

# Fourth...continued from Page 1A

be doing all kinds of games. They'll do two bounce houses, one for small children and one for the bigger children.

"They'll pass out invitations for their Bible school and actually inviting people to come to their church," Thomason said.

"We'll shoot the fireworks then at 9:45 p.m., weather permitting," Thomason said. "We'll be taking up donations to help defray the cost of the fireworks."

"We've raised \$2,600 so far and the cost of the entire fireworks show is \$5,200," Thomason said. "You don't have to give, but we're asking for donations."

"We've had a solid response in helping that cause from Lake Chatuge Lodge, United Community Bank, Holiday Inn, Towns County Herald, and Towns County Tourism, Dr. Nicholson, Dan Paris and Mike Annast," Thomason said.

"We want everyone to come out early, get a good parking space and get ready for an exciting time," Thomason said.

The fireworks will be discharged from the ball field and will go over the lake, Thomason said.

"We want to say a big thank you to the Towns County Sheriff's Office, Towns County Fire Department and EMS," Thomason said. "The fire de-

partment and EMS have a fire truck and an ambulance on the Fairgrounds.

"The Sheriff's Office stretches the floats that have to be stretched across the lake to keep boats out of the cove during the fireworks," Thomason said. "The fireworks company will not shoot the fireworks unless those floats are stretched across the lake."

"We've got our fingers crossed," she said. "They can't shoot fireworks if it's pouring rain. We'll just have to wait and see what happens."

Thomason also is looking for volunteers for the upcoming Georgia Mountain Fair.

"The Fair, July 19th-27th, is looking for volunteers to work where needed at our upcoming events," Thomason said. The Fairgrounds has been the prime tourist attraction in Towns County for 63 years and is a major play in the economic growth of our beautiful mountains.

"By volunteering to work at the 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," she said. "If you or someone you know has an interest in volunteering to work at our events please contact me at the Fairgrounds at (706) 896-4191 or gamtfair@windstream.net."

# Jordan...continued from Page 1A

receiving an All-Star nod that same year. He was traded in 2002 to the Los Angeles Dodgers and then again to the Texas Rangers in 2004 and finished his last season as a professional baseball player back in Atlanta in 2006.

He now sponsors the Brian Jordan Foundation and works hard to help kids in need.

It is hard to imagine that a professional sports star such as Jordan would be interested in writing children's books but he is quick to explain his motive.

"I wanted to do something to give back because I was so blessed in my career," he said. "I actually woke up one night and had this story in my head and I started writing it down the following day."

"My mother was an educator who worked with special needs children and she edited my writing into something good," he said. "My kids read it and said they really enjoyed it, so I talked to a friend of mine who introduced me to a publisher and the rest is history."

"These books are based in my real life experiences because I want kids to know that they are not alone in their problems," he said. "The same things they deal with everyday were the same things I dealt with in my growing up years."

"I hate bullying and I actually helped bullied kids when I was in school, which gave me inspiration later in life," Jordan said. "I also want to help get kids off the couch and outside playing."

"They have too many distractions these days with all the electronics and they are missing out on some good times by not getting involved

in athletics," Jordan said. "The books help with this and they support a lot of the literacy programs we provide at the Foundation."

Jordan's heart is as big as the footballs he used to intercept while playing for the Falcons. His passion for children is evident in all he does and his desire to encourage kids is what makes him get out of bed these days.

"My dad really encouraged me to get out there and be the best I could be in my early years," Jordan said. "I got hit in the face by a pitch as a 9-year-old little leaguer and I was scared to play after that."

"He was very patient with me and helped me work through the fear and I will never forget that," he said. "It is his guidance that inspires me to help kids now."

Union County's own Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris summed it up best when he introduced Jordan to the Georgia Mountain Regional Committee meeting where Jordan talked about the foundation and his love of kids.

"He is one of the nicest people you will ever meet and I am not just saying that," Paris said. "He is a stand up guy and his love of children and his desire to help them is inspiring."

"I had the opportunity to play golf with him this morning and we had a great time because of who he is inside, and not because of his fame as a professional athlete," Paris said. "He is a wonderful person and we are honored that he made time in his busy schedule to come here and meet with folks in order to bring awareness to the needs of kids today."

# GMRC...continued from Page 1A

to be thankful for in the way of facilities and we want these representatives to see what we are doing," Commissioner Paris said.

"Hopefully it will benefit them when they start to make plans to add a new facility like

a Farmers Market or canning plant," Commissioner Paris said.

The next GMRC meeting is scheduled for July 25th in White County at the White County Senior Center.

# Brownie Troop #11610 "attends" Monsters University



**Brownie Troop at the Blairsville Cinema**  
The Union County Girl Scout Brownie Troop #11610 went to see Monsters University in 3D at the Blairsville Cinema. The girls were also joined by the Girl Scouts in Towns County. The theater hosted about 50 Girl Scouts with their families. The Brownie troop lead by Sonja Krout and Jamie Kennedy, have had a great summer doing fun activities together. Troop #11610 would like to thank Blairsville Cinema for making their movie experience fun. N0413.25/CA

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# Chatuge...continued from Page 1A

This is simply the best way to avoid flood damage to communities serviced by and surrounding the reservoirs.

It is also part of the water storage plan to make room for the winter and spring controlled fill. This includes the 5.3 million gallons of water released every second through the 109 Hydroelectric Generators the TVA uses when making electricity.

The stored lake water can be released in two ways to maintain flood control levels.

One of which is through the generators that produce electricity and the other is through gates called

Spillways.

The generators can only handle so much water at one time, so excess water must be released through "spills" which produce some very large amounts of water flowing out of the protected reservoir.

This release allows the dam to maintain its flood preventive levels. Much of the water released through the spillway will eventually find its way into another reservoir, which is active in its own annual cycle to control flooding.

The cycle continues through the winter and spring when TVA River Operations

begin water storage for the Spring Fill.

As in the case for Lake Chatuge this spring, the reservoir area received more than 12 inches of rain during the winter and spring, so the lake filled quickly during the controlled spring cycle. This is a crucial time when trying to avoid damage from floods and this winter was demanding on the coordination of water flow.

The TVA stored floodwaters from the heavy rains that hit the Tennessee Valley in January and released them at a slower rate than normal to ensure the safety of the people living below

the dams.

The structural flood damages averted could have been as high as \$800 million with an untold number of possible deaths.

Lake Chatuge is shining in all its glory this summer and will provide summer lakegoers with plenty of water to enjoy.

It is beautiful to see and fun to experience, but the fact remains, that the TVA controls the level of the lake for many reasons.

The residents of flood-prone areas around the reservoirs are safer because of the controlled cycle of lake water release.

# Horseless...continued from Page 1A

There will be many different models touring the area including but not limited to vehicles built by Buick, Cadillac, Ford, Oldsmobile, Marmion and Willys.

"We have a large selection of models coming in with one of the favorites being the old Stanley Steamer," Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said. "Many folks don't believe it, but the steam engine is the most powerful of all the early motors and could travel up to speeds not reached by the gas engines."

The early steam models were used to carry people over the Rocky Mountains

and many could hold up to eight people and still pull the steep roads, said Tommy Lyon, coordinator for the Horseless Carriage group. "We encourage folks to stop us and talk or even take a ride if they see an empty seat."

The group has plans regarding daily adventures, but will be free most evenings to travel around town as they sample the great cuisine found in Hiwassee and the surrounding area for dinner.

Lyon expects there to be approximately 150 people involved in the tour with more than 60 vintage automobiles participating.

"Folks will see us tooling around town and along the back roads so don't be afraid to approach a car owner and ask questions," Lyon said. "Our whole goal in coming to Hiwassee for our tour is to socialize, show off our cars and ride."

"We love to drive these vintage automobiles and we want to introduce as many people as we can to the era when driving a car was not taken for granted," Lyon said. "We look forward to being there and thank all those who will make it possible for us to bring our cars and tour."

It will be an exciting

event as Hiwassee is transformed, in a small way, into an era when life was simpler and people took the time to enjoy a good drive in the open air.

One of the group's stops will be at Brasstown Manor to visit residents who actually rode in the Brass Era automobile or whose family may have owned one.

Many of the owners have announced that they will stay over an extra day to ride in the Georgia Mountain Fair Parade on Saturday, July 20 before packing the cars back in their trailers and heading home.

# Trapshoot...continued from Page 1A

were on hand to work the shoot as volunteers and shooting team participants.

They were in charge of road safety, parking and provided the security for the event.

It was a team effort between the two entities as the donations tallied nearly \$6,000 for the youth homes. This total included over \$1,000 in raffle tickets for a chance to win a Mossberg 500A shotgun donated by Wal-Mart of Blairsville.

Towns County Sheriff's Lt. Terry Conner was the lucky winner and he was all smiles as he took his new firearm home.

The weather couldn't have been better as the shooters were treated with near perfect conditions for the event.

Chatuge Gun Club team No. 1 was the overall victor of the shoot with a score of 234 out of a possible 250.

Dick Fille anchored the team, with a perfect score of 50, which also included Bart Reynolds, Brian Fancher, Steve Smith and Chet Westergard.

Congratulations to the winning team on a great shoot.



The Union County 4H Shotgun team scored big at the annual Georgia Youth Homes Trapshoot. Photo/Joe Collins

Fille also won the overall individual honors while Blane Brown of the Union County 4H team won the individual junior honor with a score of 47 and Tara McCan, also of the Union County 4H team, won the ladies individual honor with a score of 38.

Chatuge Gun Club President Ed Jones was on hand to handle the scoring and oversee the safety of the participants during the competition.

It all went according to plan, as the professionalism of all involved was evident.

firearm use and safety is not the problem," Sheriff Clinton said. "Many times when something bad happens and a firearm is involved people want to blame the gun but it is the person handling the gun that is the problem," he said. "It's just great to see these kids out here shooting and handling firearms correctly while having a great time and supporting a very worthy cause."

Guest of Honor was Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes Development Officer Sid Roberts and he could not have been more gracious about the shoot.

"The youth homes require a lot of funding and these type events are the backbone of our yearly fundraising," Roberts said. "Folks come out for a day of fun and excitement and in the end help numerous kids have a safe and structured environment to grow up in."

"We couldn't make it without the help of facilities like the Chatuge Gun Club and the people who care about kids like Sheriff Clinton and his force," Roberts said. "We are very thankful to both for all the hard work they put in hosting this event. Thank you from all the kids at the homes and we hope to see you next year."

# Mountain Fling a huge success at NGTC

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Blairsville - Mike Wilson has been hand-crafting knives for more than three decades.

What began as a hobby more than 30 years ago is now a passion.

The Hayesville, NC resident said his introduction into his craft began with a neighbor.

"He was getting into it, and I was in his shop every time he was in there," Wilson said. "The next thing I knew, I was into making knives. I was hooked and I bought some equipment and got involved with it."

Wilson was one of the 45 vendors taking part in the Sixth Annual Mountain Fling, an arts and crafts show sponsored by Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild at North Georgia Technical College's Blairsville Campus.

Wilson said knife-making isn't for everyone. For those that want to get started for hobby or craft, he says you start with a good piece of steel.

"You just grind away everything that doesn't look like a knife," Wilson said. "I make a lot of different patterns. I work with 300 different patterns that I've developed over the years. My knives are mostly geared toward hunting and fishing. I do a lot of collectibles and I also make kitchen cutlery."

Wilson says all-in-all, he derives a lot of pleasure from his hobby-turned-craft.

"It's a lot of self-satisfaction," he said. "It's a pleasure to create something from raw material. A lot of people don't have the talent to do that, so, it's a self-rewarding venture to be able to do it."

Wilson has been featured in *Blade Magazine*, and that's also a measure of self-satisfaction.

"It's nice to be noticed for doing something that you love to do," he said.

Wilson's kitchen cutlery starts at \$30 for a paring knife and goes up to \$150 for a chef's knife.

His outdoorsman knives range from \$135 to \$300, he said.

"I've sold almost 8,000 knives in my day," he said. "That's



Mike Wilson of Wilson's Custom Knives of Hayesville, NC was popular at the Sixth Annual Mountain Fling at North Georgia Technical College. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

counting everything that I've put my name on. I've replaced two knives in 30 years. I've got a pretty good track record. My knives come with a lifetime guarantee."

The two-day event was a popular one. Folks venturing into town for the weekend were visitors. For the most part, many were paying customers for the crafters.

"We've had a lot of traffic this weekend," said event organizer Carolyn Barton. "And the people that are coming in are spending money, which is always nice."

Blairsville's Paul Grossman, founder of Willie's Wooden Wonders, was selling his wooden bowls left and right.

"It's been a good weekend," Grossman said. "We had a great day on Saturday, and (Sunday) has been slower. This is a great show. We do three shows a year with the Guild and this is our third year."

Grossman got into the wood-turning craft five years ago.

"I always liked to work with wood," he said. "I retired about five years ago and I decided to do it full-time. I concentrate just

on the bowl work. We collected so many around the house, and gave away a bunch to friends and relatives."

"Finally, I decided to try my hand at the craft shows," he said. "We've been blessed. We make some money, but we have fun doing this and meet a lot of interesting people. We've made a lot of friends as well. It's been a good retirement project."

Paul, and his wife Helena, have a saying: "please enjoy your bowl."

Barton said the Fling was a great success.

"We had a great buying crowd this weekend," she said. "They were getting some really quality crafts. All of our crafters are high quality. I think everyone was really pleased, patrons and crafters."

"Everybody has been really supportive of Mountain Fling. It's a time of year when things can get iffy," she said. "People are on vacation, everyone's out of town and that sort of thing."

"We had a lot of people from out of town this weekend,"

she said. "It was a great crowd this year."

The Guild will add a third show that will debut in September, *Celebrate Autumn*, Barton said.

"We're hope that show will do as well as this one," Barton said. "And of course, in November, we have the 15th year of Mistletoe Market and that's always a big event. We have crowds come up that have been coming to the Market for years."

The Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild supports artwork and children's summer art programs.

"So many people in the area have lost their jobs, they can't afford to go on vacations and the kids sometimes have nothing to do," Barton said. "The arts are seemingly disappearing in the schools, so we started a program where the children pay \$5 for their class, and the merchants, the Guild and these craft shows pay for the rest of the summer art classes for the children."

The Guild usually has 200 children come through the Summer Arts Program.