

One chance only

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little fun while they're being treated. Compo said she's encouraged that the clinic is one step closer to receiving the game device and they already have big plans for the cutting-edge entertainment gadget.

"It would either be in our waiting room or in our infusion room. It's on a rolling cart, so it can move around. Also, more than one child can play with it at a time, so it's a great, fun way for kids to interact with each other," Compo said.

The Blume Clinic will soon relocate from 1712 E. Fourth St. to the corner of Fifth and Hawthorne streets. Compo says the Fun Center would make an exciting addition to Blume's new home, but for now she's happy just to have Blume designated an accelerated candidate.

"I am excited to know that we are up on the list," said Compo. "We are busy and the more stuff we have for the kids would really help. We ask that everyone would vote. It would help normalize the kids' experience here. They would absolutely love it!"

For more information on the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation, visit www.starlight.org. □

On pointe

Hermitage Ballet brings ballet master classes, scholarships

On Monday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m., the famed Russian Hermitage Ballet will take over Ovens Auditorium in its first American tour. With headliners hailing from the renowned Mariinski Theater, Bolshoi Ballet, Hermitage Theater and Mussorgsky Opera Theater and Corps de Ballet members culled from the world-famous Vaganova School, the Hermitage Ballet promises a historic performance of epic proportions.

But the ballet offers far more than a single performance. Hermitage Corps de Ballet master classes will be conducted for ballet students 12 years and older who have been on pointe for at least one year. Classes will be held the day of the performance, Monday, Feb. 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Classes will be scheduled in one-hour increments. To register, contact Michael Donnelly or Anastasia Dukhnina at 877-662-3605 or info@hermitageballet.com.

And the excitement won't be confined strictly to the Queen City. The Hermitage Ballet also will award one local ballet student and one local ballet teacher

the opportunity to study and dance in St. Petersburg, Russia, on the stage of the Winter Palace's Hermitage Theater. The trip will take place this summer and will include 10 days of intensive master classes with time for touring.

To qualify, applicants must be 18 or older. Students must submit a 15-minute performance video; recommendations from a schoolteacher, a professional person who can attest to the child's character, and a strong recommendation from the student's studio or ballet teacher. A 500-word essay addressing why the applicant wants the scholarship also is required.

Interested teachers should submit a resumé of their experience, a strong letter from a present or past studio employer, and a 500-word essay on why they would like to study in Russia.

All applications should be received by



Photo courtesy of the Hermitage Ballet

Russia's famed Hermitage Ballet makes a Southern stop in Charlotte on Monday, Feb. 18 during its 2008 American tour.

April 1, 2008; a decision will be made by May 1. For more information or to submit an application, contact Donnelly or Dukhnina at 877-662-3605 or e-mail info@hermitageballet.com. □

Want to go?

For more on the Hermitage Ballet's Ovens Auditorium performance, see page 34. Tickets, \$45-\$65, are available at www.ticketmaster.com. A post-event reception, \$20, also will be offered.

Myths and Facts of hearing loss from Charlotte's expert in hearing care, Dr. Sharon Smith



Myth: If I had a hearing loss, my family doctor would have told me.

Fact: Since most people with hearing loss hear just fine in quiet environments (such as a doctor's office), it can be very difficult for your physician to recognize this problem. An audiologist can best determine the severity of your hearing problem, whether or not you could benefit from a hearing aid and which type would be best for you.

Open your ears to the possibilities...

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