

Mountain Community Seniors meet

Come join the Mountain Community Seniors for our January 6th meeting at the Towns County Senior Center at 2. Our guest speaker will be Mrs. Amy Rosser, Coordinator of Family Connections at Towns County Schools. Mark your calendar! We look forward to seeing our friends and neighbors in Clay, Union, and Towns County to compare early winter stories. T(Jan.5.F3)SH

Bagpipe instruction

The Appalachian Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums Bagpipe Band is offering free instruction to all who want to learn how to play the Great Highland Bagpipe or to learn Regimental Drumming.

The band meets each Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 12 noon in the Parish Hall of Saint Clare's Episcopal Church for instruction and practice.

For further information, call 706-781-3382 or 1-828-557-3812.

Tournament...continued from page 1A

fought 64-58 victory over Union County. It was the third victory of the young season for the Lady Indians against the rival Lady Panthers from Blairsville

Moss led the Lady Indians in scoring against the

Lady Panthers with 21 points while Arencibia and Pong each included three treys in their 13-point performances and Ali Bleckley scored 7. Pong added luster to her finest hour in a prime time game for the Lady Indians with a team-

leading 3 assists with Moss right behind her with 2 assists.

See the paper's Sports Section for more coverage of Battle of the States, including tournament Most Valuable Players and All-Tournament team members.

SPLOST...continued from page 1A

clear up phosphorus and nitrogen going into Lake Chatuge from the city of Hiawassee's wastewater treatment plant.

"We'll also have money in the SPLOST for sewer expansion (helping the city of Hiawassee upgrade the wastewater treatment plant from 300,000 gallons to 500,000 gallons)," Commissioner Kendall said. "We'll be talking more about that in the future. Sewer capacity is a need to bring

economic development into our county."

Other projects include repairs to roads and bridges as time and budget permits, the commissioner said.

He also intends to use SPLOST funds to help the county achieve an ISO fire rating of 5, which would save taxpayers thousands of dollars on home insurance premiums. Also, the commissioner would purchase a reconditioned ladder truck for the fire department for use on

present county and city buildings above 35 feet in height.

As part of the effort to reduce the county's ISO fire rating, Commissioner Kendall also will introduce local legislation in 2011 requiring all new six inch water line installations to have sufficient fire hydrants to meet ISO fire ratings.

"There are a lot of other necessary projects in the SPLOST such as purchasing ambulances," Commissioner Kendall said.

Fire...continued from page 1A

connecting him to the Dec. 23 arson case on 65 Guffey Lane in Blairsville, and including the two murder counts, along with burglary and armed robbery, Norregaard tried to take his own life within his jail cell, authorities said.

Authorities attempted to revive Norregaard after his motionless body was discovered in the Union County Jail. Those attempts included CPR. Initially,

Norregaard was taken to Union General Hospital in Blairsville and later transported to Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville.

Norregaard died in the Gainesville hospital on New Year's Day at 6:20 p.m., authorities said.

In addition to the felony murder charges, Norregaard faced charges of distribution of marijuana; possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and pos-

session of less than one ounce of marijuana, arrest documents show.

The Towns County Herald reported last week that the Union blaze caught the attention of state arson investigators who deemed the blaze "very suspicious."

Those suspicions were later confirmed.

Norman Cooper, editor of the North Georgia News contributed to this news report.

Carringer...continued from page 1A

that area the night Kristi Cornwell, a former Towns County sheriff's deputy, disappeared.

Bankhead also revealed that Carringer owned three Nissan Xterras. Witnesses told authorities that a silver or white Nissan Xterra was seen in the area around the time Kristi Cornwell disappeared from Jones Creek Road.

GBI authorities also revealed that Carringer changed the description of his silver Nissan Xterra by removing the brush guard after Kristi Cornwell's disappearance. Witnesses who had seen the silver Xterra in the area of Kristi Cornwell's abduction reported that the vehicle had a brush guard.

Carringer killed himself April 8, 2010 during a stand-off with Atlanta police outside a Buckhead restaurant as they tried to arrest him as a suspect in an April 6, 2010 Gilmer County rape case.

Carringer also is believed to be a suspect in the attempted abduction of a woman in Ranger, NC, which occurred nine days before Kristi Cornwell's abduction.

Authorities also believe he tried to abduct a 10-

year-old girl from a church parking lot in Montgomery, Ala. during an Easter egg hunt on April 4, 2010.

The GBI press conference on Monday in Cleveland was appropriate because Kristi Cornwell's brother, Richard Cornwell, brought closure for his family on Saturday, discovering the shallow grave off Moccasin Road in Union County that held the gruesome remains of his sister.

He used information shared with him by the GBI to pinpoint the location. The GBI was in the planning stages of a similar search of that area later this month.

Kristi Cornwell's body had been burned and she had been buried along a trail about 75 yards off Moccasin Road, authorities said.

The GBI's forensic medical examiner couldn't determine a cause of death, but did confirm that dental records revealed that the remains belonged to Kristi Cornwell. He also disclosed that her body had been burned, authorities said.

Kristi Cornwell disappeared Aug. 11, 2009 while walking on Jones Creek

Road near her parents' home and talking on her cell phone with her boyfriend in Atlanta.

Some personal items belonging to Kristi Cornwell were discovered at the scene of the abduction on Jones Creek Road.

Authorities from the Union County Sheriff's Office, the GBI, and Georgia State Patrol, Department of Natural Resources, state Department of Corrections and additional officers from neighboring sheriff's departments joined in an extensive search for six days of the Jones Creek Road area.

The GBI concluded that Kristi Cornwell was abducted by vehicle while walking on Jones Creek Road and taken to an undisclosed location. They also deemed that she was in grave danger.

The case remains open because authorities have no direct evidence linking the now deceased Carringer to the crime, Bankhead said.

The GBI will continue to try to piece together information to confirm Carringer's involvement in Kristi Cornwell's abduction and murder.

Bank of Hiawassee donates locally at Christmas



Bank of Hiawassee employees with Helen Abercrombie (center), Mountain Shelter Humane Society Director.

Christmas magic shines in us all when we focus our attentions on giving and sharing with others. That special Christmas magic was found in every Bank of Hiawassee employee this month.

Instead of buying gifts for each other, the employees at Bank of Hiawassee, decided to use those gift buying funds to assist organizations in the community. They decided to help Towns County Family Connection, Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund, Shop with a Cop, and the Humane Society Mountain Shelter.

Every Friday during the month of December they paid \$5 to wear jeans to work and bought items needed by the organizations that they had selected. In addition, Citizens South Bank, made very generous donations to the organizations selected.

Georgia Mountain Writers Club meeting

The Georgia Mountain Writers Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Catholic church on Hwy. 76.

For more information, call Ellee Dobson at 706-745-0678 or email her at jldobson@windstream.net



Jimmy Wright, Shop with a Cop with Rebecca King, Bank of Hiawassee.



Amy Gibby-Rosser (left) of Family Connection with Rebecca King, Bank of Hiawassee.



Vicki Ellis (left) Towns County Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund Coordinator with Rebecca King, Bank of Hiawassee.