

Enotah CASA presents Mountain Arts Fest!

Enotah CASA presents Mountain Arts Fest on September 19, 2020 at R-Ranch in the Mountains, 65 R-Ranch Rd, Dahlonega, GA. The event will be from 10 AM - 7 PM. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, 3 & under free. This is an outdoor event and will happen rain or shine. We have hand washing and sanitation stations, all vendors will be arranged with plenty of space to maintain social distancing.

This festival is a fundraising event with a wide variety of Art Vendors, Food Vendors, and Live Entertainment. All proceeds will be used by Enotah CASA Inc. to support the abused and neglected children in Lumpkin, Towns, Union, & White counties.

Enotah CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a community-based program that recruits and trains volunteers to advocate for the best interests of children in fos-

ter care. We envision a world where every child who has experienced abuse or neglect is given the opportunity to thrive in a safe and loving home.

Tickets available on the day of the event, by calling 706-864-0300, or by visiting www.enotahcasa.org. Follow

@mountainartsfest on Instagram or Enotah CASA Mountain Arts Fest on Facebook to see our exciting line up of vendors and entertainment. Email artsfest@enotahcasa.org for more information or to make a donation. *NT(Sep9,25)CA*

Church...from Page 1A



Samantha Church, seated, serving as chairman of the Top of Georgia Student Development Speech Contest.
Photo/Submitted

an expert at land upkeep and management.

She learned the principles of hard work and responsibility at an early age. Not being content with all these responsibilities, Church obtained additional employment working in a doctor's office, cleaning and sanitizing the facilities on a weekly basis.

Soon, she began to excel in the classroom, earning top grades in every subject, including music. At age 7, she began playing the cello, developing her skill to where, today, she has a business with her brother and sister called We Three Strings that plays for weddings, funerals and special events.

Church also plays bass guitar and acoustic guitar.

During high school, she began taking advanced courses at North Georgia Technical College, obtaining a Master Cosmetologist Degree before graduating from high school.

Upon learning about the Top of Georgia Student Development Speech Contest as a high school sophomore, Church immediately obtained an application and entered the contest. Two years later, as a senior, she became grand champion.

She was so polished as a speaker that contest organizers recruited her to be one of their public speaking instructors.

The next year, she was chosen to be chairman of the 12-person speech contest committee.

With such diverse talents and interests, it was only natural that Church should become immersed in the political process, as she perceived the importance of citizens becoming involved in local and state issues.

This first led to serving on Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw's Junior Board doing volunteer work and providing input from a teen's view on the needs of the county.

Seeing her potential, the lieutenant governor of Georgia appointed Church as a page in both the Georgia House of Representatives and Senate for three years. Her success in public speaking and civic involvement didn't go unnoticed by other Georgia elected officials, either.

Whenever in town, state senators and representatives, and even U.S. congressmen, were introduced at various functions by Church. She was even asked to chair two meetings of the Towns County Republican Party.

Somehow, with all this community involvement, Church found time to work with the Liquid Feet Ski Club during the summer, teaching water skiing, wakeboarding and surfing. How about the rest

of her spare time? She enjoys painting, hand lettering and decorating.

It didn't take her long to realize there was a world beyond Towns County and the state of Georgia. Desiring to expand her horizons beyond the confines of those two entities, she moved to Nicaragua for a short period, attending a Spanish immersion school.

She lived with a Nicaraguan family, becoming absorbed in their lives, their language and their customs and culture. The next year, she returned to teach students the basics of cosmetology.

This is a story of a teenager who is committed to helping her fellow man. Instead of merely talking about the problems in her community and state, she does what all citizens should do and takes action.

After completing her studies with Chick-fil-a and then her undergraduate work, Church intends to study law. Truth be told, this country doesn't need more lawyers, but in her case, there is no doubt she will use her knowledge and title to benefit mankind.

Barely 18 years old, Samantha Church as a teen civic leader has done more in this area than most adults. She has set an example for all and is a star in the making.

9/11 Program...from Page 1A

as we can with the banners on the square." Ordiales said in the leadup to 9/11. "They lived it, and they are living it right now, so it's a tribute that I think is very important and a tradition that I'd like to continue to see happen in the future."

Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw will offer closing remarks for the patriotic event Friday, and Rinaldo will perform "God Bless America" to end the remembrance.

"Let us not forget, too, the women and men who acted so bravely and unselfishly to save lives and help other people

— from our public safety to average citizens on the ground and in the air," Bradshaw said, previewing the event. "That's what makes America the greatest country in the world."

For her part, Mayor Gibby hopes people will come together in commemorative spirit to rekindle that sense of unity Americans experienced shortly after the attack.

"It is important to stop and remember this tragedy, this horror that changed our America forever," she said. "We must never forget the lives lost and the heroes who saved

us. Their lives must always have meaning."

Along with being Master of Ceremonies, Ordiales also served as the main organizer of the event honoring the victims who lost their lives on 9/11. She hopes people who feel comfortable attending do, even amid COVID-19, as the outdoor setting should allow folks to stay safe.

There was no rain contingency by press time, but people can check the City of Hiwassee Facebook page to follow weather developments as they occur.

Community...from Page 1A

political interests seem to color more and more information these days.

"Times now are confusing, and you don't know who to trust," Rockinbough said while visiting Heavenly Bake Shop Sept. 5. "You hear something new on the news, and then some people come through and say it is false."

"We are having riots where things are happening, and we aren't getting the full story. It worries me that I have to think about who I trust when getting my news. I don't believe there is a solution to

the miscommunication we are facing right now.

"This will end up getting worse and worse until we stop letting them lie to us. I think our country is in a state of change, and whether that be good or bad, it is coming."

Daniel Mariano of North Carolina believes people should spend less time binge-watching TV news, and instead, focus more locally while reading select stories and articles about the national level.

"I don't really watch the news anymore or stay up to date on problems in the

country because I got sick of it," Mariano said in Ingles on Friday. "We just went through a hurricane season where people lost their houses and lives, and that wasn't really on the news; I have to go out of my way to hear more about a national disaster."

"We need to focus on our problems at a local level above everything else. It is important to stay informed on what is going on in your life and around you. Just because I don't watch the news doesn't mean I don't look up some trending articles and find out what the government is doing."

Night Market...from Page 1A

the market to sell their painted wooden quilt boards with a variety of designs that can be used as decorations.

"Quilt boards are usually meant for people to take patterns from," Izquierdo said. "But these are just paintings that we like to do, and people can come by and use them as decoration for their homes."

"We have had people put them in their barns, outside their homes, and also inside their homes. We do custom initials and things like that for people that want us to do something more personal."

Izquierdo and Blanco began painting the boards at the beginning of the pandemic, quickly turning it into a passion they have since named Top of the Mountain Quilt Boards.

"We started around six months ago, and it was sort of our corona hobby," Izquierdo said. "This is the first time we have done a booth at a show, and we love it. Last month we did wonderful, and we are hoping to keep going. This is a great event, and we are glad to be part of it."

Both Accents Pottery and Top of the Mountain Quilt Boards can be found on Facebook, where they share more about their crafts.



Sisters Marta Izquierdo and Sylvia Blanco with Top of the Mountain Quilt Boards attended the Night Market Friday.
Photo by Jarrett Whitener

For the second month in a row, the Friday Night Market has been successful in providing the community and others from the area with something fun to do outdoors. Joan Lamson of Rabun County said she felt it was a great addition to the already terrific city.

"I think having events like this is wonderful," Lamson said. "I was passing through and saw the white tents, so I decided to come check it out. I would have never thought to see something like this going on, especially during a time where people are staying inside and social distancing."

"I've come through here a few times and been to

events at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, but things like this make me want to visit more, because Hiwassee has been doing a lot lately. I will definitely come back over the next months to see what else they can bring."

The Friday Night Market takes place the first Friday of every month through December from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Hiwassee Downtown Development Authority is currently looking for volunteers and organizers who can help with projects such as the Night Market.

For more information on volunteering, contact City Hall at 706-896-2202.

Drug Arrests...from Page 1A

took more than \$2,500 worth of marijuana off the streets.

On Tuesday, Aug. 25, deputies responded to a call involving a residence located on Hog Creek Road in Hiwassee. Upon further investigation, Christopher Cargle, 48, of Hiwassee, was arrested and charged with manufacturing marijuana.

On Monday, Aug. 31, investigators and deputies searched a room at the Mountain Country Inn located off Georgia 66 in Young Harris, where they arrested five individuals and seized over \$16,000 worth of meth.

Deputies arrested Michelle Edwards, 44, of Hiwassee, Jazmine Whitaker, 19, of Young Harris, Jordan Campbell, 27, of Hiwassee, Andrew Arndt, 35, of Young Harris, and Duane Stamps, 24, of Hiwassee.

Each was charged with trafficking meth, possession of meth with intent to distribute, possession of meth, and possession of drug-related objects.

On Tuesday, Sept. 1, deputies made a traffic stop on a Dodge pickup on Sparks Road in Hiwassee.

Upon further investigation, deputies arrested truck occupants Salador Villagomez, 25, of Cornelia, and Xavier Segars, 23, of Royston, on charges of possession of meth and possession of drug-related objects.

Also on Tuesday, Sept. 1, upon checking on a suspicious person on Martin Road in Hiwassee, deputies arrested Paris Nichols, 52, of Hiwassee. Nichols was charged with possession of a Schedule II drug and possession of drug-related objects.

In another separate incident Sept. 1, deputies responded to a suspicious vehicle call on Bell Scene Church Road in Hiwassee. Upon arrival and further investigation, Steve Harper, 48, of Hiwassee, was arrested and charged with felony possession of marijuana and driving under the influence.

During the early morning hours of Friday, Sept. 4, deputies attempted a traffic stop on an Isuzu Rodeo on Georgia 75 North in Hiwassee. The driver — later identified as Calvin Stroud, 48, of Hiwassee —



Andrew Arndt



Jordan Campbell



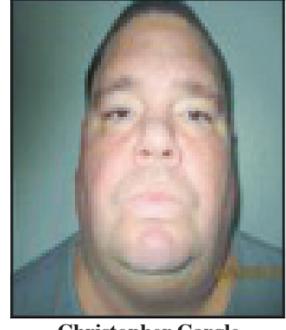
Jazmine Whitaker



Michelle Edwards



Calvin Stroud



Christopher Cargle

refused to stop and fled from officers into North Carolina.

Stroud wrecked the Rodeo in North Carolina and fled on foot. He was apprehended and booked into custody on Sunday, Sept. 6.

He has been charged with trafficking and possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, plus two counts possession of meth, possession of a Schedule IV narcotic, driving on a suspended license, fleeing and eluding an officer, reckless driving and failure to maintain lane.

A passenger in the Rodeo, Haley Rae Ann Akins, 22, of Maggie Valley, North Carolina, was wanted at press time on a warrant for meth possession. Anyone with information on Akins' whereabouts should call 911 or the Sheriff's Office at 706-896-4444. All information

will remain confidential.

The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the concerned citizens of Towns County who have supplied information in recent weeks that has assisted the department in taking illegal drugs off the streets and arresting those responsible for dealing drugs in the community.

Citizens with information pertaining to drug activity in their neighborhoods may call the Sheriff's Office to report it to investigators. Again, all information will remain confidential.

These above cases will be forwarded to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Hatchett...from Page 1A

Elections.

As previously reported, the local Elections Board Office discovered the extra votes during the state-mandated race recount Aug. 31, after a Dominion Voting Systems technician noticed the machines were not set to electronically adjudicate hand-filled provisional and absentee-by-mail ballots.

A Dominion tech assigned by the Secretary of State's Office attends each election to operate machines and maintain settings, and a press inquiry to the state went unanswered last week regarding the default equipment mode for active elections or the uses of lower sensitivity settings generally.

Electronic adjudication allows a hand-filled ballot with stray marks to be kicked out for manual adjudication by specially designated elections volunteers, who must decide

how a person meant to cast his or her vote based on the visible markings.

In the case of Hatchett's two additional votes, adjudicators determined that the ballots in question were clearly marked in his favor, yet the sensitivity setting of the machine made the ballots register "no votes" in the state senate race.

All 4,131 local ballots were accounted for in the recount, but the final result showed that, of the 3,652 Towns County votes cast in the state senate race — up by two with the different settings — Hall's total remained at 1,878 votes to Hatchett's updated 1,684 votes.

It remains unclear what implications the machine settings revelation could have statewide and beyond in races using Dominion equipment, though the Board Office said

no other "no votes" were discovered in the runoff election.

Early in-person voting for the November election will take place at the Towns County Board of Elections Office in Hiwassee during the three weeks prior to Election Day, which is Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Registered voters who will be at least 18 years of age by Election Day are eligible to vote during early voting, with Oct. 5 being the registration deadline for voters looking to participate in the Nov. 3 election.

On Election Day, voters should report to one of the three pre-assigned Towns County voting precincts: Hiwassee at the Civic Center; Young Harris at the Lodge Hall Building, aka Stephens Lodge; and Macedonia at Macedonia Baptist Church.