

Chamber...from Page 1

over the Southeastern United States to the mountains that we have here, and the natural beauty we have here with Lake Chatuge and Hiwassee and Young Harris.

"I'm more encouraged about some of the things that we did that may not seem to have worked. We spent an entire year working with the Fanning Institute out of the University of Georgia in a collaborative thing with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, where we studied our county. We studied where our people are, who they are, where they came from, and what kind of things they want," he said.

To Dehler, it isn't just the businesses in Towns County that make him love the area - it's also the people.

"We came to realize pretty early on that we have a very unique combination of people in this county. A lot of people have come here from other places. They've come here for odd and different reasons, and some are unique to themselves. And the thing



Mark Dehler and Candace Lee

that's exciting to me about the leadership of the next couple of years is the youth. I'm not a young guy. John Allen is," he said.

John Allen spoke on his position at the chamber.

"I feel like we have a real good group of folks that represent the community at large. We're trying to hit all the different sectors. We've really refocused the board," said Allen.

"All the reasons why I joined the chamber is because of a whole other set of alternative benefits. I don't sell any houses out of doing this. I meet good people. And it's really not a self-serving board. That's the cool takeaway about the chamber. It's about the greater good, and we want the best for this area. It's nonpartisan, it's an elected board, and I love the transparency. It's a pretty awesome organization."

Sunday...from Page 1

authorizing Sunday sales, the issue is legally complicated.

"Generally speaking, the rule is, a city can't call a referendum in a dry county on package stores for certain," said Stancil. "There's an issue about 'by the drink.' But with all that said, we'll take a look on all that and report back to the council next time (in March), because we may just do the easy thing and do what Young Harris did. The only difference is it'll be a closer vote, because conservative Hiwassee versus a college town, there's a lot of difference. I still think it'll probably pass, but it'll be a little controversial."

The city has previously attempted to bring alcohol-related businesses within city limits, only with limited results.

"We talked with one distillery a couple years back, Granddaddy Mimm's, trying to get him in the city, but there's a whole different set of laws that apply to the distilleries. There's a different set of laws that are being amended all the time," he said.

Alcohol laws in Georgia tend to be complex and multifaceted, influenced from several different directions.

"The Georgia General Assembly by special statute gave cities the ability to hold a referendum on Sunday sales," said Stancil. "It was authorized by the General Assembly for cities to do the Sunday sales. The language that is required to be used for the referendum under state law includes language regarding liquor by the drink.

"But their thoughts were it only applies where liquor by the dink has already been approved. Some cities have argued because they've put that in there, they've authorized cities to approve liquor by the drink, and that hasn't been sorted out through the courts."

Going forward, the city will have to wade through all the required legal language and processes.

"When we put the question out, it's going to include the statutory required language, same thing as Young Harris. As to the effect, if it gets approved, that's going to be a different question," he said.

Stancil was in agreement with Ordiales, in that Sunday sales could be beneficial to the city.

Vietnam Veterans of America and AVVA Chapter meeting February 18



is the election meeting. So if you want to run for an office you need to be there. And if you do not want to be drafted into an office you need to be there. See you there!

Don't forget the Certificate of Honor ceremony for all Vietnam veterans on February 17th at 4:30 p.m. at the Union County Fine Arts building. It is the new round building on the left side of the the high school. Should be a big event.

Remember we still have biscuits and BS at the Blairsville Restaurant at 8 AM every Wednesday morning, weather permitting. NT(Feb17,21)CA

AARP Smart Driver Course

AARP Smart Driver classroom course to be hosted by the Fannin County Blue Ridge Better Living Community Center in Morganton on Wednesdays, February 24, 2016. Sign in time is 8:30 a.m. The classroom course starts promptly at 9 a.m. ending at 4 p.m. The Fannin County Blue Ridge Community Center is located at 527 Forge Mill Road, Morganton, GA.

The course fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non members. Pre registration is recommended to secure your place in the classroom. Telephone the instructor Rosemary Kerr at 706-745-7046 Monday through Friday from

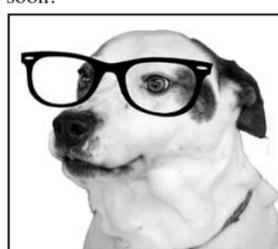
1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Please speak clearly when leaving your name and telephone number for call back confirmation.

You will learn defensive driving techniques, proven safety strategies, new traffic laws, rules of the road and new vehicle technology innovations. No test to pass or writing required. The AARP Smart Driver Course is opened to all licensed drivers. AARP is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all, as we age.

At the end of the course you will receive your AARP Smart Driving Certificate. You may also qualify for a multi-year discount on your automobile insurance. NT(Feb17,21)CA



Hello, Bunny here. I was named that because my fur is sooooo soft! I'm a beautiful 5 month old, green-eyed grey tabby! I love to sleep in my squishy bed and sit on my human friends' shoulders! I am just a little shy at first, but if you give me a little time, I just know I'll warm up! See ya soon!



Hello, Quincey here! I'm a very handsome 4½ year old Retriever mix! I've got lots of spunk, I seem good with other dogs and would do very well in an active home! I think I'm a lap dog too! I hope you'll come by and see me, or at least call my friends here at the shelter for more information at (706) 781-3843! NT(Feb17,21)CA

Toxic Exposure Research Legislation is needed for Veterans of every generation

(Wash., D.C.) - On February 10, Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald told Members of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs that no legislation on Agent Orange or Toxic exposures is needed. This statement by the DVA Secretary is in line with testimony, delivered before Congress on three occasions in the last eight months, in which the VA claims no research legislation is needed as other Agencies of the Federal Government are doing all of the research studies needed.

John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) responded, "With all due respect to the Secretary, he could not be more wrong. Furthermore, we have yet to receive a list of these research studies referenced in VA testimony which purportedly pertain to veterans and their progeny."

"The events in the past week highlight the shameless wall of ignorance erected by the VA bureaucrats. Case in point is the Secretary's recent policy regarding the Blue Water Navy veterans of Vietnam. The policy states that a 'bright line' can be drawn across the mouth of a flowing river, with those on the inland side of that imaginary line being 'exposed,' and those two feet away, on the harbor side of the line, 'not exposed,'"

said Rowan. "Those 'exposed' are eligible for presumptive service connection for certain conditions, and therefore medical care and compensation, while those who served two feet away are not. We are leaving our Navy veterans out in the cold, and sadly, many of them have died and their widows have been abandoned."

"Also on Wednesday, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a report on Gulf War illness, which I find troubling," noted Rowan. "Psychiatrists/psychologists comprised half of a panel charged with evaluating medical conditions, most probably caused by exposure to toxic chemicals. It comes as no surprise that this recent report ignores the many toxins to which Gulf War veterans were exposed and reverts to the canard that unless 'causality' can be proved by a specific toxin, there can be no forward movement. One would hope the VA and DOD would be looking for an 'association' of exposure to one or more toxic substances and the presence of adverse medical conditions, rather than placing an emphasis on the 'mind-body continuums.'"

"Yes, technically the VA is able to do what is needed without legislation," said Rowan. "However, the VA has made its case repeatedly that, in the absence of legisla-



tion, there will be no justice accorded veterans with Toxic Wounds, nor for their innocent children and grandchildren. America's veterans of every generation DO need early passage of S. 901 and H.R. 1769, the Toxic Exposures Research Act, and vigorous oversight after enactment to ensure that VA actually does what is mandated in law; we need immediate passage of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015, H.R. 969 and S.681; and we need to push for the extension and expansion of the Agent Orange Act of 1991, to include veterans of recent and future wars, so that a system is in place to systematically review battlefield exposures, and they won't need to refight the battles we have."

Vietnam Veterans of America is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans' service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA's founding principle is "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." NT(Feb17,22)gg

Dance in the aisles with The Sock Hops February 20th



The Sock Hops

It is still possible to join us at the Peacock in Hayesville, NC Saturday night, February 20th at 7 p.m. and be transported back to the days when harmonies and doo-wop took center stage!

From Frankie Valli to Frankie Avalon the Sock Hops will take you down memory

lane with their renditions of musical hits from the 50s right up to the 80s. Concert was almost sold out in January but had to be rescheduled. This has opened up a few seats! If you missed the chance to purchase for the original date, you can capitalize and reserve one of the few left!

2016 brings reserved seating for all plays, concerts and special events! Tickets for all 2016 performances, both plays and concerts, are available to purchase now. You may reserve tickets online by visiting www.peacockperformingarts.center, click on the Buy Tickets button and choose the event you would like to purchase tickets for. You may also call our box office at 828-389-2787 between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monday - Friday or stop by and visit us during those hours at 301 Church St. Hayesville, NC. Tickets are also available at Tiger's Department Store on the square in Hayesville during their normal business hours! Pricing as follows: adults \$25, students 13 and up \$12 and children 12 and under \$6.

This is a family-friendly show for all ages. NT(Feb17,21)CA

Country Legend John Conlee to perform in Murphy, NC February 19

Country legend John Conlee (Mr. Rose Colored Glasses), a regular performer at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville will be performing on Friday, February 19 at the Enloe Multi-Purpose Room at the Tri-County Community College.

During John Conlee's 40 year career in Country Music, he has brought to audiences such classic songs as: "Rose Colored Glasses" (John's signature song), "Friday Night Blues", "Backside of 30", "Common Man", "Miss Emily's Picture", "I Don't Remember Lovin' You", and more.

Overall, there have been 32 single releases throughout the years with 26 of them charting in the top 20 or better. Eight of those 26 have reached the coveted No. 1 spot on the national country charts.

Conlee's fans are excited that he has returned to

radio with singles "Walkin' Behind The Star" and "Bread and Water", released on his own RCR (Rose Colored Records) Label. "Walkin' Behind The Star" was written by Nashville recording veterans Ronnie Scaife and Phil Thomas and the lyrics were inspired by Phil's grandfather and great-grandfather both of whom served in their local sheriff's department. The song had yet to be cut until recent events made it timely, the song was pitched to the Grand Ole Opry star, who was touched by the song's honesty. "Recent deadly attacks against the people who keep us safe is unprecedented in America and I wanted to sing this song in honor of their sacrifice and willingness to serve," Conlee said. The new CD will feature new material along with many of Conlee's latter classics.

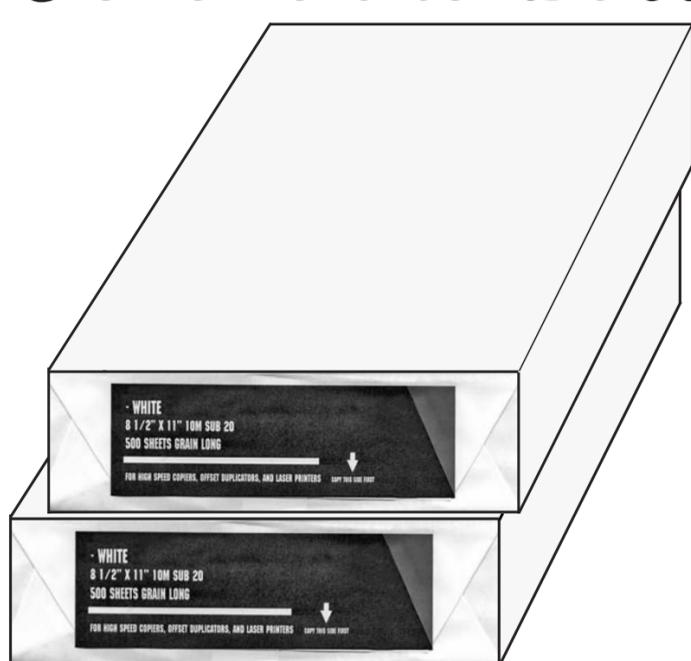
Conlee recently celebrated the 37th anniversary of his breakthrough hit "Rose



Colored Glasses," and can be found on tour throughout 2016 as well as on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry, where he has been a member since 1981.

Tickets can be purchased at King Ford in Murphy, online at www.itickets.com or by calling 800-965-9324. NT(Feb17,21)CA

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