

# Wilson...continued from Page 1A

"We would ask for your continued prayers for Brian and his family," Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton said.

Wilson began his career in law enforcement in 2005, when he began working at the Towns County Detention Center.

Wilson was soon promoted to a sergeant's position where he had the responsibility of supervising detention personnel and overseeing day-to-day operations of the detention center.

Wilson also was assigned to supervising the Inmate Work Detail Program.

In late 2005, Wilson began work as a deputy sheriff, shortly after receiving a Police K-9 named Rocky.

Wilson and Rocky became certified to detect narcotics as a team in March 2006 and earned a tracking certification in April 2008.

In June 2008, Wilson and Rocky were assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division, where Wilson and Rocky investigated drug cases and domestic violence crimes.

Today, Wilson is in a command position with the Towns County Sheriff's Office, overseeing day-to-day operations and coordinating with Sheriff Clinton and Chief Deputy Jeff Edge.

Please pray for Brian.

*Editor's Note: Brian Wilson is an incredible law enforcement officer and a magnificent human being, husband and father.*

*The Towns County Herald urges everyone to keep Brian Wilson in their prayers. To keep up-to-date on Brian Wilson's medical condition, keep an eye on the Towns County Herald Web site, townscountyherald.net for details.*

# Charged ...continued from Page 1A

Barrett and Deputy Nations discovered a reportedly stolen pistol and ammunition inside the truck which belonged to the owner of the vehicle, sheriff's reports show.

Sutton was arrested and taken into custody without incident.

The vehicle has been returned to the owner, sheriff's reports show.

Sutton faces charges of two counts of theft by receiving, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, driving while license revoked, and a parole violation, sheriff's reports show.

Sutton is currently housed in the Towns County Detention Center, jail records show.

# Bankers ...continued from Page 1A

Another popular performer was the good old farm boy and winner of the prize pig contest, Adam Davenport.

Eric Collins 'joined' his twin brother, Brandon Grimsley and they had folks rolling in the aisles with their bickering.

It was almost like they were single-minded in their words and actions.

Michael Infante, owner of the ever-changing Midway Food Booth, was a real crowd pleaser with his multi-ethnic food "on a stick."

The Mater Queen of the Booger Holler County Fair, Freda Nicholson, was an absolute comedic delight with her comments about her very noticeable "bottom stem rot."

Janice Smith has performed in more Bankers' Hour shows than any other cast member and may very well have been the hit of the show

with her snappy comments and quick comebacks.

She played the role of Mert, the grouchy old lady who was definitely down on her luck, but certainly not on her comedic timing.

Another favorite was Deanna Webster who played the role of a menopausal female to a tee and was having a real bad case of "the vapors."

All in all, it was just a fine blend of performers who played off each other very well.

It was almost reminiscent of an early televised version of Carol Burnette meets Hee Haw.

There was non-stop action and knee-slapping comedy routines throughout the show, and some amazing vocalists that should probably be heading to Nashville or Hollywood instead of back to work as usual on Monday morning.

# Second ...continued from Page 1A

advice to those present. He encouraged residents, in the event of a crime being committed on their property, to have a plan. "Be self-reliant. Be prepared. Don't be a victim."

"We don't work for the federal or state government. We don't work for the governor or president. We work for you folks. That's who we are accountable to. The feds don't like us, because they can't appoint us," said Clinton.

Sheriff Davis made it plain and simple - "I want to tell you that first, I am a Christian, second, I am an American, and third, I am a sheriff."

"The Constitution says 'We the people,' not We the government, 'in order to form a more perfect union.' We are a republic," Davis said. "We are a nation of laws. Instead of having a supreme ruler, we have a supreme document, the Constitution of the United States, and it sets limits on how far the government can go and what powers it has."

"We need to elect people that will honor it and not try to change it. I'm not willing to give up my freedoms to stop a few bad folks that are causing issues," said Davis.

Sheriff Clinton feels so strongly about his duties and responsibilities as Towns County sheriff, his sworn duty to uphold the U.S. Constitution and preserve the rights of his constituents, that he wrote a letter to some prominent elected officials in Washington.

Clinton told the group, "Page one of the letter reminds them of their duties and in page two, I explain to them that I took an oath and I intend to uphold it."

Clinton also shared his intent with the group. "Nobody is going to come into Towns County and violate citizens' rights," he said. "As long as they are willing to keep me sheriff, I'm going to stand up for their rights. I am going to honor the Second Amendment."

In regard to current proposed gun legislation, Clinton said, the feds would have Americans believe that crimes are committed, or at least caused, by inanimate objects which have no will of their own, rather than placing the blame on the criminals who

choose, in and of themselves, to commit these crimes.

"They would have us believe that certain firearms belong only in the hands of police, or the right to keep and bear arms is about sporting, rather than defending one's self and one's family," he said.

"In Georgia, less than one percent of the population commits the majority of all crimes," he said. "Taking guns away from law abiding citizens only makes them easier targets for those who will, if given the opportunity, do harm to others. This is nothing more than an egregious and unlawful attempt to take away the rights of citizens to defend themselves and their families as guaranteed by the Constitution."

Clinton joked that "the one percent in Towns County is about 75 knuckleheads that get rowdy from time to time. When there's a break-in or some other crime committed, we just look and see which 25 have been turned out that week."

Sheriff Lovin also joked saying, "And sometimes I get those 75 knuckle-heads in my county. Hey, those folks need to go to Walmart sometimes too."

In his letter to Washington officials, Clinton took a firm position and made his intentions known.

"I want to be very clear so that my position is understood. As the duly-elected Sheriff of Towns County, Georgia, I have no duty, nor obligation, and cannot be compelled to enforce federal law. I will, as my oath requires, aggressively oppose any state or federal legislation that attempts to take away any of the natural rights guaranteed under the Constitution to the law-abiding citizens I serve. I will exercise the full authority of the Office of Sheriff in defending all of the Constitutional rights of each and every citizen of Towns County, Georgia, so help me God."

When the Forum concluded, the sheriffs got a standing ovation.

The crowd made their way to the front to shake the hands of these three gentlemen who had vowed to serve and protect, especially when it came to their Constitutional right to bear arms and defend themselves and their families.

# SpringFest...continued from Page 1A

blessed this way," said Gibby.

This was definitely a family affair as even the furry members of the family were welcome to be a part of the festivities, as long as they were on a leash.

In addition to the more than 50 Juried Arts and Crafts vendors, there was also a lot of delicious festival food available with something for even the pickiest palate.

If you were looking for something on the light side, there was the ever popular kettle corn, roasted nuts, nachos, and even salad available.

If you had a larger appetite, you could choose from paninis, burgers, hotdogs, barbecue sandwiches, and French fries.

Assorted desserts were abundant as well.

If you walked away hungry, you had no one to blame but yourself.

The playground area of the park was available to the kids, but they seemed quite

happy petting the goats, llamas, and alpacas that were there compliments of Machaceh Rescue Farms of Hayesville, NC.

The Castoff Critters (formerly known as Castaway Critters) had several of their adoptable pets there as well.

They loved the attention of the children and adults. They were all hoping to go home with that special family to their forever home.

Folks also had the opportunity to buy raffle tickets from the good folks of Castoff Critters as they hoped to be the lucky winner of an iPad.

Dr. Hilty Burr of Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital was back again this year volunteering his time with his always popular 'Ask a Vet' session.

This has always proven to be a crowd pleaser.

The adults got right down to business perusing the many available arts and crafts including beautiful gourd art, bird houses, metal works, purses and totes, tie-dyed tee shirts, decora-

tive baskets, river cane flutes, metal yard art, handcrafted jewelry, alpaca scarves and hats, ceramic pottery, beautiful wooden floral arrangements in hand-carved wooden vases, and hand-painted owls.

Jean Mackenzie of Greenville, SC said that she was looking for a special gift for her mom.

With Mother's Day right around the corner, she had definitely come to the right place.

If you couldn't find it here, you just weren't looking hard enough.

The assortment was so varied and the items wonderfully unique.

Two young ladies, Allison Evans and Isabella Pollard, eighth grade students at Union County Middle School, were certainly making an impression with their entrepreneurial debut to the arts and crafts scene.

Young Pollard said, "I started doing artwork when I was really young and family and friends really liked what

I was doing and would buy my artwork from me.

"So I decided that I could make a business selling my 'ModPodge' art," she said.

Pollard operates under the name of 'Bella's Creations' and she even has her own business cards that she designed.

She is definitely on her way to becoming quite the artist.

Young Evans has only been in 'the business' for a couple of months, but these girls are already scheduled for another art show at Brasstown Valley Resort in early May.

John and Corrine Bodin of Wray, were back again with their large assortment of tropical plants, annuals, perennials, trees, and shrubs.

They enjoy traveling together and participating in craft shows and festivals.

"It gets us out of the house," said 79-year-old Corrine Bodin.

All in all, it was just a great weekend to be at the Mayor's Park in Young Harris.

# Garrett...continued from Page 1A

March 28.

SR 669 is a Resolution recognizing and commending Garrett for "the vital role she has played in the teaching profession and her deep personal commitment to the education of the students of Georgia."

Sen. Wilkinson read the Resolution in its entirety to the large crowd that had gathered to share in this momentous occasion and to honor Garrett on what the Movers and Shakers proudly referred to as "Sabrina Garrett Day."

The Resolution, quoted in part by Sen. Wilkinson, declared, "Whereas, the Mountain Movers and Shakers have declared 2013 as 'The Year of Our Youth,' partnering with her Agricultural Department at Towns County High School; and whereas, Sabrina Garrett has earned distinction and numerous awards for teaching excellence as a result of her dedication to her students and her profession and was honored

as Towns County High School's 2012 STAR Teacher; and has coached the State Extemporaneous Speaking winner, the Area II Future Farmers of America's Creed Speaking winner, the second place Junior Prepared Public Speaking winner, and the second place FFA Sub-Area Creed Speaking winner; and in recognition of her contributions to the education and welfare of young people in this state, it is abundantly fitting and proper for this body to honor the extraordinary accomplishments and academic achievements of this outstanding individual."

Sen. Wilkinson concluded with the following from SR 669, "Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate that the members of this body heartily commend Mrs. Sabrina Garrett and express to her their most sincere best wishes for continued success in the future."

Amidst the loud and hearty rounds of applause for Garrett as Sen. Wilkinson pre-

sented her with a copy of the signed Resolution, she managed to get a few words in as she expressed her appreciation to Sen. Wilkinson and the Mountain Movers and Shakers.

"Thank you for your support. Thank you for this honor. It has been a pleasure to teach the students of Towns County High School and Middle School over the past eight years," said Garrett.

Garrett commended the TCSS administrators and the community for their support of the youth in her agriculture classes and in FFA.

"Agriculture is our future. Our young people are our future and I want to support them anyway I can and I very much appreciate the support of the community and the Movers and Shakers," said Garrett.

"I hope to serve as Towns County High School FFA advisor and instructor for many more years to come," said a

humble and proud Garrett.

Towns County Superintendent Melissa Williams said, "Sabrina Garrett is one of the best agriculture instructors I have ever had the pleasure of working with."

"She has a knowledge base that is second to none. What makes her information so interesting for her students is the fact that she has actually experienced much of what she teaches."

"The students benefit from that first-hand knowledge. She makes her subject matter so interesting and real-life based that students readily understand and comprehend it."

"Using the information in true project-based initiatives only reinforces the classroom lessons. You also won't find a teacher who gives more of herself to her students, her school or her community. Sabrina is an asset and we are fortunate to have her with us here in Towns County."

# Earth ...continued from Page 1A

less individuals who saw fit to leave their trash behind. Bottles (plastic and glass), aluminum cans, fast food wrappers, cigarette butts, and soiled diapers (and the list goes on) on the city streets and even a dead squirrel was picked up by volunteers.

Kemmy Garrett provided trash bags, gloves, and orange safety vests courtesy of the TVA and they were greatly appreciated. The group of volunteers headed out for their designated cleanup sites around 9 a.m. Targeted locations included: U.S. Highway 76 (from Robert Anderson Bridge eastward through Hiwassee), Tater Ridge Road, River Road, Bell Creek Road, Big Sky Drive, Lake View Drive, Long View Drive, Chastain Street, Berong Street, Franks Street, Bell Street, and River Street.

They worked tirelessly for almost two hours before heading back to the Downtown Square with their filled trash bags. In fact, after everyone got checked back in, they had a trailer pretty close to full.

They not only had the dirty task of picking up garbage, but they took time to separate out recyclable items as well. Thanks to the generosity of some local businesses and the grilling skills of Police Chief Jimmy Wright, the volunteers were able to eat a delicious lunch under the pavilion on the Square.

The rain came down, and the wind still blew, but the spirits of these volunteers could not be dampened.

They had provided a much needed service for the city of Hiwassee and they felt pretty doggone good about themselves, and rightfully so.

The volunteers shared tales of some of the strange items they found. Thirteen-year-old Nicholas McConnell of Hiwassee, the youngest



Earth Day 2013 volunteer gather for a team photo in the gazebo in Downtown Hiwassee on Saturday. The group worked hard and picked up lots of trash. Photo/Libby Shook

volunteer of the day, came back with a dead squirrel he found on Bell Street.

Now, not many folks would have considered that trash, but young McConnell should be commended for removing this possibly diseased vermin from city streets.

Volunteer Jared Wright said that he and his step-mother, Dawn Wright, were cleaning up Long View Drive when a lady stopped and thanked them for their efforts. She told them she goes out about once a week to pick up trash, but it's an almost futile attempt.

That was an uplifting experience for them.

Now, don't think for a minute that Fuller was simply there to hand out maps of assigned clean up sites. She was right out there in the muck with the rest of the volunteers.

"Anne (Mitchell) and I started at the boat ramp and worked our way back up to the Square," said Fuller, who thinks all styrofoam products and filtered cigarettes should be banned.

"The styrofoam breaks into little pieces and is almost

impossible to pick up, and there's just too many butts to get them all," said Fuller.

Fuller wants to make sure that folks know that almost all the culverts and ditches they encountered were full of trash.

She and Mitchell tried to clean them out, but reports that, "It was too difficult and dangerous to access all of them due to rocky, sloping conditions. The one thing folks need to be reminded of is that the trash in these culverts and ditches will eventually make its way into the streams and rivers and eventually into the lake," said Fuller.

The following sponsors/volunteers were instrumental in the success of Earth Day 2013: Commissioner Bill Kendall, Hiwassee Ingle's, Georgia Mountain Restaurant, Hiwassee Fruit and Vegetable Market, Towns County Herald, United Community Bank, ThreadzInc, Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, Police Chief Jimmy Wright, Richard McConnell, Stephanie McConnell, Nicholas McConnell, Paul Smith, Brad Rouse,

Jared Wright, Dawn Wright, Anne Mitchell, Kemmy Garrett (TVA), Hiwassee City Council Members, City Manager Rick Stancil, and Mayor Barbara Mathis.

"I really appreciate everybody that came out today with the weather the way that it is," Mayor Mathis said. "I would also like to say thank you to all our generous sponsors, the Hiwassee City Council Members, Kemmy Garrett and the TVA for supplying the trash-liners, gloves, and safety vests."

"I'd like to thank Police Chief Jimmy Wright for cooking the hot dogs for us, and of course all our volunteers. We really do appreciate each and everyone of you."

Mathis had a special request to folks traveling through the City of Hiwassee.

"Please, help us keep our city clean. We have a lot of visitors in the area and with all the events that are coming up, we will have a lot more. We want all our visitors to leave Hiwassee talking about how clean and beautiful our city is," she said.

# Deal signs Bill to expand access to Tech Schools



Gov. Nathan Deal

ership Summit, Gov. Nathan Deal signed into law legislation that will lower the GPA requirement for the HOPE Grant, which goes to students in the technical college system. By expanding access to the HOPE Grant, HB 372 will strengthen the state's workforce development efforts.

"We need more college or technical college degrees in order to attract and fill the jobs of tomorrow," Deal said. "This additional benefit will provide Georgians with greater access to school at a relatively small cost to the state."

This bill will drop the

GPA requirement for the HOPE Grant back to a 2.0 after it increased to 3.0 two years ago for budgetary reasons. Recent growth in Lottery revenues will cover the additional \$5 million to \$8 million this expansion will cost. In the first six months of this fiscal year, deposits were up \$32 million, a 7.6 percent increase over the same period the year before.

"In recent years, Georgia has seen a large drop in technical college enrollment - much larger than in our University System," Deal said. "For some students enrolled in a technical school, the loss of

scholarship money put higher education out of reach. This law will provide greater access to school and to a brighter career for thousands of Georgians."

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