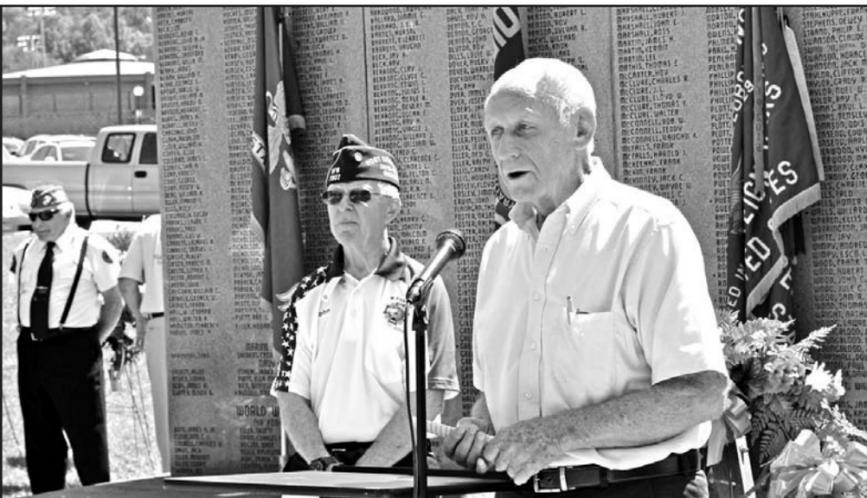


Memorial...from Page 1A



Three active duty servicemen attend the Memorial Day Ceremony at Towns County Veterans Park on Monday, May 30. The men were recognized and asked to stand during the ceremony.



Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall delivers his last Memorial Day address as commissioner of Towns County on Monday, May 30. Commissioner Kendall introduced the laying of the Memorial Wreaths



The North Georgia Honor Guard during the Retiring of the Colors. A veteran stepped in to help Honor Guard Member Jack McCorkle retire the U.S. flag

first responders; it is going to be our brave law enforcement personnel, our firefighters, our EMTs, all backed up by our citizens.

"And if they come, and war does rage, and when the fires have subsided, I believe our flag will still be standing as it did at Fort McHenry. That flag, as it does now and always will, represents our freedom

and our liberty."

Shumway went on to explain the importance of each major war, the lives that were lost and the gravesites that commemorate those who died such honorable deaths during those wartimes.

"This Memorial Day, remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we

may continue to enjoy our freedom and protection that this country affords us," said Shumway. "We honor those who have served in the military and in our communities."

American Legion members held a courtesy luncheon at the VFW Post #7807 after the service for all who wanted to attend.

TCMS...from Page 1A

available, they have gotten five awards in four years.

"And that's very significant in my opinion, because when you look at the list of schools, there aren't a lot of schools in this area that are making those lists, and Towns County Middle School is making them every single year."

Towns County Schools is still beaming over having placed No. 1 in the Pioneer RESA for the most recent CCRPI testing data, and for Dr. Berrong and the rest of

the middle school, this is just further validation that they have been and continue to maintain footing along the right path.

"It just goes to show how great our teachers are and how great our students are," said Dr. Berrong. "People look at the little mountain school up here in Towns County and want to assume that we can't have the student achievement that some larger system may have."

"And the truth is, we're getting better student achievement than any other

school in the state, and it's just a great feeling and a great place to work."

Such fantastic scores in the middle school speak volumes about student achievement in the elementary school as well as in the high school, as students make progress in their academic careers.

"As a district, it's all coming together for us," said Dr. Berrong.

For more information on Towns County Schools – and to use as a great comparative tool – visit the new website schoolgrades.georgia.gov.

Movers...from Page 1A

not true," said Sheriff Clinton. "In fact, one prerequisite to being in the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes is a kid can't be in any legal trouble – these aren't delinquents."

"This is something that started back in the 1950s, it was an idea in the Sheriff's Association. There were a lot of kids that, they call them Georgia's most at-risk children. And what's going on in these kids' lives is, a lot of them, their parents are in prison or abandoned them, or are sometimes strung out on drugs to the point that they don't know where their kids are, and the state had to step in."

The Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes give these kids a second chance at a nurturing and loving home life, which is why Sheriff Clinton is so gung-ho about this annual fundraiser.

Last year, Sheriff Clinton, with assistance from the community and Chatuge Gun Club, raised around \$8,500 for the homes.

Towns County's trap shoot has continually been in the Top 10 fundraisers per capita among the 159 other sheriffs' offices around the state, each year proving more successful than the last.

The shoot will begin early on Friday, June 10, at the Chatuge Gun Club, and new this year will be the CLEA-

sponsored Youth Homes Banquet.

CLEA – standing for Citizens Law Enforcement Academy – volunteers have worked hard to make the new event a success in order to raise even more money for the kids of the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes.

They hope the banquet has a large turnout, and ask that community members show up in force for the Saturday, June 11, event at the Towns County Recreation and Convention Center. Tickets for the banquet are \$25.

Attending residents can look forward to live music from the sheriff himself and Crystal Clinton, his wife, and there will be plenty of raffle and door prize drawings.

Ron and Anna Denton, both CLEA volunteers, have traveled all over to get more than \$8,000 in merchandise for the event's live and silent auctions.

Another special guest to the Mountain Movers and Shakers that Friday was Bob Terebayza, director of the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts of Young Harris.

"A lot of folks in the local area really don't understand what we are," said Terebayza, touching on the fact that William Holland, in place for 31 years now, is still a mystery to many

locals. "I've heard everything from we have something to do with horses to we're a nudist colony, to a cult living on top of the mountain, and I promise we're none of those things."

"Basically, the literal translation for a lapidarist is a sculptor. Have you ever seen a bolo tie or a buckle with the nice little polished rock in the middle of it? That's called a cabochon, and those are the kind of things that we deal with up at the school."

"This is a strong area of the country that's been involved with rockhounding – the nation's first major gold rush was just down in Dahlonega. We teach everything from basic gem and mineral ID and science to what all these things are. And then, when you take those gems, those rocks, and work them, we teach the jewelry making that you need to go ahead and set them and put them in a piece of jewelry."

Classes at William Holland are in session now, and folks can sign up for them or win them as auction prizes at the Towns County Youth Homes Banquet Fundraiser on Saturday, June 11.

For more information about William Holland, visit the school's website at www.lapidaryschool.org, and for more information about or to purchase a ticket for the Youth Homes Banquet, call Ron and Anna Denton at (706) 718-8536.

Jenkins...from Page 1A

go out and play golf," said Jenkins.

Heading into next season, having already won both third place and runner-up at state, Jenkins has definite ideas of what direction she wants to move in to improve her skills during her senior year, including work on her short game and overall incorporation of strategies into the complete game.

She has worked with Indians Golf Head Coach Brett Keller for several years now, and looks forward to another season under his leadership and guidance.

"He's such a great coach," said Jenkins. "He pushes us to do our best every day. He cares as much about our studies as he does our on-the-course play."

Jenkins used to run Lady Indians Cross Country, having been a part of the 2013 and 2014 State Championships under Coach Jeannie Ledford,

and while she misses the sport, Jenkins said she's chosen to concentrate on golf for the time being.

Of course, if any girls at Towns County High School would like to come out and join Jenkins for the 2016-2017 school year, she said they are more than welcome, adding that, in golf, she has had plenty for which to be thankful.

"I would like to thank my parents and Coach Keller, and God for giving me the opportunity to come out here and do my best every day," said Jenkins.

As for Coach Keller, he's excited to have one more year with the caliber of student and athlete that is Kenzie Jenkins.

"Kenzie makes great grades, and she's always ready to go," said Coach Keller. "You don't have to stay on her about a practice schedule or anything like that. She's to the point now, going into her



Jenkins was part of the 2015 Lady Indians who captured the State Championship, with now graduated Mia Manto and Danielle Diehl

senior year, where you can turn her loose and she knows what's going on."

Homeshow...from Page 1A

made 60 good contacts."

Added Mr. Lambricht: "This weekend has been a huge help for us, and we expect great results from this."

Other vendors commented on the enthusiastic energy of the crowd, and the majority of those in attendance were there to learn about new products and were serious about home improvement.

"This weekend has been a great experience," said Michael McCoy of Homecraft Inc., specializing in gutter protection. "There has been a lot of people and good crowd that has been very interested. Everyone is very open-minded about what you have to say, everyone is very accepting. You're allowed to go out and talk to them, they're very engaging and not going to blow you off. Everyone is very welcoming and interested to hear what you have to say."

According to Anderson, residents can expect bigger and better things at the fall show that will be held on Oct. 15 and Oct. 16.

"The show has grown substantially since we were here last October," he said. "There is a whole new section of the building that has opened up for us to begin using in the future. You'll have a lot



Sharon Penner of Origami Owl joins Tourism Director Tobie Chandler of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce as they represent at the Home & Garden Show



Kitchen Craft put on one of the many demonstrations from vendors at the Home & Garden Show

of the same companies that will be here, and there will always be new and different attractions."

Seafood...from Page 1A

to all those who helped make the event possible, especially Lee and Robin Roberts from Robin Roberts Promotions, who organized the event.

"Most of the time I've been mayor, we've had two arts and crafts festivals every year," said Mayor Gibby. "The spring show was always in April, and you never know if it's going to come a hailstorm or if it's going to be a blizzard. This past year we had a conversation about getting rid of that spring show because it wasn't really working."

"At the same time, (Lee and Robin) Roberts were doing a show in South Georgia, and they were approached by the Georgia Wild Shrimp Association, which said, 'Hey, there's not a seafood festival north of Atlanta, what do you think?'"

"So they came to me, because they knew I was looking for something different, and as soon as they said it, I thought, 'That's fabulous.' It was April of last year when we started the whole thing."

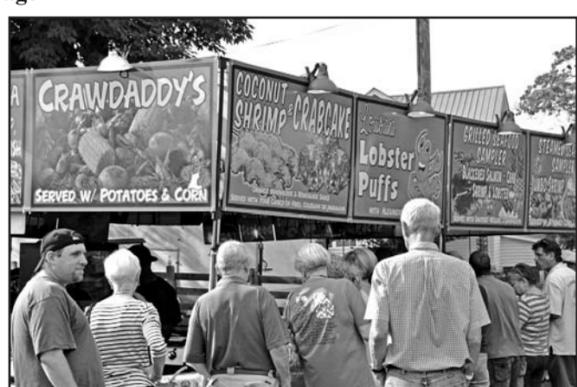
"When I pitched it to the city council, their response was like a lot of people, not really getting the whole seafood festival in the mountains. But everyone around here has barbecue, and I didn't want to have what everyone else has."

"We needed to take a chance on something different for our area, and the council, they got it. For a little over a year, Lee and Robin have helped make this happen. We decided to limit it this year because we weren't sure how well it would do. We didn't want it to be too big. We have seven seafood vendors and over fifty arts and crafts vendors."

The festival brought more than the organizers could have imagined, drawing many people in with the continuous live music throughout the weekend and wonderful hospitality shown by the City of Young Harris.

"It seemed sort of a little ironic when I first heard about it, but they got it all together and it's great," said Blairsville resident Carolyn Joutet, who enjoyed all the food as well as browsing and looking at the antiques with her husband. "My favorite part has definitely been the coconut shrimp and jambalaya."

One of the seafood



Black Jack Grill was a popular choice among seafood lovers at the North Georgia Highlands Seafood Festival – they served gator kabobs and lobster puffs, and many more scrumptious options



Workers at Black Jack Grill, a Cajun seafood venue, serve delicious shrimp and lobster creations to the hungry masses at Mayor's Park in Young Harris

vendors, Clayton Singletary, owner of Black Jack Grill, shared his initial skepticism about a seafood festival in the mountains of North Georgia, explaining that this was more than he could have ever hoped for in such a festival.

"We do seafood festivals all up and down the East Coast," said Singletary. "We talked to Mr. Lee and here we are. My first thoughts were, this being the first annual, in my business we're usually a little skittish of first time festivals. But I talked to Mr. Lee, and the way he explained it, I could tell he was going to have a really nice festival."

"So I was more than willing to come up and test the waters with him and give it a try. So far, it's been a good turn out and very pleasurable people and the mountains here – there's a peaceful calmness here."

Seafood vendors included: Black Jack Grill, a Cajun seafood venue serving crab cakes, coconut shrimp, gator kabobs, lobster puffs, fried fish, fried shrimp, a creole platter, jambalaya and

gumbo; Sherri's Crab Cakes of Delmarva, serving crab cake sandwiches and cream of crab soup; Seadaddy's, serving Savannah-style low country boil, U-Peel-Em shrimp and crab soup; Bucket O' Shrimp, serving shrimp platters, fish platters, crab legs, fried lobster on a stick and fish or shrimp po'boys; American Catch, serving Georgia low country boil, clambake, lobster rolls, Georgia shrimp rolls, North Carolina trout dip, steamed oyster buckets and conch fritters; and Lobsta's, serving fried clam strips, hushpuppies, fried oysters, shrimp cocktail, lobster ceviche and shrimp ceviche.

"I like this because I want people to come to this area," said Mayor Gibby. "I'm partial to Young Harris – I want people to come here, I want people to see the college, but it's going to be good for the whole county."

"It's going to be good for the whole region in the next couple of years as it develops. I see wonderful things happening. It excites me to no end."