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began in 1999. Each year, faculty, staff and students are encouraged to make individual contributions or participate in group service projects within organizations or teams.

According to YHC Head Baseball Coach Rick Robinson, participating in Operation Christmas Child is an annual tradition for the YHC baseball team. This year, the team's 29 players each donated a shoe box that was presented at a special service in Susan B. Harris Chapel on the YHC campus.

By using an EZ Give barcode on the label, the baseball team will be able to track each shoe box gift. The team will receive e-mails revealing the destina-

tion of each gift, along with information about Operation Christmas Child in that specific country.

"During this special time of year, we try to add a little Christmas love and joy for the children around the world. It's amazing to think that each of these boxes will bring a smile to a child's face halfway around the world," Robinson said. "We have a lot of opportunities to connect with our local community, but this gives us an opportunity to connect with others across the globe. It is such a joy to be able to give."

"I love working on this outreach every year because it brings the whole campus together," said sophomore musical theatre major and

Dorcas Society President Emily Espy of Cumming. "It's amazing to me that despite all our hectic schedules, organizations, teams and individuals can come together to impact children's lives around the world."

"We often forget that geographical location does not determine who our neighbors are, but we are all each other's neighbors," added senior English major and Inter-Religious Council President Amanda Noonan of Smyrna. "Operation Christmas Child provides a present for a child overseas who otherwise may not have had a Christmas. It is also a reminder that students can impact the world from right where they are."



Every Green Herb

By Janice Boling

OPC's for a healthier life

OPC's (Oligomeric Proanthocyanidin Complexes) are extracted from grape seeds, white pine bark, and maritime pine bark. They are potent bioflavonoid antioxidants that destroy free radicals and help slow the body's aging process. OPC's were first discovered in the 1940's by Dr. Jacques Masquelier (and are also known as Pycnogenols).

OPC's not only protect the body from free radical damage, they also help repair damaged cells. They are used in the treatment and prevention of cancer, arthritis, diabetes, cirrhosis of the liver, heart disease, high cholesterol, varicose veins, restless leg syndrome, PMS, hemorrhoids, migraine headaches, attention deficit syndrome, hyperactivity, eye problems, chronic fatigue, and age related diseases.

OPC's strengthen the walls of blood vessels, arteries, and capillaries. Research shows that OPC's can improve vision by allowing more nutrients to be delivered to the eyes. OPC's can help delay the development of

cataracts and reports show that improvement in vision is often noticed within a few days.

OPC's can cross the blood/brain barrier where they work to strengthen and protect the cells of the brain. They also slow the growth of tumors in the brain and throughout the body. OPC's do not cure disease and illness. Instead they help the body to neutralize the effects of damaging free radicals. When free radicals are controlled, the body can function at its best to heal itself. (An excess of free radicals is caused by pollution, food additives, slow metabolism, diets high in fat, excessive alcohol consumption, smoking, nutritional deficiencies, and stress. Free radicals attack all of the body's tissue and are a direct cause of disease, illness, and premature aging.)

OPC's work a lot like vitamin E and vitamin C although they are many times stronger. OPC's are very efficient at slowing collagen destruction and protecting the blood vessels. They can restore skin's elasticity and help joints become more

flexible by repairing damaged collagen. (Collagen supports the organs, blood vessels, joints, and tissues. Collagen also supports the skin and keeps it from forming wrinkles.)

OPC's help improve the delivery of oxygen to the cells. They build immunity, fight allergies, and help heal infections. OPC's are one of the most useful of all nutritional supplements.

Natural OPC's are found in the red skins of peanuts, grape juice, red wine, coconuts, apples, cocoa, and other plants (but are destroyed by cooking). OPC's are most highly concentrated in fibrous bark, stems, seeds, and skins - the part of food that is often discarded.

Everyone should eat vegetables, grains, proteins, fruits, and herbs on a daily basis. Even with a good diet, essential vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients may be lacking due to poor soil and processing. If purchasing health supplements, look for products in isotonic form. Many pills, tablets, and capsules do not dissolve properly. Isotonic supplements are absorbed quickly and delivered to the body in minutes.

Please, visit EveryGreenHerb.com for more information or to purchase quality supplements. *Always consult with a healthcare professional before using any herbal remedy or supplement as a medicine especially if pregnant, nursing, or taking other medications*

Henry Hedden...continued from page 1A



Mazelle and Henry Hedden

Kendall said. "He taught me math at Towns County High School and later at Young Harris College. He was a good soul and he will be missed."

Hedden was a member of Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Towns County Lions Club and the Retired Teachers Association. Ironically, the 70th Anniversary was the last for the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. The group is disbanding, the number of survivors has dwindled from 12,000 strong to just a handful.

Hedden's cousin, Forrest E. "Cotton" Hedden, was there with him at Pearl, along with five other Towns County men, Charlie Vaughn, George Denton, Howard Ellis, Aude Rhinehardt and Eugene Simms.

In 1991, former Towns County Herald editor Jimmy Powell interviewed Henry Hedden, Vaughn and Cotton Hedden about their experience on Pearl on Dec. 7, 1941.

Henry Hedden was stationed at Fort Ruger. The attack was a complete surprise to Hedden and his fellow corpsmen. Henry had just finished breakfast and had returned to his sleeping quarters on the second floor when he heard a series of explosions. He remembered going to a window to look out and hearing someone comment that the Navy

must be taking target practice.

From the window, Henry Hedden could see a tall plume of smoke rising into the skyline from Pearl. He soon heard air raid sirens; his unit was soon assembled in front of the building and informed about what was happening.

Henry Hedden was sent to a motor pool to ready some guns for use.

One hundred eighty-eight U.S. aircraft were destroyed in the sneak attack; eight battleships were damaged or destroyed, 2,402 Americans were killed and another 1,282 were wounded.

In the aftermath of the attack, Henry Hedden recalled a swirl of confusion and rumors of poisoned water.

Henry Hedden's daughter Gwen Gourley, now of Dahlonga, said that her father was a frequent visitor to Hawaii and reunions of Pearl Survivors.

She has photographs of her father in Hawaii during reunion visits.

She said that Henry Hedden enlisted in the Navy in 1940 along with other family members. It was an opportunity for them to be together during their military experience.

After the war, Henry Hedden finished school, and later taught at Towns County High School, where he also served as Principal. He also taught at Young Harris College and later in the Cherokee County School System, his daughter said.

Henry Hedden will long be remembered for his military service, especially his survival at Pearl Harbor, and his service to his community as an educator and as a member of the Towns County Lions Club.

While it seems ironic that Henry Hedden died two days before the 70th Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor, one must remember that his cousin Cotton Hedden, also a Pearl Survivor, died Dec. 7, 2002, on the 61st Pearl Anniversary.

Most of the Pearl Survivors have gone on like Henry Hedden and Cotton Hedden. Rest assured, both are now in the company of friends they haven't seen in ages in what can only be described as the ultimate reunion.

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Demorest.

Wilkinson took 58.6 percent of the runoff vote. Wilkinson claimed landslide victories in Franklin and Stephens counties to overwhelm Austin on election night.

Wilkinson was in command throughout the night, finishing with 7,166 votes to Austin's 5,071 votes, or 41.4 percent of the runoff ballots cast in the District 50 State

Senate race. Wilkinson claimed Banks, Franklin, Hart, Rabun, and Stephens counties. Austin claimed Habersham, Towns and White counties.

Wilkinson will fill the unexpired term of Major Gen. Butterworth, who resigned the state Senate seat to become adjutant general of the Georgia National Guard.

Wilkinson, who now

represents Towns County in the State Senate, enters the 2012 General Election as the incumbent State Senator in District 50.

"Thanks to everyone for their support during the election process," Sen. Wilkinson said. "I am blessed beyond measure with family and friends. Please continue to keep Debbie (wife) and me in your prayers as we begin our new journey."

NASCAR 2011

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Patrick plans to be "aggressive"

In a recent interview on ESPN, Danica Patrick said she is an "aggressive" driver. But other statements by her make me question the sincerity of her motives.

"NASCAR reminds me of growing up racing go-karts and how much I loved it," she said. "The fact that stock cars have bumpers invigorates the rougher side of me that's been tempered by the inability in open-wheel racing to touch anyone. To be able to go out on the track and stake your place excites me. The crazy thing is that I didn't even drive a stock car until I'd already signed a two-year deal to run a partial Nationwide schedule. I had friends in NASCAR who knew my driving style and thought I'd fit in there. So I took a huge leap of faith.

"When I was a kid, I was one of the most aggressive drivers out there. I'd go from 30th to winning a heat race in eight laps because I'd come up behind someone and bump him entering the corner. You don't have to make contact to be aggressive, but when you make a move, you stick it. You take the car to the limit. It's about confidence but respect at the same time. I race everyone fair. If they're not fair back to me, well, then I know where it's going."

Patrick's long-awaited debut in the Sprint Cup Series will come in the 2012 season-opening Daytona 500.

She will race a No. 10 Sprint Cup Chevrolet, bearing the number she first used in karting, during Daytona's Speedweeks, where she currently will need to qualify on time. Her schedule will also include events at Darlington, Bristol, Atlanta, Chicagoland, Dover, Texas and Patrick's home of Phoenix.

Her home is currently in Scottsdale, Ariz., near Phoenix. She has no plans to relocate, even considering she'll have 43 stock car races on her docket next year.

"I go [to the shops] when I need to go and I'll go when they install a new seat in the car and get to be friends with everybody," Patrick continued. "But let's face it; we're going to spend 33 weekends together in Nationwide and eight to 10 weekends in Cup together -- so we spend a lot of time together."

"I'm always available by phone and if they need me to fly to Charlotte that's exactly what I'll do. But I don't feel the need to set-up shop [near Charlotte] -- I don't get that many days off [smiling] so to be honest I probably wouldn't be at the shop that many days."

Which leads me to believe Patrick might not be as serious as she lets on about her racing.

Dale Earnhardt Sr. hardly ever came to the race shop during the week, but he knew his stuff.

Patrick has yet to start a Cup race.

Her statement about not moving to the Charlotte area might be a signal that she is more interested in being able to stay home and market herself than race. Go Daddy, her sponsor is located in Arizona, which means she will be available for weekly publicity shoots and stunts.

It seems to me anyone just getting into Cup racing would want to learn more about the sport by associating with other drivers away from the track, in addition to establishing a comradery, which would help her during a race.

Apparently Patrick has other plans. Her schedule doesn't appear to be that of a serious Cup racer.

Will her role be a sexy, laid-back, dominating female constantly appearing on television as a wannabee racing star, or will she be a real hands on, in-your-face type racer?

For the fans sake and her own integrity, I hope she doesn't disappoint.

GRUBB HIRED AS HAMLIN'S CREW CHIEF

Darian Grubb, who guided Tony Stewart to the 2011 Sprint Cup Series title, will become crew chief for Denny Hamlin.

Hamlin nearly won the 2010 title, losing the championship lead in the final race, but in 2011 he went from an eight-win season to a one-win season where he finished ninth in the final standings.

That led to the hiring of the 36-year-old Grubb, who was offered a position in the Hendrick Motorsports engineering department. But Grubb still wanted to crew chief after spending the last three years with Tony Stewart.



Danica Patrick at Kansas, 2011

Gibbs Racing," Grubb said. "The chance to work with Denny is something I'm excited about. When you sit down with [owner] Joe and [team president] J.D. Gibbs, you can't help but be excited about this opportunity and the team aspects of JGR."

"There is no question about the level of support you get here and I'm looking forward to working with everyone across the entire organization."

Grubb said he does not plan to bring anyone from SHR with him to JGR, and he hopes to attend a track test with Hamlin soon so they can get acclimated to each other before the January test at Daytona.

While the crew chief situation is settled for Hamlin, JGR still has to make a decision whether to keep crew chief Greg Zipadelli with Joey Logano after a year where they struggled to 24th in the standings.

Zipadelli has been rumored as a candidate to rejoin good friend Stewart as his competition director.

"We put a good bit of effort into making sure we made Darian feel like this could be a great fit for him," Gibbs said. "That's all we're really focused on right now. I'm sure we'll have other discussions [with Zipadelli] in the future, which we do every year."

Racing Trivia Question: What year did Johnny Benson win the Nationwide Series title?

Last Week's Question: Mark Martin has never won a NASCAR Sprint Cup championship. How many times has he finished as runner-up? **Answer:** Four times (1990, '94, '98, 2002).

You may contact the Racing Reporter at hodges@race500.com. NT/Dec14/Cl/ae

Willie...continued from page 1A

Willie took the stage at The Hall around 7:20 p.m. that night and ended his show around 8:45 p.m. Afterward, Willie meandered through the crowd signing autographs and accepting a bottle of "Rebel Yell" with an appreciative smile.

Willie also broke out in a huge smile as he

autographed a copy of a bumper sticker that read: "Don't blame me, I voted for Willie."

Willie's show consisted of well-known, crowd pleasing melodies. However, the song that got the most cheers was his passionate hit, *Always on My Mind*, accompanied on the piano

by his baby sister, Bobbie.

Throughout the 2009 show, Nelson wore his trademark red bandanna, and interchanged them with each song, throwing the previously worn ones to the crowd. He even donned one of his trademark cowboy hats.

This is one show that's sure to be sellout.

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cording to the Georgia Court of Appeals.

Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley appealed the Appeals Court's decision to overturn Osborn's conviction to the Georgia

Supreme Court.

Langley asked the Georgia Supreme Court to rule on this decision by the Georgia Court of Appeals, Langley told the Towns County Herald.

"The ruling by the Court of Appeals in no way suggests or comments on the guilt or innocence of Mr. Osborn," Langley said. "The case can be retried if necessary."

Jimmy Brown...continued from page 1A

owner of James Brown Rock Yard from 1998 until recently.

He wore another hat as a grandfather, cheering on his granddaughter Kerri Abernathy and the Towns County Lady Indians during her playing days. He also cheered mightily for his grandson Luke Parker, a current member of the Towns County Indians' football team.

Brown enjoyed trout

fishing, hiking, backpacking, history and most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family.

He was of the Baptist faith, and a member of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church.

"That man knew history," said Towns County Assistant Fire Chief Harold Copeland. "I could listen to him talk about Towns County for hours on end. He was a true historian."

Commissioner Kendall said that Brown left behind hours and hours of recordings about Towns County history, recordings that will be transcribed into an historical account.

"Jimmy's father Ross Brown was also very knowledgeable about Towns County history," Commissioner Kendall said. "We hate to say it, but we've lost one of our county's most valuable resources."



Towns County's Volunteer Fire Department has grown from its modest beginnings to one of the state's best. The department has three full-time firefighters, a chief and assistant chief. Jimmy Brown, who passed away Saturday, was one of the department's founding fathers. Photo/Lowell Nicholson