

Arrests...from Page 1A

Investigators also recovered several items during the execution of the search warrant that had been reported stolen in a previous reported

burglary in the Towns County area.

The investigation is active and ongoing, and additional charges are likely.

The 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.

Voting...from Page 1A

Bailey. For Commissioner of Agriculture, Republican Incumbent Gary Black and Democrat Fred Swann.

For Commissioner of Insurance, Republican Jim Beck, Democrat Janice Laws and Libertarian Donnie Foster. For State School Superintendent, Republican Incumbent Richard Woods and Democrat Otha E. Thornton Jr.

For Commissioner of Labor, Republican Incumbent Mark Butler and Democrat Richard Keatley.

For Public Service Commissioner District 3, Republican Incumbent Chuck Eaton, Democrat Lindy Miller and Libertarian Ryan Graham.

For Public Service Commissioner District 5, Republican Incumbent Tricia Pridemore, Democrat Dawn A. Randolph and Libertarian John Turpish.

For U.S. Representative in 116th Congress from the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, Republican Incumbent Doug Collins and Democrat Josh McCall.

For State Senator from the 50th District, Republican Incumbent John Wilkinson is

running unopposed.

For State Representative in the General Assembly from the 8th District, Republican Incumbent Matt Gurtler is running unopposed.

For District Attorney of the Enotah Judicial Circuit, Republican Incumbent Jeff Langley is running unopposed.

For Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, no one is running.

A pair of alcohol referendums will appear on the Nov. 6 General Election Ballot as well, one for all Towns County voters and another for Hiwassee residents only.

All Towns County registered voters will get a chance to vote for or against on-premises sales of liquor by the drink.

If voters approve the measure, the establishment of liquor licenses will be regulated by county ordinance, which will determine the hours and other parameters of liquor by the drink sales, excluding Sunday sales altogether.

As for the Hiwassee-specific alcohol referendum, all registered Hiwassee voters will be able to vote on a measure

that would move the start time of alcohol sales by the drink from 12:30 p.m. to 11 a.m. on Sundays.

Also on the ballot are five Proposed Constitutional Amendments, including: the creation of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund to protect water quality, wildlife habitats and parks; the creation of a statewide business court to lower costs, enhance efficiency and promote predictable judicial outcomes; the encouragement of the conservation, sustainability and longevity of Georgia's working forests through tax sub-classification and grants; the provision of rights for victims of crime in the judicial process; and the authorization of fair allocation of sales tax proceeds to county and city school districts.

Further, there will be two Proposed Statewide Referenda on the ballot, one providing for a homestead exemption for residents of certain municipal corporations, and another providing a tax exemption for certain homes for the mentally disabled.

Of course, voters will want to more fully familiarize themselves with the language of the amendments and referenda before voting.

Grand Jury...from Page 1A

Teresa Anne Colwell, two counts tampering with evidence; theft of lost or mislaid property.

Ryan Fletcher Turbyfill, two counts fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; reckless driving; improper lane change; improper use of central lane; driving on wrong side of roadway; failure to maintain lane; taillight violation; improper tires.

Joseph Carson Loog, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute; possession of methamphetamine;

possession of firearm during commission of a felony; possession of marijuana, less than an ounce; possession of drug-related objects; giving false information to a law enforcement officer; driving while license suspended; no proof of insurance; failure to wear a seat safety belt; possession of firearm by convicted felon.

Travis Justin Kelley, unlawful acts of violence in a penal institution; simple battery.

Brian William Whitney, five counts possession of firearm by convicted felon;

driving while disqualified; no proof of insurance.

Dylan Joseph Maiani-Taglione, two counts aggravated battery; aggravated assault; battery; two counts simple assault.

Aaron Dale Patterson, two counts entering automobile; two counts criminal attempt to commit a felony; criminal damage to property in the second degree.

Jeffery Everett Arrowood, three counts aggravated assault; two counts battery.

Trial...from Page 1A

The operation is cited as being an initiative "combining our efforts (criminal, civil, and educational) with those of our law enforcement partners to create one unified front in the battle against the opioid/heroin epidemic. One important aspect of Operation SCOPE is to prosecute those who are illegally prescribing, or distributing, painkillers."

The Drug Enforcement Agency has been involved in the multi-state investigation of the case, with assistance from the Union County Sheriff's

Office, Cherokee County (North Carolina) Sheriff's Office, Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency, and Zell Miller Mountain Parkway Drug Task Force.

As previously reported, Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley's office presented evidence last year for the local indictment of Mike Gowder, Dr. David Gowder and Dr. James Heaton, and the district attorney has been in contact with U.S. Attorney Pak.

"We're going to work

closely with the federal prosecutors as they work their case and we work our cases," said Langley in April. "They are not mutually exclusive. Both cases can be prosecuted. But certainly, we're going to coordinate our work with the federal prosecutors."

Both Gowders and Heaton were arrested in Union County on Feb. 4, 2016, following an extensive investigation by the Union County Sheriff's Office that originated after David Gowder was arrested in Fannin County on April 1, 2015, for allegedly attempting to fill fraudulent prescriptions, according to authorities.

Honaker, Creel talk Drug Court, PTSD at Movers and Shakers

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

HIWASSEE – The Mountain Movers and Shakers hosted Barbara Honaker and Brandy Creel at the Sundance Grill on Friday, Oct. 12.

Honaker is the court coordinator for the North Enotah Drug Court of Towns and Union counties, and Creel is a 20-year U.S. Air Force veteran who is involved with a veterans suicide prevention initiative in Towns County.

Creel first talked about post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, and how it's not something suffered exclusively by combat soldiers.

It pertains also to domestic violence, school shootings, bullying, child abuse, substance abuse, family suicide, jail sentencing, death and even catastrophic weather events, she said.

Switching gears, Creel noted that "emotional health challenges affect various demographics." Emotional health is something everyone deals with, and, like PTSD, the emotionally unhealthy are not limited to just one group.

"People also need to realize that our emotional health is just as important as our physical health, and together, we can change the attitude, the mindset, and discuss the five signs," she said.

The five signs of emotional distress are: noticeable personality change, elevated/prolonged anger or anxiety, withdrawal, poor self-care and a sense of hopelessness.

Creel gave several ex-



Brandy Creel speaking to the Movers and Shakers on Oct. 12. Photo by Mark Smith

amples of life events that can trigger emotional distress, and she advised those who are experiencing such difficulties to seek help or advice from friends or family. And if that doesn't work, she said, seek professional help.

That goes for friends and family as well, said Creel. If someone close is noticeably different in any of the above-mentioned ways, it may be a signal of some extreme underlying distress that, if left unaddressed, could lead to violence or worse.

Honaker then took the floor, and she touched on the recent swearing in of Judge Joy Parks by Gov. Nathan Deal on Aug. 14 as a Superior Court judge of the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

"She is a strong judge," said Honaker. "She has a heart for drug court. You have to have heart for what we do."

"We are adult felony drug court. That means the participants that come into our program do have felony charges and, more than likely ... have several felonies from the past. They've not been the ideal citizens in the community."

"But now, they have decided that their lifestyle is definitely not where their future needs to be. Most of them have lost everything in their lives – everything. A lot of bridges have been burned by the time they get to me."

"And so, I actually work with these people. I'm like the principal of the school. I make sure they're following the rules, and if they don't, they

know it."

Drug court in Georgia is offered selectively to offenders as an alternative to doing hard time in prison.

"We are a recovery program, drug treatment program, but we do much more than treat for drugs," she said. "One of the things we are very careful of is who we actually bring into drug court."

Honaker said that most of the people she sees in drug court are "PTSD numbers," meaning they want to "numb up" because of a tragedy or trauma.

"We treat their whole health," said Honaker. "We treat their mental health, which is very parallel to their drug addiction. We treat their nutrition ... We also teach personal finance. We teach parenting classes. We teach cognitive behavioral intervention, which is how you think."

Honaker went on to describe numerous rules and restrictions that the offenders must abide by to complete the program, where failure means a return to prison.

She also described many of the alternatives to drug use that drug court teaches and encourages offenders to embrace.

"And that's our goal, really, is to make them productive citizens," Honaker said.

Time ran short for Honaker's presentation, with a great deal of interest generated and questions asked. She accepted a cordial invitation to return soon to a future Movers and Shakers breakfast.



Barbara Honaker at the Mountain Movers and Shakers meeting on Friday, Oct. 12. Photo by Mark Smith

Hiwassee Park ventures back in time to Yesteryear



Friends and family enjoyed the presentations.

On September 20th, residents and guests at Hiwassee Park Senior Living Community traveled back in time for a celebration of "Yesteryear." The community's clubhouse was filled with memories as neighbors and friends gathered to tell and re-live stories from their pasts. The event was the brainchild of Hiwassee Park

residents Virginia Burch and Eileen Oberzut, who spent weeks talking, planning, and researching ideas, finding that their excitement spurred one creative thought after another.

Authentic period clothing was worn by hostesses Burch and Oberzut and set a welcoming tone for the afternoon, while Hiwassee Park's

large meeting room was transformed into a cozy Southern living room filled with antiques, family photographs, handmade quilts, and pillows.

Mrs. Burch exhibited a love letter written by one of her uncles in 1914 as he courted his "intended." Mrs. Oberzut read an original letter written in 1864 by her great-great Aunt Sally, age 21 at the time, as she watched Union troops plunder her house and farmland in Hinesville, GA.

Following Southern custom, no guest left hungry, as tables were laden with tasty treats. Community friends who attended were Linda Melancon, Hayesville; John and Helen Hanzel, Young Harris; Mike Deroche, Clayton; and authors Janie Moore, Hayesville and Atlanta; Carl Moore, Hayesville; Bass Hyatt, Brasstown; and Bob Rogers, Hayesville.

Hiwassee Park neighbors helped prepare for the occasion by preparing food, Malinda Gray; room set-up, Ed Oberzut; and telling their stories: John Avery, Kay Bailey, Katie Gilbert, Cy Gray, and Bruce Savage.

Cancer Survivors to walk Fashion Runway Saturday



The Union County Relay For Life Event Leadership Team has worked hard to prep for the 2nd Annual Cancer Survivors Fashion Show coming up this Saturday, October 20th. Under the leadership of Fashion Show Chair Diane Shillcut the dedicated group of volunteers are ready to showcase cancer survivors as they take to the fashion runway at the Haralson Memorial Civic Center on Wellborn St. in downtown Blairsville at 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Included in the evening event will be fashions from Sharon's of downtown Blairsville introduced by Master of Ceremonies Rick Siefkin, Budget Blinds of Blairsville. Entertainments will be fea-

tures several times during the evening provided by Mike Bryant.

Food will be provided by Chik-fil-A of Blairsville and our volunteers. A beautiful custom designed cake saluting our survivors will be provided by Melissa's Custom Cakes of Blairsville. Decorations for the serving and dining tables will make the Civic Center a real show place.

Volunteers including Mary Ann Lockaby have also been gathering donations for door prizes and raffles that will be a fun part of the evening's celebration of cancer survivorship. Volunteer Sue Upchurch will be working the crowd for our 50/50 raffle as well that evening.

"Each of our Event Leadership Team members including Diane Shillcut, Mary Ann Lockaby, and Vee Laffoon have their own special reasons for being active in this fight to end all cancers," stated Allyson McGraw. "One of the best benefits of working with such dedicated volunteers is learning the stories behind

their dedication to honor our survivors and to help fund the research and education efforts that lessen the burden of cancer in our communities," she added.

Tickets (\$10 each) will be available at the door that evening or you may contact Mia Crowe to reserve your tickets prior to Saturday evening. Contact Mia at 706-897-4519.

UDC Smith's Legion #2699

United Daughters of the Confederacy Smith's Legion #2699 meet the 4th Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. at G and G Restaurant on Highway 515 in Blairsville, GA.

Hope House

Hope House is a faith-based, non-profit benevolence center to help Union County residents and homeless in times of critical need. Hours of operation: Monday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & Thursday 1 p.m.-4 p.m., located at 178 Brackett's Way, Blairsville, (706)781-3090.