

NGTC enrollment soars

Special to Towns County Herald

North Georgia Technical College's three campuses are very busy places with the start of Fall Quarter on Monday. With college wide enrollment at 2,988 students the college is experiencing a 44 percent increase over last fall's record enrollment. The college attributes the spike in enrollment to its gaining SACS accreditation last year and to students' looking for more job skills in a changing economy.

North Georgia Technical College President Steve Dougherty said, "After gaining SACS accreditation last year, our enrollment has really skyrocketed since we were able to start signing course articulation agreements with so many four-year colleges. Most of our students are looking for specific job skills but they also want to keep their options open to acquire a bachelor's degree as they look at advancement, management, or business ownership. We are now able to show them several options for doing that many of their core courses and, in some cases, their technical courses transferring."

"We have added several new sections of courses for fall in areas such as English, math, psychology, and

more," said Vicki Nichols, Vice President of Academic Affairs. "Most of the above courses are those that most diploma and degree students are required to take, and a good scheduled can be built around these. Our goal is to have options for all of the students who are registering for Fall quarter."

The college is seeing large increases in many program areas. Various health care specialties are very popular, but programs ranging from information technology to welding and from photography to accounting have also seen big jumps this fall. Commercial truck driving, heating and air conditioning, motorcycle technician and environmental programs have also seen significant growth.

All three campuses have surpassed all previous enrollment records with Blairsville showing a 38% increase from last year and Currahee an unbelievable 55%. "But more important than the enrollment total is the number of smiling students I saw today who knew they were well and courteously treated by a somewhat harried staff," noted Dougherty. "It's going to be a great quarter."

North Georgia Tech maintains three campuses: Blairsville, Clarkesville, and Currahee.

Greenville man charged in chase

On Thursday, October 1, the Georgia State Patrol conducted a road check on Hwy. 76 East. A Ford Taurus allegedly driven by Terry Keith Green, 46, of a Greenville, GA address, refused to stop. Georgia State Troopers gave chase through Hiwassee and north on Hwy. 75.

The suspect allegedly traveled at high speeds and at times drove on the wrong side of the road. Georgia State Troopers were able to stop the vehicle in the area

of the North Carolina state line using a "PIT" maneuver. No one was injured in the chase or during the stop.

Green was held briefly in the Clay County, N.C. jail, and at press time was being held in the Towns County Detention Center. He has been charged with eight total counts including two counts of Aggravated Assault, Reckless Driving, Fleeing or Attempting to Elude, Driving While License Suspended, and three traffic offenses.

K-9 Rocky retires

The Towns County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce the retirement of their first police K-9 Rocky.

After more than five years of service, Rocky is now ready for retirement. Rocky's main duty during his service for the residents of Towns County was narcotic detection which Rocky did very well.

Rocky will stay with his handler Detective Brian Wilson. The Home in which Rocky will retire is a fourteen feet by fourteen feet

kennel which was donate about year ago by the Hiwassee hardware.



The most prolific drug dog in TCSO history is retiring. Rocky is seen here with Det. Brian Wilson on one of their many bust.

Transient Spaces on display at Young Harris College

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YOUNG HARRIS – Young Harris College's Campus Gate Art Gallery will host "Transient Spaces," a mixed media installation by Michael Lent. The exhibit is open and will be on display through Friday, Oct. 30. Campus Gate is located at 5149 College Street on the Young Harris College campus. A reception for Lent was held Oct. 1. The exhibit is open to the public. For more information contact the Campus Gate at (706) 379-5256 or campusgate@yhc.edu.

Michael Lent is an intermedia artists working with drawing, text, video and installation. He explores time-based and new media as a method of art making. Lent's artwork has been fea-

tured in galleries and museums across the United States and in Italy. He earned his B.F.A. in sculpture and painting from the Tyler School of Art of Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa., and his M.F.A. in interdisciplinary arts at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vt.

Lent is fascinated by formal elements, such as line and shape, and their influence across media. He has recently focused his work on color, its abilities to transform and its repercussions on image and idea, its use as a medium, and the materials from which it is made.

He is passionate about his materials, which makes the physicality of his work at least as important to him as the elements that inform

it. He is interested in how basic elements like color and light come together in digital media and how they can be reexamined or redefined in more traditional media. He strives to master color by shaping form, line, light and space through the use of his hand, ink and incredible tech-

nology as tools.

Lent's work is based on a tradition of artists and thinkers who have worked continually to not only hone a craft, but to challenge notions in ways of working.

For more details about the artist, visit www.michaellent.net.



The work of renowned artist Michael Lent is on display at YHC through Oct. 30. The exhibit at Campus Gate Art Gallery is open to the public. Photo/Denise Cook

Mackall to speak at Sellers Lecture Series at YHC

YOUNG HARRIS – Young Harris College's Division of Humanities welcomes author and editor Joe Mackall, Ph.D., as the featured speaker for the annual Sellers Lecture. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 7 p.m. in the Wilson Lecture Hall of Goolsby Center on the Young Harris College campus. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Dr. Mackall's *Plain Secrets: an Outsider Among the Amish* was described by *Publisher's Weekly* as "a deeply respectful account that never veers toward sensational-

ism." He is the co-founder and editor of *River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative* and co-editor of the *River Teeth* Literary Nonfiction Book Prize Series. He published his memoir, *The Last Street Before Cleveland: An Accidental Pilgrimage* in 2006 with the University of Nebraska Press. His articles have been published in a number of newspapers and magazines, including *The Washington Post*, and his essays have appeared in several anthologies, literary journals, and recently on NPR's "Morning Edition."

Dr. Mackall received

a B.A. in English from Cleveland State University, an M.A. in English from the University of C. Oklahoma, an M.F.A. in fiction writing from Bowling Green State University and a Ph.D. in English from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is co-director of the creative writing program and director of the journalism program at Ohio's Ashland University.

The Sellers Lecture Series was established to honor Bettie M. Sellers, professor emerita at Young Harris College and noted Georgia poet. Sellers taught English and served as chair

of the Division of Humanities at Young Harris College. After 32 years of service, she retired in 1997. She was named Author of the Year in 1979 by the Dixie Council of Authors and Journalists, and she received the Governor's Award in the Humanities in 1987. In 1992, she was named Poet of the Year by the American Pen Women. In 1997, she was named Poet Laureate of Georgia by then-governor Zell Miller, a position she held for three years. She received a lifetime achievement award from the Georgia Writers Association in 2004.

Gantnier is October's featured artist

By Jessica Keaton
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
jesskeat@student.yhc.edu

Artworks Artisan Centre is proud to present its artist of the month, Evelyn Gantnier. Her very personal, romantic pieces of jewelry are made of crystal, shells, pearls, copper, gemstones, and dichroic glass.

Gantnier, of Young Harris, is an active member of the Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts guild. She fell in love with "Wire Art" at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in 1990. However, she still attends, and teaches, classes

in order to keep up with the new techniques and designs. Moreover, she teaches private lessons to all skill levels.

Although she enjoys making traditional pieces, creating original works is her passion. Her jewelry is internationally known. Many around the world have worn her jewelry including those from England and Canada.

Gantnier has also been the "featured artist" at Brasstown Valley Resort.

The Artisan Centre is on Big Sky Drive.



A true art lover can spot Evelyn Gantnier's work at first glance. Photo/Jessica Keaton