

## Shelter...from Page 1

proach. "The staff takes pride in their work," said Lisa McConnell, Director at the Humane Society Mountain Shelter. "They love it. Our dog trainer is here teaching kids how to properly teach an animal to sit and walk the dogs. The Blairsville Animal Hospital is here. There's been so much support these last few years. People see the difference in an animal when it's cooped up. They get sick. They get mean and aggressive. We've built spacious areas where our dogs can go out and play ball and our cats have lots of room and they get petted and stay socialized with our volunteers, which we're very thankful for."

As a part of their program to educate kids about proper animal care and maintenance, two kids who meet special grade requirements are selected each month during the school year to visit the shelter.

There is a special chauffeur, by way of a CHAMPS squad car, transports the kids to the facility. The children are provided a unique tour, t-shirt, animal socialization and are added to the Mountain Shelter's newsletter.

As part of their continuing animal guidance, the Mountain Shelter held an essay contest entitled *If My Pet*



*Could Read*, which awarded teen Lindsay Evans of Blairsville to be the recipient of their \$50 check at the Pet-A-Pet's proceedings.

"Kids around here get very involved. We've had kids from the local schools build agility courses for the animals. They think it's really cool. Pet and animal education with these kids, we believe, is the key to preventing animal abuse and overpopulation," said McConnell.

"All the rescue groups around are helping contribute toward the reduction of intakes," she said. "We're an adoption agency, not a pound.

If anyone wants to bring in an animal, we have to call to see if we have room because we don't euthanize. It's taken about seven or eight years, but it's been a different world up here. I can't even tell you how many donations we've received this weekend, but it's filled to the top. We love the awareness."

More details on the Humane Society Mountain Shelter Humane Society can be found at [www.humansocietymountainshelter.org](http://www.humansocietymountainshelter.org) and the facility is open 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday - Saturday.

The Mountain Shelter is closed on Sunday.

## Library...from Page 1

finishing, rock work along the accented areas, a fireplace framed in the outside screened-in porch and a new spin on the old children's area.

"We've taken the paintings from our children's area and added them here (new area), putting frames around them," Phillips said. "It's excellent artwork that we wanted to preserve. We'll have a lot more

programs here because we have the space to do it. Before the additions, we did not."

The refurbished facility also will have window awnings that open up to allow natural air to the porch area, where rocking chairs will sway in front of the fireplace.

Garden space and an expanded hospitality area will include a bistro style bar for

coffee, sandwiches and brownies - amenities that were not prevalent with the setting of the building.

"It's going to be great," Phillips said. "When the architect started on this, he said, 'Wow, y'all sure really know what you want.' Well we've had seven years to think about it."

## News from Towns County Sheriff's Office

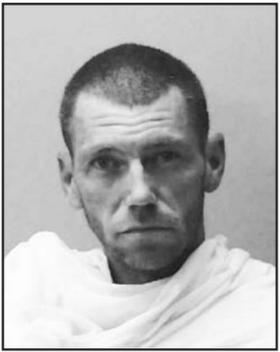
On Thursday June 19th, deputies with the Towns County Sheriff's Office arrested Melvin Linn Masters age 36 of Hiwassee after a short foot chase.

Deputies tried to initiate a traffic stop on a motorcycle on Bugscuffle when the driver fled, leading them onto Kimsey Cove.

The driver laid the motorcycle down in a yard on Kimsey Cove and fled on foot.

After a short foot chase the suspect was apprehended.

Masters was charged with Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act,



**Melvin Masters**  
possession of methamphetamine; Violation of Georgia's

Controlled Substance Act, possession of marijuana less than an ounce; burglary; driving in violation of license restrictions; obstruction of an officer; tampering with evidence; fleeing/attempting to elude police, expired tag; no proof of insurance; interference with government property.

The burglary charge was in reference to a reported burglary on June 19th at a residence on Teagan Way in Hiwassee.

That case remains active and is on-going at this time, Towns County sheriff's reports show.

## Good Neighbors hand out scholarships

By Colleen Collins  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Blairsville - The U.S. Postal Service would have been proud of the Good Neighbors Auto Club on Thursday.

They didn't battle any sleet or freezing rain, or even dark of night, but the braved high winds and a pretty fierce hail storm to complete their annual scholarship night.

The club awarded scholarships to six rising college freshmen that recently graduated from high school in four surrounding counties - Union, Towns, and Cherokee (NC), and Graham (NC).

More than 60 folks turned out for a wonderful event to celebrate some fine young people. There also was good fellowship, delicious food, and the doing of good deeds - a delightful combination for a perfect, but, stormy evening.

"We have an annual car show in October at United Community Bank in Blairsville," said Marcus Tuschel, the club's past president. "Through this fundraiser we raise money for the scholarships, and to help local organizations. This year, we are giving out six scholarships. The Auto Club also donates money regularly to other local organizations, such as food pantries, animal shelters, Meals on Wheels, SAFE, and Civil Air Patrol."

Recipients of the club's scholarship awards this year were Darian Colbroth, from Union County High School, who plans to attend Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Keaton Killian graduated from Hiwassee Dam High School and plans to attend Western Carolina University.



Mitchell Lance graduated from Murphy High School and plans to attend North Carolina State.

The following scholarship recipients were not present: Lindy Hollingshead, a Towns County High School graduate, who plans to attend Valdosta State (her parents were present and accepted her scholarship); Candace Dockery from Robbinsville, NC; and Hanna Harris who graduated from Murphy High School.

Scholarship applications are sent out to the high schools in surrounding counties every year. Then, Auto Club Scholarship Committee members go through the applications submitted, and try to choose students who really want to go to college and may also have a financial need.

The event also featured a delicious potluck dinner of fried chicken and side dishes provided by the Auto Club members; Joe McGinnis, Auto Club Vice-President, welcomed everyone present.

When asked about the scholarship he received, Col-

broth said, "I really appreciate everything the Auto Club has done for everybody, and I appreciate all the money they are handing out. I plan to use the scholarship money for books and whatever is necessary to help me get through college."

The Good Neighbors Auto Club meets the third Thursday, in the evening, at Meeks Park in Pavilion No. 1.

This year's Auto Show will be held the third Saturday in October at United Community Bank in Blairsville.

This past year, in 2013, the event had more than 250 cars and trucks.

Be sure to come out and see some beautiful antique cars and trucks and meet some fine people. You'll also be contributing to some worthy causes, and help some fine young people further their education.

Good Neighbors Auto Club is doing many good deeds. They are indeed good neighbors.

## Summer Day Camp at Rec Center

Summer is just around the corner and that means hot weather and Summer Day Camp for boys and girls ages 6 thru 12. This summer the Recreation Department will offer 3 sessions of day camp. Each session is two weeks, running Monday thru Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You may bring your child between 7:30 and 9 a.m. and pick your child up between 4

and 4:30 p.m. Session dates are as follows: Session III July 7th thru July 18th. Our Day Camp offers children sport game activities, social game activities, field trips, nature hikes and much more. Give your child a lot to do this summer by signing them up for Day Camp. You may send your child to any or all of the sessions. Children need to bring a swim-

suit, towel, sprayable sunscreen and sack lunch. The Recreation department will furnish drinks for the campers. No pre-registration required, just show up at the new Recreation Center for camp located off of Mining Gap Trail at 150 Foster Park Rd. For more information please call us at 706-896-2600.

## Hiwassee...from Page 1

however there is little left to cut.

"This is a break even budget and there is no money for staff salary increases," he said. "We can evaluate the salary issue gain in January with the mid-year adjustment."

There are additional costs for a leased police car in July at \$10,000. The City, Stancil said, cannot afford to purchase a car. Also, there will be a need to evaluate a second police car lease in January.

The Water Fund income has decreased from \$1,226,500 in Amended 2012-13 to a proposed \$1,197,500, a loss in revenue of \$29,000, Stancil said.

However, there is a silver lining, Stancil said.

"It looks as if the income loss of the past several years has bottomed out," he said. "Most of the improvement is due to better financial policies and the rate increase adopted by the Council."

The City however, still suffers from water leaks, Stancil said.

The Water Fund benefited from the Georgia Baptist connection fees during this budget cycle, Stancil said.

"The total revenue produced by connection fees is \$70,000 for the budget ending June 2014," Stancil said. "The City has reduced this amount to \$25,000 for the new budget."

Overtime and gas costs are up again, Stancil said.

"Overtime in the water

department has increased from \$11,000 in 2012-13 to \$19,000 for the current year," he said. "Gasoline has increased from \$17,550 in 2012-13 to \$24,000 for the current year."

Sewer Fund income has decreased from \$1,074,500 in Amended 2012-13 to a proposed \$729,500, a loss in revenue of \$78,000, Stancil said.

"Again, it looks as if the income loss of the past several years has bottomed out," Stancil said. "There are no unusual increases in expenses since both gasoline usage and electricity usage is down."

Water Treatment Fund revenue has increased from \$870,850 in Amended 2012-13 to a proposed \$1,196,000 in 2014-15, an increase of \$325,150 and this increase is due in part to water leaks, Stancil said.

In expenses, the only area of concern is overtime, from \$18,500 in the Amended 2012-13 Budget to \$35,000 in the proposed 2014-15 budget, Stancil said.

"This is due to working extra hours to pump water loss through water leaks," Stancil said. "The City has fixed North Mountain Drive and Cedar Cliff and it is hopeful that the saving will begin to show up as saving when we review the midyear adjustment."

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Fund revenue has decreased from \$170,230

in the Amended Budget for 2012-13 to \$160,050 in the proposed budget for 2014-15.

"This is a decrease of \$10,180 and is within our six-year projections," Stancil said.

Hotel/Motel Tax Fund revenue is up from \$60,000 in the Amended Budget 2012-13 to \$65,000 in the proposed 2014-15 Budget, Stancil said.

"This is a sign the economy is improving locally," Stancil said. "This is a pass-through Budget whereby the plan is to send the majority of dollars collected, \$54,350, to the Towns County Chamber of Commerce. Also, the City must pay the Tax Commissioner for collections, \$650. Short term, the City will retain \$5,000 for direct promotions and contingencies of \$3,200."

Lean times mean there is no funding for new projects in the 2014-15 Budget, Stancil said.

"By way of example, funding of new projects in the General Fund would be projects as follows: double millage (4.540) will raise an additional \$167,531; triple millage will raise an additional \$355,062 (6.810); or increasing millage by 4 mills (9.08) will raise an additional \$502,593. It is not recommended that any new projects be funded from General Funds in 2014-15. Any new project will require a tax increase," Stancil said.

When totaled, the City of Hiwassee budgets exceed \$4 million a year, Stancil said.

## Rally...from Page 1

took to the roads to admire the vintage and refurbished.

"I ride a Honda and a Buell. I have some old Yamahas. The new Triumphs are nice," said Chuck Caldwell, from Birmingham, AL. "I've been riding since about 1965, since I was a kid. I got my first Honda 50 when I was 6 years old. It was a great Christmas. I'll never forget it. We've been riding all up through the mountains all weekend. It's really nice up here."

The event would not be complete without its share of door prizes, which were an event altogether. T-shirts and goggles were handed out as well as awards for the Furthest Distance Travelled, which was a gentleman from Ontario, Canada. Prizes also were awarded for the Oldest Rider, who was 77 years old from Robbinsville, NC, and the Youngest Rider who won at 17 years of age.

Randy Huyett, the president of GABMA and owner of British & American Bike Service in Doraville, custom built a restored 1973 Triumph Bonneville 755 Speed Bike café racer with pushed back, or clipped, handlebars, rear set



foot pegs, custom exhaust and a leather bump seat built for more streamlined travel.

"Last call for the raffle tickets," Huyett exclaimed through the sound system as riders anxiously waited in line to submit their chance for the '73 Triumph. "After winning a door prize, hold onto your ticket because it will be your shot at the bike."

Mike Hodge from Conyers took off with the winning

numbers for the Triumph.

"Now I've got almost every kind of Triumph," said Hodge, ecstatically standing next to the prize before taking a seat of his very own.

"I've seen adults here who attended this rally as children," said John Underwood. "And now they're bringing their children. It really warms my heart."

## County...from Page 1

Revenues normally collected by Towns County have been on a downhill slide since 2010, falling \$1.336 million in that time frame.

In other business, Commissioner Kendall approved a budget amendment by Enotah Circuit Senior Court Judge Murphy Miller. The county moved unspent money from other budget items to the Juvenile Indigent Fund because it was already spent. Total monies moved into the JIF account - \$26,000. The total budget for the remainder of the year will

be just over \$52,000, including the shifted \$26,000.

"They've already spent most of that," Kendall said. "There was a federal judge that made a ruling about a year or so ago that is really going to cost the county a lot of money," Kendall said. "What that ruling did, was on these DFACS cases, each child was entitled to an attorney paid by county taxpayers, and each parent was entitled to an attorney, also paid by taxpayers."

"If this keeps going, we estimated about a month

ago that it would reach about \$75,000. I met with Superior Court Judge Murphy Miller and the Juvenile Court Judge Jerry Bruce, and the DFACS board and director to try to get a handle on this, but it hasn't slowed down any. This could go up to \$100,000. That's what this (federal) judge's court ruling could cost the taxpayers."

Commissioner Kendall reports that Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax projects are on average 70 percent complete in terms of funding for Capital Projects.

## Early...from Page 1

rently is trying to get the state Secretary of State's Office to return to the original mapping of Towns County voting districts, prior to state redistricting last year.

During the May 20 Primary, some voters were told they had been reassigned to another voting precinct.

Those voters had not been notified with Precinct

Cards. That obligation belonged to the state Secretary of State's Office because it had requested the redistricting, Towns County Board of Elections member Mark Dehler said.

## Volunteer to be a part of the 2014 Fair

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
[cduncan.tch@windstream.net](mailto:cduncan.tch@windstream.net)

The Georgia Mountain Fair, scheduled for July 18-26, is looking for volunteers to work where needed at our upcoming events.

The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds has been the prime tourist attraction in Towns

County for 64 years and is a major player in the economic growth of our beautiful mountains.

By volunteering to work at the Georgia Mountain Fair you are playing a major role in keeping our local economy stable and bringing needed tax dollars for the improvement and growth of life on Lake Chatuge.

If you or someone you know has an interest in volunteering to work at our events please contact Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds at (706) 896-4191 or [gamt-fair@windstream.net](mailto:gamt-fair@windstream.net) and we would be glad to help get you involved.

## Recreation Department's July 4th Activity Day 2014

The Towns County Recreation Department's annual July 4th Activity Day will be on Friday, July 4, 2014 at the Recreation Department Ball Fields. The Recreation Department invites everyone to come out and have fun in the sun! The schedule of the events during the day and locations are as follows:

Youth Single Horseshoes (16 & Under Division) (Boys & Girls) Ball field, 9:30 AM; Men's Single Horseshoes (17 & Older Division) Ball field, 10 AM; Women's Single Horseshoes (16 & Older Di-

vision) Ball field, 10:30 AM; Men's Partner Horseshoes (17 & Older Division) Ball field, 11 AM; Men's Homerun Derby (15 & Older Division) Ball field, 10:30 AM; Women's Homerun Derby (15 & Older Division) Ball field, 11:15 AM; Youth Homerun Derby (14 & Under Division) (Boys & Girls) Ball field, 10:45 AM; Youth Homerun Derby (11 & Under Division) (Boys & Girls) Ball field, 11 AM; Team Cornhole Tournament (10 & Under Open Division) 2 Person Team Ball field, 11:30 AM; Team Cornhole Tournament (16 & Under

Open Division) 2 Person Team Ball field, 12 noon; Team Cornhole Tournament (Adult 17 & Over Open Division) 2 Person Team Ball field, 12 noon.

In each of the Recreation Department events, plaques and trophies will be given to all winners in each event. There is no charge for any of the activities. All events will begin at the times listed. To pre-register just be on time for the events in which you wish to participate. See all of you on July 4th.

For more information call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.