovers unjustly kept apart by the queen’s ridiculous law. “Yesterday I Loved You” in the second act was particularly lovely.

Malcolm Catwell was excellent as the Minstrel, displaying a very nice voice with a lovely high range. Marc Laurussini tackled the role of the Jester with abandon, displaying wonderful physical humor throughout the show. And Jordan, Catwell and Laurussini all did an excellent job on the very difficult musical number “Normandy.”

Julie Buchbaum was terrific as Princess Winnifred. Buchbaum had great stage presence and embodied Winnifred with confidence and humor but also brought out Winnifred’s true humanity. The musical numbers “Shy” and “Happily Ever After” were both terrific.

Emily Corner was wonderful as the Wizard, showing just the right amount of sinister conniving for the role. And Brandon Smith relied on his physical humor to bring to life King Sextimus the Silent.

Rounding out the cast were Ben Campbell, Breaja Clark, Elisabeth Cortez, Caleb Craig, Joe Crow, Alexis Fowler, Taylor Harris, Solina Jean-Louis, Sara Lozano, Kayla Marshall, Tabatha Mec, Justin Neal, Rebecca Reed, Steele, Mary Conner Thompson, Victoria Tuck, and Jessica Walker.

The Dunwoody Chamber of Commerce celebrated Bellisimo Accessories Friday at a ribbon cutting. Located in The Shops of Dunwoody on Chamblee Dunwoody Road, the store is between Alison’s Restaurant and JoS. A. Bank. Bellisimo Accessories features the latest trends in jewelry, handbags, scarves and all other types of women’s accessories. They are dedicated to keeping women looking their best at affordable prices. You can contact the store at 770.391.0909 or visit their website bellissimoadccessories.com. Pictured (L to R): Terry Nall, Dunwoody city councilman, Shelly Kelly, Jennifer Howard, Dunwoody Chamber board member, Elliott Rudnick, Patti Simpson, co-owner, Susan Rudnicki, Dunwoody Mayor Mike Davis, Paula Owens, Dunwoody Chamber Vice-Chair, Emily McIntyre, Dunwoody Chamber Ambassador Co-Chair, Debbie Fuse, Dunwoody Chamber executive director, Jeff Massingale, Norman Collins. Not pictured, Rebecca Williamson and Brian King. Co-Owners.

Piedmont Physicians at Hammond Drive would like to welcome C. Andrew Brown, M.D.

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The site has a history with the DHA. Years ago, a Jewish high school moved into trailers on the property, promising to stay a year. Several years later, it was moved to Sandy Springs and became the Weber School.

If you suffer from both chronic GOUT and HEART DISEASE

To treat gout, it is crucial to control hypertension and hyperlipidemia, often known as the silent killer. If you have a history of cardiovascular disease or angina, you may be prescribed statins or cholesterol-lowering medications.

If you have chronic gout and a history of cardiovascular disease, you may want to consider using nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or colchicine to reduce inflammation and pain.

If you have gout and hypertension, it is essential to consult with your healthcare provider to develop a comprehensive treatment plan that addresses both conditions.

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