

Library...from Page 1A



structure, the library has seen a complete makeover that Mountain Regional Library System Director Vince Stone is sure will make the experience more enjoyable for visitors.

"This new building is going to be more functional, not only for the patrons, but for the employees as well," said Stone. "We hope that now that we have a beautiful, new environment for people to come in and relax, study, entertain, inform - all the things that libraries do, we're hoping that more people will start flowing into this facility because of what we've been able to do."

Dozens of county officials, past and present library employees and members of the community joined together to take a look at the new space, reveling in the beauty of the construction and modern touches of the revamped building, constructed by Winkler & Winkler Inc.

According to Stone, the idea to renovate both Towns County libraries preceded his time as MRLS director, with former director Donna Howell. After many conversations with Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, a SPLOST allotment of \$100,000 was granted to the library for the renovations of the Young Harris library.

Though the allocation was generous, the library system would need a larger budget for the restorations, leading to an application through the Georgia Public Library Service that would result in a \$900,000 matching grant for a total \$1 million budget for the project.

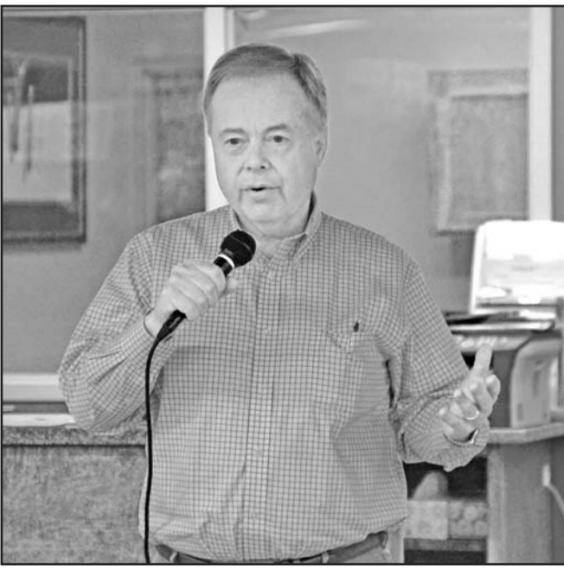
"That was helped by Sen. (John) Wilkinson and Rep. (Stephen) Allison, and also Speaker (David) Ralston," said Stone. "Once that was done, we started thinking about what it was we wanted to do. This building was constructed in 1978 and, with that, we had some issues.

"The only thing we really kept was the stone, the outside walls, the frame, the roof, some of the wiring and some of the plumbing. Everything else was gone. Then, we had to meet and decide what we were going to do. We thought, well, this is our chance to fix a lot of things that you can't just fix with a library full of books."

Housing 55,000 titles, Mountain Regional Library is now more than just a space to grab a book and go, but a comforting oasis of art, education and community. Quilts donated from the Misty Mountain Quilters Guild and the John C. Campbell Folk



The new and improved interior of the Mountain Regional Library features a dedicated children's area.



State Sen. John Wilkinson spoke about the process of finding funding for the \$1 million renovation.

School line the atrium in the building, mirrored by Appalachian-heritage artwork on the walls of the rooms.

New technology found its way into the renovation plans, with electrical outlets to accompany patron study desks and boosted site-wide Wi-Fi for high-speed internet access both inside and outside the facility.

The revamped children's room features inviting paintings, bright colors and a reading and performance space for programs and activities throughout the year.

In addition to the improvements to the library space, a portion of the building was sectioned off to create a state-of-the-art community room, featuring presentation equipment and club meeting opportunities.

This area will also

house the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County Used Bookstore, so patrons can browse and enjoy the store comfortably.

"Looking around here this morning, this is one of the big reasons why I do what I do," said Sen. Wilkinson. "I don't want to take too much credit for this because it couldn't have happened without Commissioner Kendall and without the people in Towns County, the Friends of the Library and the leadership here.

"It took everybody working together, and that's why you can make things like this happen in a small community. I think this is a great day in Towns County."

Mountain Regional Library officially opened its doors to the public on Monday, Nov. 7, at 9 a.m.

Allison...from Page 1A

into the Georgia House of Representatives and subsequent re-election would not have been possible without the support of the people in Towns County, residents of which he addressed Friday.

He continued to thank those who have voted for him and continuously supported him throughout his political career.

"In all sincerity, I owe a lot of thanks to a lot of people in this room," said Rep. Allison. "It's impossible to tell you how much all of you mean to me."

In particular, Rep. Allison recounted his expectations of holding a public office after his first election versus the reality of what his new job meant. He said that, going to the capitol for the first time, he thought that his position would be solely based on putting his constituents' needs above his own, leading to "changing the world."

"My job was to be the voice of the collective people I represented," said Rep. Allison. "When they are split, I have to make a decision based on a set of values I told you I was going to have.

"Oftentimes I get frustrated with people who say this is a Democracy. This is a Constitutional Republic. We have been set up that way since the Constitutional Convention in 1787. We elect people who make the decisions for us."

Throughout his eight years holding a political office, Rep. Allison has voted 500 times, something he says speaks to his idea that the government is indeed a Constitutional Republic. If it were not, according to Rep.

Allison, then residents would be the ones answering 500 questions to vote on various ballots.

"A republic is an exercise in faith," said Rep. Allison. "If there is one thing that you remember here, please remember that. You have to vote on what people are telling you, and then you have to hold them accountable.

"My dad used to tell me, you don't know what's inside the teabag until the hot water hits it. You can't see what they're made of. You don't know if they're going to stand. You don't know what they are going to do.

"The unfortunate thing is, pressure doesn't always bring out the best in us, sometimes it brings out the worst. This job was full of pressure."

Rep. Allison continued to say that while the pressure could be intimidating, he always felt it was his duty not to impress those in Atlanta, but the people who voted for him.

Without those votes, he said, his job would not be possible, and it is for the betterment of such people that he continued to hold true to his beliefs.

"We all have to have a set of values and principals we are willing to go home over," said Rep. Allison. "If you're not willing to go home over what's right, then what are you doing in public service?"

Furthermore, Rep. Allison encouraged those in attendance to hold incoming District 8 State Rep. Matt Gurtler accountable, and to make certain that he upholds the



Collin Zuber

values and morals of those who live within District 8.

In closing, Rep. Allison shared his deepest gratitude to those who allowed him to serve as a state official and to those who trusted him to make decisions on their behalf.

"Thank you very much for everything over these last eight years," said Rep. Allison. "My family and I deeply appreciate it."

Also at the meeting, Towns County student Collin Zuber presented his speech on snakes, sharing with those in attendance what to do and not to do when confronting a snake and how to care for snakebites.

Zuber is a participant of the Mountain Movers and Shakers Speech Competition, and is excited to continue his career in the realm of public speaking.

Veterans...from Page 1A

County and her residents wish to take the time to pay tribute to Towns County soldiers, both past and present, on Friday, Nov. 11, at the Towns County Veterans Memorial Park. Hosted by area veterans groups, the ceremony will begin at 11 a.m.

All veterans, active duty military, families of those who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces and anyone in the community who wishes to participate in the event to honor America and her brave are welcome to attend.

While the intent of the ceremony is to give recognition to those courageous military men and women, it will also serve as a memorial and dedication for Towns County veterans and the wars in which those veterans have fought.

Many new names of deceased loved ones have been added to the Veterans Memorial Wall at the park and will be honored during the event.

In addition to the Veterans Memorial Wall, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall will be dedicating four new monuments to be added to the park. These monuments will honor the Revolutionary War, the War Between the States, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Each of the four monuments is to be inscribed with the wartime dates and a personalized message on each stone in honor of the valiant men and women who fought during those tumultuous times.

Commissioner Kendall will also be dedicating individual flags specified for the five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces: Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Air Force.



Towns County has a long and celebrated history of recognizing its veterans. This is a picture from the Veterans Day ceremony of 2013.

To coincide with the newest renovations to the memorial park, these flags will be raised during the ceremony, along with a POW/MIA counterpart in honor of those who have fallen to the terrors of war, those who never returned home and those who will never be forgotten.

Serving as the keynote speaker for the event will be Col. Charles A. Cunningham, USAF (Ret.). Cunningham first received his education in Aerospace Operations Management from the University of Southern California, and went on to graduate from Squadron Officers School and Air Command Staff College.

From there, Cunningham spent 22 years in the Air Force as a contract negotiator, awarding contracts throughout the Far East.

Later, he was stationed in Ohio at the Headquarters Air Force Logistics Command at the Wright-Patterson Air

Force Base.

Cunningham continued his career with the USAF, working diligently to achieve the title of Executive Officer at the Pentagon, later returning to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, working in classified programs for the Department of Defense.

Finally, Cunningham retired from the Air Force in 1990, and now he resides in Murphy, North Carolina, with his wife.

Daughters of the American Revolution Old Unicoi Trail Chapter 3117 GA will also be participating in the ceremony, donning 18th century period clothing as they continue to preserve the history and traditions of this great nation.

During the ceremony, there will be an enforced speed limit on GA 515 of 15 mph to reduce noise and maintain the respectful nature of the event.

Hiawassee Police Dept arrests 7 more for Felony Drug Charges

October was another busy month for the Hiawassee Police Department. Seven more suspects were arrested for felony drug charges in a continued drug interdiction effort in Hiawassee. The drugs were located as a result of traffic stops and during the execution of an arrest warrant.

The following were arrested and are presumed innocent until proven guilty:

Kimberly Garrett (40) Hiawassee, GA: Possession of Ounce or Less of Marijuana, Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Drug Related Objects

Marion Woodward (39) Hiawassee, GA: Possession of Ounce or Less of Marijuana, Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Drug Related Objects

Charles Bryant (45) Hiawassee, GA: Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Related Object, Possession of Controlled Substance, Drugs to be Kept in Original Container

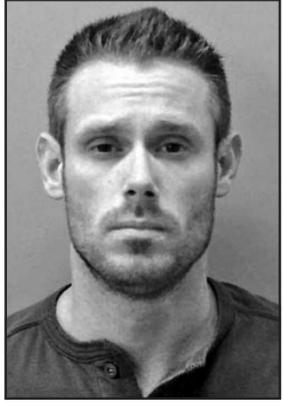
Albert Shelton (53)

Hiawassee, GA: Possession of methamphetamine, Possession of Controlled Substance (x2), Possession of Drug Related Object, Drugs to be Kept in Original Container (x2)

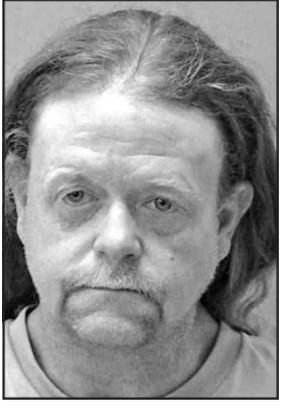
Travis Kelley (28) Dickinson, ND: Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Related Object

Andrew Arndt (31) Young Harris, GA: Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Related Object

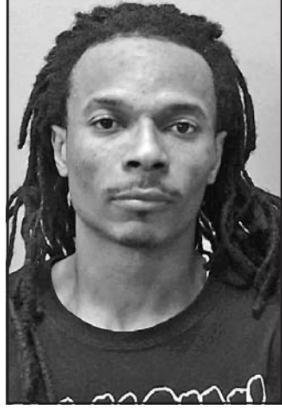
Tracy Cook (47) Blairsville, GA: Possession of Controlled Substance (x2), Drugs to be Kept in Original Container (x2).



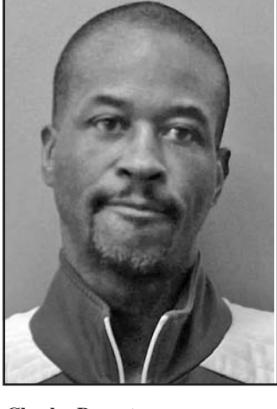
Andrew Arndt



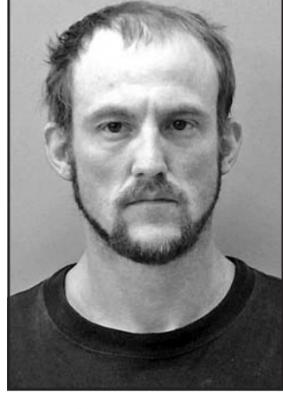
Tracy Cook



Marion Woodward



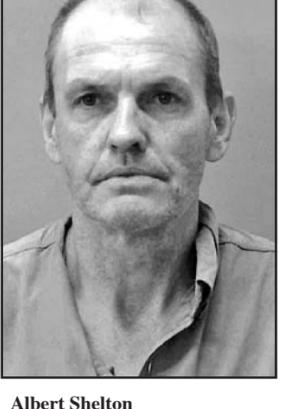
Charles Bryant



Travis Kelley



Kimberly Garrett



Albert Shelton

Cancer freezing procedure

Freezing procedures available for breast, lung, liver, and prostate cancers. These procedures have been around for years, yet so many people do not know about them. Research information under www.radiologyinfo.org and look up procedure by name, Cryotherapy. NI(Nov9,21)CA



Mountain High Hikers schedule two hikes every Tuesday, one long and one shorter, as well as occasional specialty hikes. Weekly trail maintenance trips are scheduled every Thursday.

Come enjoy the beautiful mountains and waterfalls we have here. Check the website www.mountainhighhikers.org for schedule and contact numbers. NT(Nov9,21)CA

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