

Blairsville man wanted for sex-related crimes

From Staff Reports
Towns County Herald

BLAIRSVILLE – Jason Wayne O’Neal, 32, of Blairsville, is wanted for child molestation and sexual battery on a 12-year-old girl, according to a release from the neighboring Union County Sheriff’s Office.

He disappeared on Monday, Sept. 5, after authorities discovered the alleged crime, according to the release.

O’Neal’s last known

address is 168 Red Oak Lane in Blairsville, and he may be hanging out with Christopher Clay Breeden of 934 Ellisa Payne Circle, according to the release.

He is white, 6 feet tall and weighs 155 pounds, according to the release.

To report tips concerning O’Neal and his possible whereabouts, the Union County Sheriff’s Office asks that concerned residents call the non-emergency number at (706) 439-6038.



Jason Wayne O’Neal

Market...from Page 1A

said Rose. “They’re decorative tissue boxes, brand new boxes included. It’s a little something we do to keep busy because, if we didn’t do this, I don’t know what we would do.

“I don’t know about my kids, but when I start a project, I get really excited. By the time I start to get near the end, that’s when I get excited to see how it’s going to turn out and to see the finished product.

“My favorite project so far has been this scarecrow that I recently made. I liked him so much that I don’t know if I’m going to sell him or keep him for myself, which I think I’m going to do. When I was working on him, I kept thinking about how much I couldn’t wait to finish so I could really see how he was going to turn out. This is my own design. They all are designed by us. Seeing the finished project and how everything turns out is awesome.

“If it don’t pass mamma’s eyes, then it don’t go out. It has to pass my test.”

Rose has been cross-stitching for over 30 years now, and she taught her children the family trade back in 2009. While the trio offers oodles of ready-to-take-home boxes, they do accept and welcome requests for special designs.

“Something simple usually takes us a week to finish, but on other larger projects, like the helmet ones, that can take us around two weeks,” said Rose. “The scarecrow took me about a week and a half, it just really depends on the project.

“You know, you’ll work



Handmade and homegrown – that’s the name of the game at the Towns County Farmers Market.

on a project for about three or four hours, then you start to make mistakes, so you put it away. But next thing you know, you think ‘boy, I’m bored,’ so you get it back out for a few more hours. Before you know it, it’s done.

“When people say, ‘oh my gosh, that’s the nicest thing,’ it really does makes you feel good.”

Craig Pietz, owner of Nora’s Gardens, frequents the Towns County Farmers Market every Saturday, offering market-goers the best of his organic vegetables, homemade jams and jellies, fresh honey, plants and handmade log art.

“I just do what makes me happy,” said Pietz. “My favorite of everything is definitely the log art. I love going out stump hunting to find pieces to make art out of.”

Pietz has been producing his log-inspired creations for a little over three years now.

Before he delved into the world of organic farming and art, Pietz worked at Volvo for 17 years. While he still tries his hand at mechanics from time to time, his heart remains with the small farm he’s come to depend on over the past few years.

“I gave up all the mechanic stuff that I could,” said Pietz. “I do all this stuff because it makes me happy, and I couldn’t think of a better way to spend my time. I want to share what I’ve grown and what I create.

“I hope people can appreciate what I have to offer them, but at the end of the day, it’s about getting out and doing something that you love.”

The Towns County Farmers Market is located directly across from the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, just before crossing the bridge into Hiawassee.

Langley...from Page 1A

– Towns County, White County, Lumpkin County and Union County.

“In the past year and a half we have closed, which means we have begun a criminal case and closed a criminal case, over 29,000 cases,” said DA Langley. “I look forward to presenting close to 17 cases in front of the Towns County Grand Jury this morning.

“Towns County right now, looking at the numbers, has about 14 percent of my caseload. White County has 36 percent, Union 26 and Lumpkin 24. That’s what me and my staff work on every day.”

Not including DA Langley, his office consists of 11 attorneys to cover the large expanse of cases. According to Langley, it keeps everyone in the office very busy and is not a job to take lightly.

“I really encourage people to enter prosecution as a profession rather than a place to simply learn to try cases,” said DA Langley. “From there, people can then go into private practice.

“In my line of work, I have to make some tough decisions. It’s not uncommon to make people angry.”

DA Langley offered complete transparency, as much as legally possible, with those in attendance, telling his constituents he wishes them to feel comfortable reaching out to him and his office.

Of the many questions asked of DA Langley, most revolved around the code of ethics within any court case throughout his region and how he handles that on a daily basis.

“That’s what we do, we deal with ethics problems constantly in my office, in terms of when ethics problems cross over into the criminal realm,” said DA Langley. “Now, my job is not the moral enforcer. I can’t enforce ethics generally.

“However, when there are ethical violations that effect the Georgia law, then my office becomes involved.”

DA Langley proceeded to give numerous examples of ethical issues he has dealt with personally before wrapping up his time with the Movers and Shakers.

Switching beats, Movers and Shakers 2016 Contest finalists Emma Kate Ledford and Kendall Floyd offered



Kendall Floyd and Emma Kate Ledford with Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong. These students delivered speeches in the weekly meeting.

samples of their winning speeches to those present.

At the contest, Floyd was awarded second place for his speech concerning 2016 Republican Presidential Nominee Donald Trump’s rising popularity. According to Floyd, Trump holds high favor not because of his political standings, but because of his spotlight in the media, among other things.

“There are three main reasons why Mr. Trump was able to secure the nomination,” said Floyd. “In short, they were his competition, the media and the rigged system he complained about during his primary bid.”

Floyd went on to explain why all 16 Republican candidates running against Trump never stood a chance against his campaign. According to Floyd, each candidate had faulty campaigns due to a poor public reputation, lack of financial stability or simply because that candidate never caught the eye of the media.

“When Mr. Trump first announced his candidacy, he said some controversial things,” said Floyd. “Fox News, MSNBC and CNN were blasting him for everything that came out of his mouth. ‘What they failed to realize, and are still failing to realize, is that every time he said something and they talked about it for the entire news cycle, he drowned all the other candidates out.’

According to Floyd, this only set Trump up for success and will continue to assist Trump in his race to the finish line to be the next President of the United States.

Ledford, 2016 Speech Contest grand prize winner,

shared her speech that speculated the validity of Appalachia folklore. From the world renown legend of Big Foot to the local mystical legend of the Cherokee Moon-Eyed people, Ledford led the crowd on a journey of make believe and faith.

“A very common legend is that of Big Foot,” said Ledford. “If you don’t know who he is, he’s this large, hairy, humanoid creature that’s known for his ginormous feet.

“Most people don’t believe he exists, but there are a few firm believers out there that have gone as far as to dedicate their lives to find him.”

According to Ledford, while there are no physical records of the beast existing, there are over 78 sighting and alleged video recording of Big Foot nationwide. There is enough belief in the creature locally that a well-known television show traveled to Helen in search of the legendary myth.

“The last story I’m going to tell you takes place here in Hiawassee,” said Ledford. “This story is that of the Moon-Eyed People.”

Ledford went on to explain the importance of the Moon-Eyed People in Cherokee legend, and how it is said they are responsible for the 80-foot stone wall that can be found at Fort Mountain State Park.

“Many believe the art of storytelling is beginning to die,” said Ledford. “I believe it is our job to let these stories live on by continuing to tell them.”

Constitution...from Page 1A

commemorates America’s most important document, is one of our country’s least known official observances,” said Old Unicoi Trail Chapter Regent Annette Hopgood. “It is an excellent time for adults and young people to learn more about their nation’s Constitution – the basis for our government.

“Schools are charged to observe this week each year. Our focus this year has been to get a pocket copy of the U.S. Constitution into the hands of each 10th grader in Union, Towns and Fannin counties.”

According to the DAR website, Constitution Week was first initiated by the DAR in 1955 as a way to bring awareness to one of the most important documents in the nation’s history.

The organization initially petitioned Congress for the recognition before receiving official acknowledgment a year later. However, even before this nationally accepted celebration, the DAR was already paying homage to the nation’s oldest active document.

In 1928, according to the DAR website, the Daughters teamed up with John Russell Pope, the architect for the Jefferson Memorial, to design what is now known as the DAR Constitution Hall.

As of today, that structure is still the only building established to commemorate the U.S. Constitution.

“The Daughters of the American Revolution celebrate Constitution Week for many reasons,” said Hopgood. “Firstly, to emphasize citizens’ responsibilities for protecting and defending the U.S. Constitution, preserving it for posterity.

“Secondly, to inform the people that the U.S. Constitution is the basis for America’s great heritage and the foundation for our way of life.

“Finally, to encourage the study of the historical events which led to the framing of the U.S. Constitution in September 1787. The latter is the reason that our chapter focuses on our local schools. Information will also be

available at most public libraries.”

The United States Congress officially adopted the observance of Constitution Week in 1956, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the recognition into public law on Aug. 2, 1956.

“The Daughters of the American Revolution promotes Constitution Week every year for various purposes,” said DAR member Wanda Gibson. “We do this to encourage patriotism, loyalty to our country and for people in the community to know what their rights are, according to the Constitution.

“We focus a lot of efforts towards various schools and offer scholarships to students within the school systems of Union, Towns and Fannin Counties.

“We try to make people aware in each county by going and doing programs in the fourth grades and the 10th grades.”

Gibson, along with two other DAR Constitution Week committee members, Evelyn

Lamar and Sarah Partain, visited Towns County Schools on Thursday, Sept. 8, to share pamphlets, fliers and more to local school students.

According to Gibson, the materials given to all students prior to Constitution Week is something that will be useful to them for the rest of their lives.

“It’s important for these children to know the history of their country,” said Gibson. “While they may know what the Constitution is, many aren’t aware of what it actually says. This information is going to be things they need to know as they grow older.”

The Chapter Treasurer, Sandra Harbuck of Blairsville, donated funding for this year’s materials to be distributed to local schools for Constitution Week.

Information on Constitution Week can also be found at Towns County Public Library, where the DAR has set up an educational booth near the front entrance.

Enter now for Lions Club annual Peace Poster Contest

Annual Peace Poster Contest sponsored by Lions Clubs International and sponsored locally by Towns County Lions Club & ArtWorks: Celebration of Peace: Express what peace with others means to you.

Who can enter? Students age 11-13 years with birthdays between November 16, 2003 and November 15, 2005.

What is the poster theme? “A Celebration of Peace” – Express what peace with others means to you.

Are there awards? Local winner awarded art supplies at reception held at ArtWorks Gallery & Gifts on October 22. Towns County Lions Club will then forward winning poster to district level. Subsequent judging is held at the district, multiple districts and international levels. One international grand prize winner receives \$5,000 and a trip to a special award ceremony. Twenty-three international merit winners receive \$500 each. International winners notified on or before February 1, 2017. Go to members.lionsclubs.org/EN/serve/

contests/peace-poster-contest/ppc-grand-prize-winners.php to see winning posters.

How are posters judged? Posters are evaluated at each level of judging on originality, artistic merit and expression of the theme.

How do I register? Submit your poster to ArtWorks at 232B Chatuge Way, Hiawasse, GA.

When is the deadline? October 14, 2016.

What about poster supplies? ArtWorks will supply all materials for students who would like to do their work at our gallery. An art instructor will be there to offer guidance. ArtWorks will offer 4 different times you may come. The dates are as follows: September 15 (3 - 5 p.m.), September 17 (10 a.m. - 12 p.m.), September 24 (12 - 2 p.m.), October 1 (1 - 3 p.m.)

Poster requirements: Entry must be original work of only one student. Only one entry per student. Poster must be no smaller than 13 x 20 inches and no larger than 20 x 24 inches. Do not mat or frame poster. No lettering or number-

ing on front of poster. Nothing may be glued, stapled or attached to poster. Sign or initial back of poster. All media accepted but artwork should be done on a flexible material, so it can be rolled for shipping in a mailing tube. Do not fold poster.

Other requirements: Must have written consent of parent or legal guardian. Sign consent form when you submit poster to ArtWorks at 232B Chatuge Way, Hiawasse, GA by October 14. TSep14,F2JSH

Mountain Home Music Show

This Saturday night, September 17, Dean English with The Fox Fire Boys, along with Southern Highland Band from Clayton, GA, will be appearing. The show starts at 8 PM. Come join us for some really good music!

Mountain Home Music Theater is located 2-1/2 miles west of Hiawasse on Hwy. 76. Look for the red building. For info call 706-896-3624. NTSep14,A1JSH