

Elections...continued from Page 1

person was submitted to the Governor for appointment.” According to Kendall, the nominations previously were filed with the Clerk of Court and sent on to Magistrate Court Judge David Rogers. “If an appointment comes through, they are obligated to send it on to the Secretary of State and it goes to the Governor for appointment,” said Kendall. The Board of Elections is currently made up of Republicans Charlie Kraus and David Keating and Democrats Janet Oliva, Barbara Shook, Pat Mahan, and Lynn Nations.

Nations was not approved in accordance with the Act, nor was her name submitted to Kendall’s office for appointment. Neither Kraus nor Keating were submitted to Kendall for appointment. Commissioner Kendall said in order to save the taxpayers attorney fees, court costs, and delays, he is asking County Attorney Kiker to continue working with the State Attorney General’s Office in seeking a proper solution to bring the make-up of the Elections Board into compliance with state law.

Shriners ...continued from Page 1A

Mountain Fairgrounds. For those of you planning to participate in the parade, the line up will begin at 1 p.m. Friday, June 14th, the public will have yet another opportunity to join in the fun as the Shriners will be hosting their Annual Shriners’ Hospital for Children (SHC) Charity Golf Tournament at Brasstown Valley Resort as well as their Annual Charity Poker Run on Lake Chatuge at the Ridges Resort & Marina. All net proceeds will go to the Shriners’ Hospital for Children. Commissioner Bill Kendall said, “We are happy the Shriners have decided to return to Towns County for a third year. “They are just a real good group of folks who do whole lot of good for the children,” Kendall said. “They raise millions of dollars every year for the Children’s Hospital. “They also do an awful lot to boost the economy in Towns County as just about every hotel in Towns County is full when they come to town.”

he said. “Restaurants, gas stations, and shopping centers all will feel the positive economic impact of having them back again. I hope everybody will come and enjoy the parade and support this very worthwhile organization. “It’s a whole lot of fun and the kids will really enjoy it,” Kendall said. “Our motto is having fun and helping kids. When a kid needs help, we get busy,” said Chuck Rager, 2012 Potentate for North Georgia’s Yaarab Shrine. “It’s all about the kids.” Shriners’ Hospitals for Children is a health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to providing pediatric specialty care for children aged 0-18. There is never a charge to the families. There are currently 20 in the United States and one each in Canada and Mexico. The Towns County Tourism Association and the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds are always instrumental in the coordination and implementation of the Shriners’ Summer Ceremonial.

Sellers...continued from Page 1

understood Reece better than anyone. Like Reece before her, Dr. Sellers was a legend in her own time. She won an Emmy Award for her role in producing the film depicting Reece’s life, *Voices*. “Dr. Bettie Sellers was so engaging a presence that it will take us a long time to fully absorb the reality of her passing,” Dr. Kay said. Dr. Sellers authored several volumes of poetry and was well published in academic literary journals and anthologies. Her many awards include Poet of the Year by the American Pen Women, Governor’s Award in the Humanities, Georgia Author of the Year in Poetry, and being named Poet Laureate of Georgia during the tenure of Gov. Zell Miller. However, Dr. Sellers was best known and loved as a teacher. She inspired students old and young through her 32 years of work at Young Harris

College, her church, Institute for Continual Learning and frequent speaking engagements. Her passion for living, learning and language were lifelong and the accomplishments of her students are her greatest legacy. Somehow, through the years, Reece and Dr. Sellers have become 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.” Also during the annual meeting, the Society took the time to pay tribute to members who have died since the last Society meeting. Those members include, Dr. Sellers, Phillip Greer, Lavon Butt, Faye Clegg, and Jack Lance. Monday was the 55th anniversary of Reece’s death.

First Friday Art Walk

First Friday Art Walk – Friday, June 7th, 5 – 8 PM, Downtown Murphy! Murphy comes alive with art demos, live music on the square, fine dining and refreshments along with merchant specials! This month’s theme is: “Music of Murphy,” with Music On The Square sponsored by the Cherokee County Arts Council. Kappy King Cole’s work is featured at Valley River Arts, 33 Valley River Ave., Downtown Murphy, NC. Kappy loves impressionistic painting and spent much of her time while in France in Monet’s Garden where she painted the flowers, the house, and of course the famous lily ponds. She loves vibrant colors and uses them happily on

both her canvases and pottery. She now teaches pottery and painting in her local studio in Andrews, NC. Please contact her through the Gallery if you are interested in a class. Kappy hopes her Art will put a smile on your face as it does on hers as she creates it. Valley River Arts Guild was formed in March, 2010, to serve the artistic community of the region by showcasing regional arts, providing opportunities for regional artists to show and sell their work, developing an artists’ network and sponsoring monthly art events to establish the region as an arts destination. For more information, visit Valley River Arts at 33 Valley River Ave in Downtown Murphy, NC, or click on ValleyRiverArts.com.

Grads...continued from Page 1

The more you give, the richer you become. Use these gifts to inspire yourself and those around you,” said Moore. Moore used a very appropriate quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson as she addressed her fellow students. “Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail.” John Hill, Union Site Administrator, took a moment to brag on Moore. “Noel has the highest grade point average of all the graduates in the MECHS system. She has earned the Zell Miller Scholarship and will receive \$4,000 each year to attend North Georgia Technical College. Noel plans to pursue a career in nursing. In June, she and her parents will be honored at a reception at the Governor’s Mansion,” said Hill. Fannin County’s Jordan Cochran gave the Seniors’ High Honor address, saying, “As we stand here tonight at the gateway of our future, graduating and beginning our lives, it is no longer a distant reality. Today our future starts. We did it. But we didn’t do it alone. I would like to thank all of the faculty and staff of the Mountain Education Charter High School for your inspiration and the confidence you had in each of us. Thank you for sharing your time, talent, and knowledge and for giving us that extra push when we needed it. To our parents, thank you for supporting us and standing beside us.” Union site administrator Judy Waldroup said, “Today we have the honor of presenting the Union site and the Fannin site students with their diplomas. These diplomas reflect not only the hard work and determination of these students, but the support of their families, community organizations, local businesses,



It’s official, the Class of 2013 at MECHS has completed all course requirements. Photo/Libby Shook

as well as the MECHS staff and Governing Board. Thanks to each of you for your leadership and support.” The time had come for the awarding of diplomas. Union’s newest site administrator Roy Perren, proudly called out the names of each student after certifying that all students receiving diplomas had met all graduation requirements of the state of Georgia and MECHS. As Perren called out the names of the graduates and MECHS Superintendent Richard Behrens handed out the diplomas, the flash of cameras, whoops, shouts, applause, and tears commenced. “This concludes our commencement ceremony. I want to thank each of you for coming out to honor these students. I present to you the 2013 Graduating Class of the Mountain Education Charter High School,” said Perren.

With several awards being presented, the most prominent, by far, was the President’s Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding academic success in the classroom. To be eligible for this award, students must earn a grade point average of 90 or higher on a 100-point scale. This year four students from Union County, each receiving a congratulatory letter from President Barack Obama, excelled at this level. They are Doug Harper, Noel Moore, Kaila Rash, and Kayley Wade. Next was the President’s Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. To be eligible for this award, a student must earn a GPA between 80 – 89. Receiving this honor from Towns County was Hil-

lary Bartlett, Brandy Dills, Darrell Farnsworth, Jeremy Lallement, Donald Lindemuth, Summer McLeary, and T.J. McCarley. Receiving this award from Union County was Bobby Albiets, Trisha Brown, Ty Brunet, Avery Cook, Alexis Forsyth, Bryan Forsyth, Ryan Forsyth, Ashley Heldman, Larissa Jones, Caleb Patterson, James Scott, Mary Smith, and Ansley Young. This was a most impressive graduating class with 34 of the 50 graduating seniors from MECHS being recognized as Honor Graduates. Many scholarships were awarded by various businesses and organizations to very worthy students in recognition of their hard work and dedication to their studies. These students are to be commended for their accomplishments. Congratulations MECHS Class of 2013.

Games ...continued from Page 1

Union County included many Scottish families, including Duncans, McAfees, McClures, Gillespies, Hendersons, Wallaces and Gordons. “You can look in the telephone book, and 50 percent of the names are Scottish names,” McAfee said. On Saturday and Sunday, June 8th and 9th, the adventure continues at Meeks Park as the Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highlands Games embark on its 10th anniversary. This year’s Honored Clan will be Clan Henderson, McAfee said, adding that Rory S. Howe will serve as the event’s master of ceremonies. The fun begins Friday at 11 a.m. with the Kilted Golf Classic at Butternut Creek Golf Course. Later, at 7 p.m. at the Union County Community Center the Annual Ceilidh (pronounced kay lee) Dinner. Hospitality Hour is from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Featured entertainer at the Ceilidh this year will be Scottish humorist Bob Valentine. Opening ceremonies for the Festival and Highlands Games is noon at Meeks Park on Saturday. Also on Saturday, another great group of athletes will compete in the annual Highland Games, a Southeastern Scottish Amateur Athletic Association sanctioned event. Classes Super A, A, B, and Masters will compete both



Bob Gordon of the Georgia Falconry Association will be on hand at Meeks Park. Saturday and Sunday.

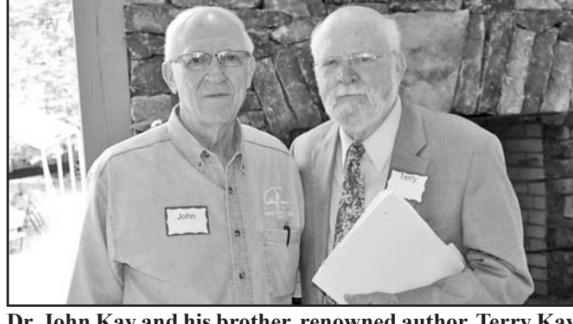
The athlete grasps the bottom of the Caber, balancing it as he moves forward, searching for the precise moment for the optimum release. The Clans Tug-of-War competition begins at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. The event also includes an abundance of activities for the kids, lots of good food, music and of course, the Kilted Mile Race at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Participants must be dressed in kilts or Tartan apparel to compete. All age groups are welcome to take part. Prizes are awarded for the top finishers in all age groups. There’s also a Mini Cooper Car Club Parade through Meeks Park at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday. Musical entertainment throughout the festival includes Uncle Hamish and The Hooli-

gans, Blairsville’s own Modern Vinyl, The BlarneyGirls, Colin Grant-Adams, Solo Pipers, The Oatcakes, Blairsville’s own L.O.C.H., and Keltic Kudzu. Also, there will be bagpipe and Scottish Fiddle workshops. Dancing also is a huge part of the Scottish culture. This year’s dance entertainment is headlined by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (Atlanta Branch), and the Glencoe Highland Dancers. And don’t forget the Falconry exhibition presented by Dr. Bob Gordon of the Georgia Falconry Association, the Border Collie and Sheep herding display, and get a gander at the Scottish Highland cattle. Also, Clann Nan Con returns, and don’t forget the Flying Hawkes Axe Throwing. Come on out and enjoy the fun.

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Reece ...continued from Page 1

at having little insights tucked away in the disguise of words, their own needle in their own haystack,” he said. “It’s what gives mystery to words that otherwise might come across as clever meandering.” Terry Kay said he liked the notion of Reece having “secrets.” “I like believing that Reece buried them by the thousands in the words he wrote,” he said. “Yet, for me, nothing was more unique about Byron Herbert Reece than this: He heard the music of the Earth – music not only of fiddle and flute, or harp and harmonica, but music of the plaintive voice of his history, word-music from the hills of Scotland and Ireland, and from the Old Testament poets of the King James Bible, and from the troubadours of the Middle Ages, and from hymn books of one-room churches making joyful noise.” When he wrote his own words to accompany that music, Terry Kay said Reece wasn’t stealing or plagiarizing; “he was continuing.” “It was as though he had been anointed by celestial command as *One Who Carries On*,” he said. “When you read his poems aloud, especially the ballads, you can feel the heartbeat of



Dr. John Kay and his brother, renowned author, Terry Kay. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

liberty, you could say the middle-buster had its own music, as did the two-horse turner and the corn planter and the spring-tooth harrow and the fertilizer distributor,” Terry Kay said. A writer needs to hear that music – his music, her music – and it does not matter what he or she is writing, “poetry or prose,” he said. “I do not know what sort of singing voice Byron Herbert Reece had. I’ve heard a recording of him speaking, as many of you might have, and from that I would suggest that as much as he favored classical music – choosing to die by it – he did not have a voice for the operas of Puccini or Verdi or any of the others. He was not Pavarotti. “Yet, I am certain – in

the deepest well of my certainty – that he sang the songs of his history – the ballads and the church songs – as he followed his plow or struck the ground with his hoe or splintered firewood with his ax,” he said. “Some hear their music from an iPod. Others hear it in a concert hall. Hub Reece heard it in fields carved from mountains,” he said. “He might have planted corn or wheat or sorghum cane or potatoes, but he harvested words and fashioned them into symphonies,” Terry Kay told the crowd. Reece was in the perfect place to harvest words, Terry Kay said. “There is no better writing studio on Earth than a field for corn, or for cotton, or for anything else that could use a mule and a plow,” he said. “But that’s a romantic notion for me – the mule and the plow. I mean. There’s more to it than that. It’s the growing of things that matters, whether you plant by mule or machine, by hoe or by helicopter. “You have to keep up with the growing. It feeds both sinew and soul. I suspect it’s why Reece wanted to be home when he was in such places as Atlanta or Los Angeles, he said. “He had something of a poetic damnation to deal with: he lamented not having the time to write because of the burden of work, yet he had to have the burden of work to inspire the writing.”

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