

# Sellers ...continued from Page 1A

tinual Learning and frequent speaking engagements.

Her passion for living, learning and language were lifelong and the accomplishments of her students are her greatest legacy.

In essence, *Trailfest* was as much a celebration of Dr. Sellers on Saturday, as it was a celebration of Reece.

Somehow, through the years, the two became synonymous.

"Rarely does a person so gifted and giving appear to bless our lives," Dr. Kay said. "It is more than a cliché to say that she will be missed by the countless people who knew and loved her. Through her published works and students of all

ages, she will live on."

A memorial service for Dr. Sellers was held Monday at Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church in Young Harris.

The family received friends at the church, immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, Dr. Sellers would be honored by memorials made to The Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Sharp Memorial UMC, PO Box 66, Young Harris, GA, 30582 or to The Byron Herbert Reese Society, PO Box 811, Young Harris, GA, 30582.

Banister Funeral Home of Hiawassee had charge of the arrangements.

# EggFest ...continued from Page 1A

Folks were lined up with plates in hand to sample the homemade sauces and foods which had one common theme - they were all prepared on a Green Egg cooker.

Barrett Carter of Smyrna, loves Towns County and loves coming to the EggFest. In fact, he likes it here so much that he is building a home in the Cedar Cliff area and, of course, it will have an outdoor kitchen built exclusively for the six Green Eggs that he owns.

Carter says that he has been egging for 11 years and would never go back to a gas grill.

He does admit that he still has his gas grill.

"I use it to store my cooking utensils," Carter said.

Carter had prepared bacon-wrapped shrimp-topped jalapeno poppers, bacon-wrapped scallops, and Asiago parmesan potatoes.

He had a crowd standing in line with their mouths watering as he tried to keep up with the demands of the tasters.

"The Georgia Mountain EggFest is something that our team has enjoyed cooking at since the first one in 2011," Carter said. "My cooking partner, Trip McAlhany, and I have a great group of family and friends that work really well together in serving up what we feel is good food for the tasters. The Fairgrounds are a perfect location for an event like this."

Another delicacy was prepared by chefs Kay and Larry Ward of Augusta, as they prepared their unique version of a Vidalia onion pie topped with mounds of shredded cheddar cheese cooked on their Green Eggs.

They had three eggs going at the same time.

"We've been coming to EggFests since 1999. We actually enjoy this one better than the others. This is a wonderful venue and the views are just

beautiful," said Kay Ward.

There were several vendors displaying their products with many varieties of rubs and seasonings available for sampling and purchase.

Braswell's Food Company was here with their full line of rubs, marinades and sauces.

Local honey was available from Henson Cove Apiary, outdoor furniture and accessories from Creekside General Store, an outdoor cooking center from North Georgia Stone, and the wine connoisseurs had the opportunity to sample fine wines courtesy of Hightower Creek Vineyards.

The Fairgrounds' Blue Grass Band, featuring versatile instrumentalist Barry Palmer, provided live entertainment for the tasters and cooks.

Free egging classes were available to tasters throughout the day including: Big Green Egg 101 Demo, ClayQ's Artisan Bread Making, Inventive Cooking, and Healthy Egg Cooking.

Hiawassee Hardware is the authorized dealer of the Green Egg in Hiawassee and sold 92 eggs and three were raffled off, according to John Hall, for a total of 95 eggs sold.

In fact, they sold out. Hall wanted to make sure that he recognized the folks working behind the scenes to make sure that everything goes off without a hitch.

They include: Jane Holland, executive director Towns County Tourism Association; Hilda Thomason, Fairgrounds' general manager; the Fairgrounds' Daniel Nichols; Candace Lee, president Towns County Chamber of Commerce; Brenda McKinney, Hiawassee Hardware; and Catherine Polstra, Ramada Lake Chatuge Lodge.

This year was a huge success and Hall says they are already looking forward to next year.

# Library ...continued from Page 1A

2011 by more than 90 percent of Towns County voters.

"Our system consistently ranks near the top of the state's per capita library use figures," Howell said. "Towns County Public Library is the smallest of our libraries, and it has experienced exponential growth in use since it was built in 1989.

"We are excited that we will be able to provide the facilities, collections, and services that our users need and deserve," she said. "Once we have a bond sale date confirmed for the project, we will make plans to move the

library into the old senior center just behind the current library, so we can operate while the library building work is being done.

"We want to express our appreciation to Commissioner Kendall for making this convenient and accessible space available to us so that we can continue to meet the needs of our community during the construction phase," she said.

Library staff and Friends of the Libraries of Towns County are planning a community celebration on Monday, June 3rd, at 2 p.m. at the Towns County Library.

# Baccalaureate ...continued from Page 1A

of worship and celebration of thanksgiving for lives dedicated to learning and wisdom.

The earliest universities in America were founded primarily to educate ministers.

The Baccalaureate Service is believed to have originated at Oxford University in 1432 when each bachelor was required to deliver a sermon in Latin.

The Rev. Bennett then jokingly asked the seniors if they had their sermons ready in Latin, which elicited laughter from those seniors present.

He then replied, "I couldn't do it!"

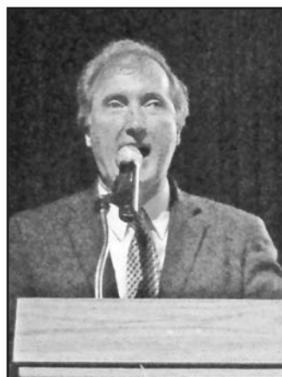
The Rev. Bennett talked to the students about "world view" - a collection of beliefs that individuals have about life and the universe.

He explained, "this is shaped by many things - for example media, friends, experience, culture, politics, education, and religion."

He told the students that they will "go out into a world that is in opposition to your beliefs."

He added that "many elements will play on you to influence your world view, including how you see yourself, and how you see the world."

He encouraged the students to stay connected to their faith through faith-based student unions on their college campus-



**Roy Perren**

es, and to stay in church.

"You will struggle when you leave these doors if you try righteousness on your own terms," Rev. Bennett said.

He closed his message by saying, "it is desperately important that as you leave this place, God's word be the guide of your life, and that your world view is based upon God's Word."

The Rev. Josh Rouse followed with an inspirational message for the seniors.

The Rev. Josh Rouse, youth minister, at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church, encouraged the graduating seniors to do three things. First, "push past the past."

This means push past something embarrassing, like an unfortunate incident that resulted

in a nickname; or starting over as a freshman and you have been a stellar senior.

Second, "be present in the present."

"When you wake up on Saturday and you are no longer a Towns County student, what are you now? You are always a child of God. You have to take care of business every day to get to where you want to be," Rouse said.

Third, focus fiercely on the future.

"What's the next step?" Rouse said, "We need to fix our eyes on Jesus."

Roy Perren, outgoing principal of Towns County High School, provided closing remarks and the benediction.

Perren told the students that he was speaking to them not as their principal, but as their brother in Christ.

Perren spoke to the students about prayer. He told them, "prayer is your window to God - through prayer you can talk to God, the Creator of the Universe."

"Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ wants to hear from you," Perren said. "He wants to have a relationship with you. He loves and cares for you."

Perren told the students that he prays for them, for the school, and for the safety of everyone in the school every day.

He shared with the students the prayer that he says, "almost every day" during the daily moment of silence.

He told the students that he prays for them that they will have the strength and courage that they will always do what's right, and to follow God's will all of their life."

Perren quoted Proverbs 22:6, "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Also, he told the students that he loves each and every one of them, and that he wishes nothing but the best for them.

The Towns County Senior Class then processed from the Sanctuary to music played by Adams.

A delicious abundant meal was then provided in the Fellowship Hall by the membership of Macedonia Baptist Church for those in attendance.

The Rev. Bennett told the crowd what Baccalaureate means to him.

"It is a special time when God's people are allowed to charge the students as they go out," he said. "Give them something to encourage them, pray over them as they go out."

The good folks at Macedonia Baptist Church, and several special people in the lives of the Towns County Senior Class of 2013 did just that.

# Seniors ...continued from Page 1A

their talent in the fine arts and athletics. These students have already been officially notified of their awards and many will receive grant assistance from YHC in addition to their academic scholarship. Most also will receive Georgia's Hope Scholarship.

"Towns County students are among the top performers year in, and year out at Young Harris College when compared to students from other high schools," Hobbs said. "On behalf of Young Harris College, I want to thank this community for its overwhelming generosity and support of our local scholarship initiatives. It is your generosity that makes this kind of investment, a total of more than \$582,000 over the course of four years possible.

"Congratulations YHC Class of 2017," Hobbs said.

Other students receiving local scholarships include Kayleigh Castonguay, Ryan Tallent, Claire Wilson, Bradley Smith, Mackenzie Mirandi,



**Dillon Diehl**

Kara Harris, Olivia Hardin, Alex Fagin, Kayla Taylor, Meagan Ellis, Mariah Ledford, Dadrian Blythe, Dillon Thompson, and Davilyn Blythe.

The scholarship presentations included the Edward Winters Memorial, Stephens Masonic Lodge, Danielle Manus Memorial, Towns County Lions Club, Joyce Kimsey Holmes Memorial, Park Sterling Bank, Chatuge Regional Hospital



**Jennifer Chinnici**

Auxiliary Love Light, Unicorn Lodge No. 259 F&AM, Towns County Schools Parent, Teacher, Student Organization, United Community Bank, UCB Junior Board of Directors, North Georgia Technical College, Melinda N. Stewart Memorial/Theta Nu Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, Seniors Leadership Honors Award, Lake Chatuge Rotary, Towns County Democratic Party,

TCHS Chorus Awards, TCHS Band Awards, John Phillip Sousa Award, Patrick Gilmore Award, Battle of the States Coca Cola Scholarship, Philanthropic Educational Organizational Scholarship, Towns County Retired Educators, Piedmont College Trustee's Scholarship, TVA Power Distributors Scholarship, Ashton Bray Memorial, United States Marine Corps Awards, Auburn-Montgomery Softball Scholarship, Northeast Georgia Superintendent Scholarship, Towns-Union Educator's Federal Credit Union, DAR Citizenship Award, Principal's Scholarship, Union-Towns Employer Committee, Scholarships given in honor of Colleen Swanson, Cathy Shook, and Melissa Sudduth, Towns County Georgia Association of Educators, Woodmen of the World Lodge 1180, Small Based Enterprise Scholarship, and the Future Business Leaders of America Scholarship.

# Rodeo ...continued from Page 1A

family activity and it was an opportunity for me to spend some quality time with my grandsons, Gavin and Griffin," Sen. Wilkinson said. "They told me they came to see a rodeo and not hear me talk, so I'll try to keep that in mind while I'm up here. This great support provided by the community will make it possible for these young folks to be able to travel and compete," said Wilkinson.

Wilkinson also praised Towns County High School's Agriculture Teacher/FFA Advisor, Sabrina Garrett, calling her a "top-notch Georgia educator." He expressed his appreciation to the FFA alumni and the Mountain Movers and Shakers for their support of the agriculture program and FFA.

Garrett took a few minutes to address the group saying, "I'd like to thank everybody for coming out and supporting our third annual rodeo and FFA."

"We're real glad to see this good turnout," she said. "We just recently became industry certified and I'm really excited about that."

"I am proud to work with these young people. They work real hard and have done such a great job," she said. "Agriculture is the basis of life and a real important part of this community. We need to instill these qualities in our young folks."

Elvis, still looking suspiciously like Towns County High School Principal Roy



**State Sen. John Wilkinson and his grandsons Gavin and Griffin. Photo/Libby Shook**

Perren, took center stage on a truck-pulled trailer in the middle of the rodeo arena as he once again wowed his many fans with several popular hits delivered as only Elvis can.

He performed *Don't Be Cruel*, *Little Sister*, *Hunk of Burning Love*, *Heartbreak Hotel*, and an all time favorite, *Viva Las Vegas*.

However, fans sat reverently and quietly as he performed *Amazing Grace* and *An American Trilogy*.

Folks enjoyed walking around and visiting the various vendor booths, eating the delicious barbecue sandwiches, nachos, boiled peanuts, funnel cakes, snow cones, and gourmet soft pretzels available in many various flavors.

Beverages were available in abundance with choices of

soda, lemonade, sweet tea, or ice cold bottled water.

Back again was the popular mechanical bull with kids lined up just waiting for the opportunity to show off their skill in taming the mechanical beast.

There were various speeds and the younger kids rode a slower, safer speed while the older kids wanted a little bit more of a challenge, and challenged they were.

Some were really struggling to stay on at the faster speeds.

They had a "hay scramble" in which the younger kids dove into a pile of hay in the middle of the arena as they searched for hidden toys.

Everyone walked away with at least one toy, but most scored big in this event and left

with several toys in hand.

They also had a calf chase for the older kids and the winner walked away with a cash prize in hand.

Following the National Anthem, the action got underway with bareback riding, saddle bronco riding, calf roping, bull riding, team roping, and barrel racing.

It was nonstop action from the onset and the crowd loved it.

With sweat dripping down his face, clothes sticking to his body, and a smile on his face, Elvis said, "I'm glad to see so many folks coming out and supporting the community and the FFA."

This was another big success for the FFA and they are already looking forward to next year.

# Service ...continued from Page 1A

Hooper introduced the C.E. "Bud" Johnson, U.S. Navy, retired.

Johnson was the obvious choice as speaker on this special day as he spent 36 years as a "defender of freedom."

"Chad, we appreciate what you do for our veterans and our community," Johnson said. "You do an outstanding job of honoring veterans. You did with the Iwo Jima program and now with this recognition.

"It is an honor to be

among you people (fellow veterans)," Johnson said. "We have tried very hard in our community to stand up and be counted."

Johnson did not mince words as he spoke out regarding what is happening in the nation today and noted that he tries not to get caught up in the political and religious aspect of it all.

He also noted that he feels that we are still a Christian nation in spite of all the dissension and division that is currently taking place in Wash-

ington and around the globe.

"It makes me sick to see things happening in our nation that I never thought I would see happen in my lifetime," he said. "Let's be in prayer for our nation. I don't like to speak out against other religions. I am not religious; I am a Christian. I believe in Jesus Christ and I believe in our nation."

"It is men like you and me that have made this nation what it is over these many years," he said. "Thank you for coming out to honor us

today.

"Let's stand up and be counted in our nation today," Johnson said. "Let's let our voices be heard."

Everyone stood at attention for the Pledge of Allegiance, saluting or covering their heart with their right hand, in grave respect for our country's flag and those who fought so valiantly to protect it.

The ceremony closed with the traditional playing of Taps by North Georgia Honor Guardsman and Bugler Grant Ingersoll.