

Libraries...from Page 1A

trial run, followed by in-library use of the devices. Eventually, the launch pads will be cleared and ready for the public to check out at their leisure.

Also in the meeting, Mountain Regional Library System Training and Outreach Coordinator Dyana Castello Banks shared updates concerning current software used by the system, as well as new software that has recently become available to patrons.

Another important order of business was the recent partnership of Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services (GLASS) with Bookshare, an online library devoted to those with print disabilities.

"GLASS has started up their program with Bookshare, which will offer those eligible for GLASS access an additional collection of 450,000 e-books," said Banks. "For those GLASS patrons who are visually impaired, there will be a text to speech option.

"So, that increases the amount of reading material available, which is wonderful. If they do not currently have an account, patrons simply need to call GLASS to be given access



Quarterly board meetings for the library are a time to discuss budgets, books and ongoing projects. Photo/Lily Avery

to the program."

MRLS Director Vince Stone updated the board with current renovations on the new Mountain Regional Library facility. The budget for one aspect of the project has been slightly increased due to safety features involved with door locks and self-closing apparatuses. However, the costs were not substantial and were easily managed through other funds associated with the overall project.

As far as the official opening is concerned, the new facility is still set for an October move-in and reopening.

Towns County Library and Mountain Regional Library will be hosting a Library Staff Appreciation Day on Thursday, Sept. 22.

Patrons are invited to come to either location, any time throughout business hours, and say hello to their friendly public library staff.

Kuykendall...from Page 1A

seven or eight years before moving over to Blairsville. I believe that was in 1973. The shop was on the square in Blairsville and I stayed there about three years.

"Then I moved to a place across from Blairsville Restaurant and worked there for 10 years. After that, I moved to where I have The Hair Shoppe now in 1985, and I've been cutting hair there ever since."

Kuykendall opened his other shop, Chatuge Barber Shop, in Hiawassee in 2008.

With steady hands and a smile, Kuykendall offers his clients classic haircuts, most of which are done traditionally without the gear and gadgets that modern hair stylists use for precision.

From 1956 to now, he has cut close to 250,000 heads of hair, and to this day, a good old-fashioned flattop is still his favorite of them all.

The flattop, with its high square crown and slim cut sides, gained popularity in the 1950s. Since then, the infamous haircut has weaved in and out of style, but has always remained a staple in many barbershops across the country. According to Kuykendall, this love for the hairstyle was actually a contributing factor in becoming a barber so many years ago.

Throughout the years, Kuykendall has witnessed many changes, not only in hairstyles but also in the community. Born and raised in North Georgia, he has seen the area evolve – especially Blairsville – from one-horse towns to the ever-growing cities seen today.

"When I first came to Blairsville, there wasn't anything on the four-lane, there wasn't even a four-lane," said Kuykendall. "There wasn't a Wendy's, no bank, no Home Depot or post office. There was



nothing. Where the bank sits now there was a baseball field, a pretty good size one. I was up on the square at that time."

With the change of times, so came the change of prices. A man's haircut was only 75 cents when Kuykendall started his stretch in the business. Now, men can get a haircut from Kuykendall for \$12.

"I went up to a dollar around 1965," said Kuykendall. "Back when I only charged 75 cents, I could buy a Coca-Cola for only 5 cents. I remember when they first went up on prices and started charging 6 cents for a soda. Nobody liked to pay that because you'd have to put a nickel and a penny in the machine, which just seemed like hassle at the time."

While prices may fluctuate, at the end of the day it is not the prices that keep people coming back to Kuykendall's shops – a good barbershop would not be the same without the passing of stories, and Kuykendall has plenty to go around.

From former Gov. Zell Miller to music icon Ronnie

Milsap, Kuykendall has countless tales to tell about his many haircuts throughout the years, and he still revels in the laughs and company of locals, some of whom have been coming to him for decades.

One customer, Clifford Cearler, has been a client of Kuykendall's since 1965. Cearler lived in North Carolina at the time and would drive to Young Harris to Kuykendall's shop. Cearler has stayed with Kuykendall throughout the years, visiting the shop every other week, always ready for a good laugh and a walk down memory lane.

While most people find themselves retiring after 50 years on a job, Kuykendall is still going strong after 60 years in the business, and he does not see an end date any time soon.

"I like people, it's why I do what I do," said Kuykendall. "I have a lot of fun and I get to tell a lot of stories. That's the perk of this job, getting to spend time with people and talk and catch up. It doesn't get much better than that."

CASA...from Page 1A

are in foster care, meaning they've been taken out of their homes."

CASA volunteers typically handle an average of two cases that they will work on for at least two years. In the last year, CASA members have served 219 children from the area, and most of these children are under the age of 12.

Dancing with the North Georgia Stars will act as a fundraiser for Enotah CASA, with all proceeds going to help abused and neglected children within the four-county district. Those who wish to donate can become a sponsor for the event, purchase tickets for the event and Gala, or both.

The Towns/Union Dancing with the North Georgia Stars presenting sponsor is United Community Bank, which donated \$3,500 to the cause. Other sponsorships available for purchase are Silver Sponsor for \$500, Gold Sponsor for \$1,000 and the Gala Sponsor for \$2,000.



Brett Taylor and Bob Levy

Tickets for the event are \$25 for the show only, \$20 for only the Gala and \$40 for both. These tickets may be purchased from the dancers, at

the Towns County Chamber of Commerce or online at www.dancingwithnorthgeorgiastars.com.

The Dancing with the North Georgia Stars couples are as follows: Harry Steiner and Molly Brendle; Mary Lynn McKenzie and Roy Perren; Bob Levy and Brett Taylor; Pat Griffin and Ron Proto; Andrew Smith and Aly Sanchez; Dr. Claire Worthy and Kris Berrong; Lee Knight and Angela Thompson Puleo; Amy Harper and Kenan Olsen; Sam Hamby and Lynn Hayes; Jeff Davis and Martina Gibboney; and Renee Deibert and Rick Kmet.

Fire...from Page 1A

"This year, our big thing is to support the lake. We seem to have, not a whole lot of fires, but we've had more fires in the last year than we have in the last six years.

"For example, the fire just recently on Bell Street. Luckily, our firefighters were able to contain it and it didn't go anywhere, but it's still a pretty scary situation.

"We're trying to raise money to purchase a piece of equipment that will allow us to throw a large pump into the lake so we can use that water source rather than constantly having to go back and forth to the fire hydrant to fill up the trucks.

"I don't know if we could ever really fight a fire from the lake to the house because of distance, but we certainly can get a hose from the lake to the truck and the truck to the house."

The float pump that the fire department needs to be able to retrieve water from Lake Chatuge will cost from \$5,000 to \$8,000 depending on the bid.

In the last six years, the Towns County Fire Corps has been able to raise a total of \$200,000 for the fire department by way of the Annual Fundraising Drive, the Annual Fire in the Mountains Chili Cook-off and various smaller fundraising events throughout the year.

"We try to keep our



The Fire in the Mountains Chili Cook-off, one of many fundraising efforts of the Towns County Fire Corps, has been a big success in the past.

firefighters well equipped and well trained," said Ordiales. "Another thing we want to try and focus on is lake safety.

"We're trying to promote the lake because it's our biggest resource here. In order for us to really do that right, we need to make sure that the fire department has everything they need to be able to save anyone who's on the lake or has an accident on the lake."

A donation to the Fire Corps is tax deductible and comes with an honorary membership into the "Flame

Cemetery...from Page 1A

Macedonia and the City of Hiawassee.

To get to the cemetery, turn right (west) onto GA 288 (at Dollar General), travel just over a half mile, then turn right again onto Laurel Lane. Take Laurel Lane for approximately 200 yards, and the cemetery site is at the top of the hill, on the left.

"Most everybody in the room has family buried at Ivy Mount, and the majority of the people in the room had never even heard of it 10 years ago," Edwards said.

Parts of Brown's original property are now underwater since the creation of Lake Chatuge in the 1930s.

When Brown passed away in 1845 at the age of 45, he became the first person to be buried in Ivy Mount Cemetery. Brown's heirs would sell the property in 1856 to the Ivy Mount Mining Company for \$6,100.

"The Ivy Mount Mining Company was generally made up of doctors and lawyers from Mobile, Alabama, who wanted to mine copper ore out of Ivy Mountain," Edwards said. "One of them, Dr. George Ketchum, his brother was a preacher in Habersham County, so that's how they had the connection to (this area)."

Then in 1870, the mining company sold the land to William McConnell at the courthouse for the amount of \$400 due to the mining company's debt to McConnell, who owned a

business that provided supplies to the mines.

"They weren't able to get enough out of the ground to pay their debts, and at the time, one of the only stores in town belonged to William Ross McConnell," Edwards said. "He was the largest creditor to the (mining company), and they owed him for things like candles and dynamite."

After McConnell passed away, the cemetery belonged to the Berrong family.

During the 1890s, the cemetery received 22 new additions, the most of any decade. It also includes 17 U.S. Civil War veterans, though not all are Confederate soldiers. The cemetery is the final resting place to four Union soldiers.

"Ivy Mount is a really good snapshot of what was going on in Towns County at the time," Edwards said. "Most of the (Civil War soldiers) are Confederate, a few are northern, and a few that managed to waffle around and fight for both."

With more than 120 gravesites at the location, Ivy Mount Cemetery underwent a major facelift in 2012 to clean up the grounds from weeds and other vegetation that had crept in over the years. Now, thanks to many local volunteers, the cemetery is back as close to its original state as possible. What's even more remarkable is not a single gravestone was damaged during the landscaping and all the clearing of trees and limbs

Fighter Club," which is an extension of the Towns County Fire Corps.

Various levels of donations include a Bronze Sponsorship of \$50, a Silver Sponsorship of \$100, a Gold Sponsorship of \$200 and a Platinum Sponsorship of \$300. However, the Fire Corps will accept donations of any amount.

All Towns County residents should look for a donation flyer in the mail. Donations can be addressed to Towns County Fire Corps at P.O. Box 118 in Hiawassee.

that went into restoring Ivy Mount.

"One of the problems that we ran into were all of the rocks everywhere," Edwards said. "So Jerry (Taylor) and I decided to use them to build flower beds around the trees, just to spruce up the neighborhood."

In November, Ivy Mount Cemetery and the Towns County Chamber of Commerce will host a fundraising event called "A Grave Affair," in order to raise money for the upkeep of the cemetery.

In other business, it was announced that, thanks to the research of Herman Swanson, a sign will be placed on Fox Run Road near the intersection of GA 515 West, officially recognizing the name of the mountain as "Swanson Mountain."

Recently, the section of GA 515 West between the Highway 69 junction and the eastern City Limits of Young Harris has become known as "Young Harris Mountain."

The new sign, which will be placed during an unveiling ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 27, at 11 a.m., will hopefully clear up the confusion.

Also, it was announced that Buzz Tatham will speak at the September Historical Society Meeting regarding two of his ancestors that fought during the U.S. Civil War Battle of Chickamauga in 1863.

For more details on Ivy Mount, contact Edwards or Jerry Taylor at the "Historic Ivy Mount Cemetery" Facebook page. Currently, the Facebook page has close to 300 members.

BOE...from Page 1A

are Level 1: Beginning Learner, Level 2: Developing Learner, Level 3: Proficient Learner, and Level 4: Distinguished Learner.

According to Moss, Towns County third-grade social studies placed first in the state among learning Levels 2 and above, and was first in the Pioneer RESA District among Levels 3 and 4.

Along with Towns County, the Pioneer RESA District includes Banks County, Dawson County, Franklin County, Gainesville City, Habersham County, Hall County, Hart County, Lumpkin County, Mountain Education Center, Rabun County, Stephens County, Union County and White County.

Towns County Elementary was first in the district in both fourth- and fifth-grade English/language arts, fourth-grade social studies and fourth-grade science for Levels 2 and above.

For Levels 3 and 4, TCES was below the state average in third-grade English/language arts, third- and fourth-grade math, and third-grade science.

Moss also reported that the elementary school has a current enrollment of 441.

Towns County Middle School Principal Erica Chastain provided the Middle School Report and praised her staff while showing tremendous enthusiasm for the upcoming year.

"I've never been more excited about a school year," Chastain said. "Our enrollment is 234, so we're about the same. We had a great beginning to our school year. The parents and students are happy. All the schedule changes are complete, and we were done with them by the end of (the first two days), so everyone is where they need to be and ready to get started."

While reporting the middle school's Milestone Data, Chastain informed the board that sixth-grade social studies was first in the state for Levels 3 and 4, and in sixth-grade math in Levels 2 and above. Meanwhile, eighth-grade math for Levels 2 and above placed third in state.

Placing first in district for Levels 2 and above was both seventh- and eighth-grade English/language arts, sixth-grade social studies and eighth-grade social studies.

First in district for Levels 3 and 4 was eighth-grade English/language arts and eighth-grade social studies.

The only TCMS score to finish below the state average was sixth-grade English/language arts for Levels 3 and 4.

During TCHS Principal Dr. Connie Hobbs' report, she told the board that attendance was up from 328 at the end of last year to 350 currently.

"We had a very smooth first two days of school," Dr. Hobbs said. "This is just my second year, but I've actually slept this week. I think it's been an awesome beginning of school. Everything ran smooth, the schedules are set, students are in their assigned parking, and the teachers are teaching.

"Sports have started, and of course, last Friday (Aug. 5) we went over to Washington Wilkes and had a scrimmage football game, and it was just a pleasure to hear parents saying nothing but positive things about our team and our coaches. It was a great night, and everybody went away feeling good."

During the Milestones Data, Dr. Hobbs reported that the high school is third in state in economics, second in district in U.S. history, and third in district in ninth-grade literature

for Levels 2 and above.

For Levels 3 and 4, TCHS was second in district in both ninth-grade and 11th-grade literature, but below the state average in biology and physical science.

During Dr. Berrong's superintendent's report, he opened by touching on the test scores that were presented by the three principals.

"Those elementary scores that we saw are the best that we've seen since I've been here," he said. "That school is getting it together, and I can see the wheels starting to move. The middle school scores are tremendous. The high school scores, we knew the issues going in and we have new science and math teachers in place. So I'm really excited as a system for where our student achievement is about to go."

Dr. Berrong was pleased to report that the school year has gotten off to a great start, and he attributed the smooth start to all of the administrators returning from last year.

Finally, Dr. Berrong reported that an Asbestos Management Notification has been posted to the school website.

"That is something we have to do every year," he said. "We don't have any asbestos in our building, but you have to have a management plan to show the public, in case you do have it."

In other business, the board unanimously approved the transfer of two students from Clay County, NC. They also unanimously approved Robert Benson as assistant middle school softball coach, Matthew Locke was unanimously approved for a 12-month custodial position, and William Watson was unanimously approved for the position of full-time bus driver.