

TCHS crowns Sterling Hedden Homecoming King 2016

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County crowned its 2016 Basketball Homecoming King on Thursday, Jan. 28, and the royal title went to Sterling Hedden, known to his peers as "Sterl the Pearl."

Freshman Trent Bradshaw, sophomore Andy Chambers and junior Colten Shook all took home the title of Homecoming Prince for their respective classes.

The Homecoming Court also included Walker Winn, Zach Davenport, Taylor Osler, Kobe Denton, Josh Gelts, Andrew Rogers, Chaiz Davenport, Troy Hatfield, Daulton Rogers and Shea Underwood.

Escorted by fellow student Savannah Dyer, Hedden took the auditorium stage to accept the Homecoming King sash and medal from last year's Homecoming King, Trace Moss.

Assistant Principal Jim Melton announced that Sterling is a member of the football team and the golf team, and has been for four years. In fact, his favorite sports memory is killing a snake at a golf tournament.

His most inspirational person is School Resource Officer Donnie Jarrard, "for being a great Christian man and inspiring him to do the best at everything he does."

Hedden didn't let the sudden recognition go to his head.

"It's just more of a reason to be a role model,"



King Sterling Hedden with his Queen Jaden Cruz

said Hedden. "I just try to be a good role model. I try to be everybody's friend. I don't really try to make any enemies. I'm sure there are people that don't like me, but I don't think I have any true enemies."

Hedden has big plans for after he graduates high school. He's still in the process of choosing between different colleges.

"I'm planning to go to either Young Harris College or University of North Georgia. I'm leaning toward University of North Georgia to probably pursue a degree in business. Everybody just tells me what a great school it is."

So why a business degree?

"Business is just something that interests me. I'm not positive what I want to do, but that's just the thing so far that I'm leaning toward," he said.

Principal Connie Hobbs

said that, although Hedden deserves the recognition, everyone else involved in the Homecoming Court does as well.

"It was very close with some of the guys, it really was. Some of the guys, even the freshmen through the seniors, it was very close. So we had to actually call some of the students and make sure they all had voted, and call them back to the classroom," she said.

She said that she had high expectations for Sterling.

"Actually, he's got an older brother who was very popular in high school, and he's just carrying on the tradition. He's a great, well-rounded student outside of the school system as well, so he's just a great guy. He wears that crown well. I'm proud of Sterling. I'm proud of all of them, actually," she said.

Local Vietnam Veterans to receive State Certificate of Honor

Over 100 veterans from Union and Towns counties have signed up to be honored for their military service during the Vietnam War at a ceremony taking place on Wednesday, February 17, in the theater of the Union County Schools' Fine Arts Center located on Panther Circle. The event is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m.

State, local, and federal representatives will join the State Veterans Service Board in attendance as GDVS Commissioner Mike Roby presents the state's Vietnam War Certificate of Honor to these veterans in recognition of their service during the war. Along with the state certificate each veteran will receive the Defense Department Commemorative Vietnam War Veteran Lapel Pin.

"We hope to eventually present every Georgia Vietnam War veteran with a Certificate of Honor recognizing

their service," said Commissioner Mike Roby. "It is never the wrong time to say thank you to a veteran, and that is especially true for so many Vietnam War veterans who were never properly thanked when they returned home."

Local Vietnam veterans who have not signed up and are interested in participating in the ceremony can contact the GDVS Central Office in Atlanta at (404) 463-3080 or (404) 656-5933.

Every Georgia veteran with honorable service during the Vietnam War (from June 1, 1954 to May 15, 1975, as recognized by DoD) is eligible to receive this certificate. This includes veterans with service in-country and those who served in other capacities.

The recognition of these veterans is part of the U. S. Department of Defense's 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War. The Geor-



gia Department of Veterans Service created the Vietnam War Certificate of Honor program in partnership with the Office of Governor Nathan Deal.

Each certificate is personalized with the Vietnam War veteran's name, rank, branch of service, and dates of service printed over the Seal of the State of Georgia and includes the official U.S. Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemorative Partner logo. They are signed by Governor Deal and Commissioner Roby.

Additional information about the State's Vietnam War Certificate of Honor Program and other veteran benefits is available at veterans.ga.gov.

ArtWorks adult classes offered in February

Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild is pleased to announce the February adult classes at its ArtWorks Artisan Centre in Hiwassee. Class size is limited, insuring individualized instruction. The classes include painting in several media and card making. Full course descriptions can be found on the "Classes" page of the guild website, www.artguildstore.com.

"Painting with Paula", the on-going oil and acrylic

painting class with Paula Canup continues on February 2nd and 16th. "Introduction to Transparent Watercolor" with Joyce Clair meets on February 6th. "Transparent Watercolor for Beginners" (three class series) meets with Joyce Clair on February 13th, 27th, and March 12th. "Rubber Stamping and Beyond" card making with Kaye Teronde meets February 20th. Kaye Teronde presents "Mixed Media Journal" on February 29th.

Please check our website for more classes that may be added during the month.

For additional information on any of these classes and to sign up for any workshop please visit ArtWorks in Hiwassee or call the store at 706-896-0932 and register using a credit card. Class fees are due at registration. ArtWorks is located at 232B Chatuge Way in the Hiwassee Business Center and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 to 5.

FEMA...from Page 1

FEMA representative was there to decide whether Towns County would qualify to get money from the federal government. It's a process. First the state of Georgia must be approved for the emergency funding, and then the county can get approved.

"Once the state is approved to get federal funds for a state of emergency, then the guy from FEMA said he would be around 30 days, and FEMA would come back and assess all of our documentation and all of our damage, and then we'll know if we get any

federal money," she said.

She said she was confident that if the state gets approved, then Towns County will receive reimbursement.

"We're just going to keep track of all the documentation on what it costs. If we get approved, we'll get reimbursed the cost of replacing that pipe," she said.

"Statewide, if we reach that threshold, then the state will be approved for federal money, and then Towns County already has enough damage documented, then FEMA has assured that if the

state gets approved, statewide, then Towns County will be approved for the damages," she said.

Damage to private property will not get reimbursed.

Even though federal money will help, it will not account for all the damages. Some money will come from the state, and still more will have to come from local sources.

"It's 75 percent federal, and 10 percent state, and 15 percent local, so we'll get 85 percent of the cost," said Commissioner Kendall.

Car...from Page 1

Perren. "The older vehicle the school bought, so it was used for things other than driver's ed.

"Like, if a coach needed to go to a region meeting or something, instead of driving his own car and getting paid for mileage, he could just take the driver's ed car. So it had some miles on it."

The grant that netted the vehicle was applied for in May, and Perren and the schools had hoped to be able to get enough funding to pay for a dedicated driver's ed program housed within the high school, with a teacher, new curriculum and new vehicle all rolled into one.

"The curriculum we had was out of date - we still had VHS tapes for driver's ed," said Perren. "Driving is driving, but the technology in cars has changed a lot, from when I learned to drive in particular.

"We had that opportunity and we applied for the grant. The state only had so much in funds because so many schools applied for it, so they were able to fund us the vehicle and the curriculum, they were not able to fund the teacher."

Instruction has been and will continue to be delivered through the 21st Century

Afterschool Program, which has been taught for many years by Brett Keller.

Keller is a certified driving instructor whose day job is teaching physical education at Towns County Elementary School, though he also coaches golf at the high school.

Each student gets 30 hours of in-class instruction, followed by six hours of hands-on experience behind the wheel and six hours in the backseat with another student driver, all with Coach Keller, and the grant used to purchase the vehicle stipulated that the new car may only be used for driver's education.

Coach Keller has been teaching driver's ed since 1990, and he has a real passion for helping students to drive safer - he has a strict rubric that he must be satisfied a student has passed before clearing them from the course to get their license.

"The county is so fortunate that the school system cares about the kids, and to me and I think other parents, driver's education is a very important part of a kid's life," said Coach Keller, adding that defensive driving is the name of the game for the program he teaches.

Coach Keller tells his students that driving is the

most important part in the next stage of their lives, because the decisions they make can not only affect their lives, but the lives of others around them, including those in the car with them.

"We all want you to be as experienced as possible when you get that freedom and when you're on your own," said Coach Keller in reflecting on his students. "That's what I'm there for, is trying to get them experienced."

Perren would like to extend a thank-you to Jon Fullerton of Jacky Jones Superstore in Murphy for helping them to secure the new vehicle.

"The state has a bid price that they won't pay more than, and we had to have that price or less," said Perren. "The Jacky Jones Superstore up there in Murphy, Jon Fullerton, was gracious enough that he knocked a lot off that car so that we could get it down to that state price."

Towns County Schools was able to get the car for \$19,500, paid for completely with grant funding, and the car was factory-made for the Towns County program with a specially installed brake pedal on the passenger side for the instructor's use and added safety.

Peacock Performing Arts

Center presents Galumph February 6th



Doggie Lift Stunt

Hayesville, NC as we present Galumph! Fun for all ages! Not just another 'show' Galumph combines stunning acrobatics, striking visual effects physical comedy and inventive choreography bringing to life a world of imagination, beauty, muscle and merriment.

Three performers create a sensory feast of images ranging from the ridiculous to the sublime drawn together into a seamless whole, consistently bringing audiences to their feet. Andy Horowitz, Director/Performer, has performed his choreographic works at over two thousand venues in thirty countries; including London's Southbank Center, New York's Lincoln Center and The Kennedy Center in Washington DC. He has been featured on CBS's *Late Night*

with David Letterman, on the A&E Network, MTV, HBO and the BBC.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for students. You can reserve your seat today by calling 828-389-2787 visiting www.peacockperformingarts. center or stopping by Tiger's Dept. Store on the square in Hayesville, NC. Group packages for dance studios are available by calling the box office.

Upcoming Seabee Ball

On March 5, 2016 Navy Seabee Veterans of America Island X-3 Blairsville, GA will hold an Anniversary Ball in recognition of the 74th Birthday of the U.S. Navy Seabees. The Island would like to invite you to help us celebrate the Seabee Birthday. The Ball will be held at the Union County Community Center. All information and tickets can be purchased by contacting: Bob Ramey at (706) 781-2536 or email: bobramay@windstream.net ... only 150 tickets are available. Come help celebrate the Seabee Birthday.

Iwo Jima Program at Rec Center

On February 19, 2016, on the grounds of Towns County Recreation and Conference Center at 10 a.m., a program about the Battle of Iwo Jima will be held. It will be a short program with comments from

three Iwo vets. Following the program, there will be a Dutch treat lunch at Daniel's Steak House. For more information call: Bud Johnson 706-970-0195 or Walt Scott 706-897-9610.

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