

Fair...from Page 1

p.m. to 5 p.m. before the day comes to a close, warming up for Country Music star Joe Diffie and The Steve Bryson Band on Wednesday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., keeping musical wants happy until Thursday's Bluegrass Day.

The Gibson Brothers will let out the twine along with Bobby Osborne and The Rocky Top X-Press and the Travelin' McCourys take the stage at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and at 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. John Berry, who has had more than 19 hits on Country Music's Billboard hottest country songs.

At 8 p.m., Single Acts with Jim Wood and The GMF Band. Saturday comes to a close as Jim Wood and the Georgia Mountain Fair Band plays from at 2 p.m.

Mel Tillis, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., will be taking the stage. Tillis, who has been recording since the 1950s, with hits such as *Coca Cola Cowboy* and *I Ain't Never* was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama in 2012 and his talents at the Georgia Mountain Fair will be one to remember.

Throughout the week's events, attendees can travel to a place where times were more so handcrafted as demonstrations in blacksmithing, soap-making and the 'oft-forgotten' art of moonshining are brought back to the forefront in Pioneer Village. Antique cars, old

mountain homes, juried arts and crafts shows will be available to attend throughout the Pioneer Village and Craft Village each day as talented artisans from around the country show their handiworks.

Food is a popular item at the annual Fair as well. Grilled hamburgers, hot funnel cakes and sweet cotton candy are just a few Fair favorites available to be feasted upon, as well as smoked trout and succulent barbeque, each run by local civic organizations and fundraisers by non-profit groups in Towns County, as they are each and every year.

This year's Grand Marshal will be a very special one near and dear to those of Towns County.

Zoey Brooke Wilson is the 2014 Grand Marshal. Zoey is the 3-year-old daughter of Towns County Sheriff's Lt. Brian Allen Wilson, who passed last May. Lt. Wilson served in the U.S. Marine Corps and in 2005 began his career with the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

Tickets for the nine-day event are \$12 gate admission, free parking and children 12 and under are admitted in the gates for free. No pets allowed. Festival hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Camping and RV sites are also available for overnight accommodations. For reservations call (706) 896-4191.

Speech...from Page 1

Coming in third place was Samuel Utt as he spoke of the differences between capitalism and socialism, a topic that is normally one for peers who are much older.

"Capitalism leads to innovation and entrepreneurship," said Utt. "I come from four generations of entrepreneurs; men and women who worked hard for a day's pay and had the freedom to spend the money however they saw fit. Capitalism promotes this way of living. With the current political and economic climate, it would seem that America is leaning toward socialism. As a young man growing up in America, this concerns me."

Ash Todd personally thanked not only all of the sponsors present for the event, which included Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Hiwassee City Councilwoman Joan Crothers and Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, but all of the teachers present from TCHS to Eastgate Youth Academy.

Next, he introduced Towns County High School junior Adam Penland.

Fear was the topic at hand. However, bravery was



Thirteen contestants took part in the Mountain Movers and Shakers Public Speaking contest.

afloat. "Do what you fear and the fear will disappear," Penland said, inspired by Ralph Waldo Emerson. "Not everybody is afraid of public speaking, but they do have other fears. Public speaking is the number one fear in America. I'm afraid of snakes. Thirty-one percent of Americans are afraid of spiders, but my brother probably takes up most of that," he joked.

Penland, the reigning public speaking champion, would finish second.

The first place title went to a speech that speaks very much to our current time as C.J. Owens stressed how pertinent his words of the evening were.

"Today I am going to talk to you about something that is very important to me; the separation of church and state. The

First Amendment in no way advocates a separation of church and state. In fact, it presents a policy of neutrality of religious organizations and people. The First Amendment only applies to the body of Congress, not the average citizens of the United States. Even though public schools are a state government organization, the First Amendment in no way states that religious acts can not be held in such organizations. Sadly, many Americans have been led to believe that exact thing."

As Ash Todd read *The Man in the Glass*, a 1934 introspective poem about facing one's self and inner reward, by Peter Dale Wimbrow, Sr. the judges convened, leaving the winners nearly speechless by the time they returned with the

victors. It's been a banner month for progress for the outspoken students, who over a brief span of time have shown what Movers and Shakers member Sam Fullerton described as, "Some of the finest public speaking I have ever seen," he said proudly, along with fellow Movers and Shakers member Dr. Aubrey Sanford, also present since the beginning of the student's venture into brave new vocabularies.

"Any student in Towns County is invited to participate and we hope to make it better every year as we go along."

If there are any questions about future Student Public Speaking classes, contact the Mountain Movers and Shakers member Sam Fullerton at (706) 994-4658.

Awards...from Page 1

Community Center on July 10. Chief Johnny Carroll's department was honored once again for protecting the citizens of Blairsville and recognized for the work the department does to achieve the goals of MADD.

The Blairsville Police Department also won the award in 2008.

"We only patrol about a square mile of territory," Chief Carroll said. "But, as they tell me, it's not how much territory you cover, it's how aggressive you patrol that territory. I'm real proud of my officers. They're a dedicated bunch."

MADD honors law enforcement agencies that represent the Appalachian Trail Traffic Enforcement Network. The ATTEN covers seven counties from Cherokee County north and includes Union County.

In addition to winning Agency of the Year, Blairsville Police Department's Dustin Walker, last year's MADD Rookie of the Year, was named MADD's DUI Officer of the Year. Officer .

"Keeping the roadways

safe is a big part of all our jobs," Walker said. "It's humbling to be recognized for doing your job. It's a tremendous honor."

Shawn Dyer also brought home the DUI Hero Award for Blairsville Police Department.

"It's an honor to receive the Hero Award," Dyer said. "It's a good feeling to get recognized for what you do best."

"Our job isn't just to arrest people; our job is to serve and protect," Dyer said. "By taking drunk drivers off the road, that's the best way we can do our jobs of serving and protecting the public."

Union County sheriff's Sgt. Adam Deyton won top honors as DUI Hero for county sheriff's departments.

"It's nice to get the recognition," Sgt. Deyton said. "But I think the most important part is allowing people to see that we're accomplishing what we're trying to do."

"Keeping drunk drivers off the road is the main goal, with or without an award," Sgt. Deyton said.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal recognizes

Greetings to All,

As you embark on your public speaking competition allow me to share the special role that public speaking had in my own life.

I got involved in public speaking through my church

Towns public speaking contestants

and the FFA. My junior year in high school, I won the Georgia regional competition and went to Kansas City for the national FFA public speaking competition, where I came in second in the nation. It was also through a public speaking competition at

Towns public speaking contestants

Mercer University that helped me determine it was the college I should attend, and ultimately, to pursue a career as an attorney. The opportunities for public office, and passing legislation in the General Assembly and in Congress.

Towns public speaking contestants

I look forward to seeing how each of you utilize your public speaking training in your future endeavors. Best of luck to all of you participating in the students' speech contests! Congratulations, Gov. Nathan Deal

Sting...from Page 1

completely oblivious to the fact that two detectives were standing right behind him," Mangifesta said. "We took him down and arrested him."

Mangifesta is worried that McGuffey is an expert at these types of arranged meetings with under-age girls.

"When he told the young girl at the Farmers Market that his last girlfriend was 13 years old, we suspected this wasn't his first rodeo," Mangifesta said.

A search of McGuffey's

residence yielded an abundance of pornography, and explicit photographs. Those items are still under investigation to determine if they contain any child pornography.

The Union County Sheriff's Office asks for folks to take a close look at McGuffey for fear that he has other victims in the area, especially Union and Towns counties.

Call (706) 439-6066 if you have any information that might help law enforcement.

FBLA...from Page 1

extremely hard to reach this goal and I had a wonderful time at NLC. I can't wait until next year!"

Senior Courtney Marshall competed in Computer Applications and made it back on stage once again, placing 6th in the nation in her event. Marshall stated "Competing through FBLA the past four years has been a truly incredible experience and placing twice at nationals has made me realize just how successful I can be in this world. FBLA has shaped me into the person I am today, and I can't wait to continue competing through PBL at the college level."

Senior and fourth time competitor McKenzi Moss competed in the Word Processing event, where she placed 8th in the nation. Moss holds the TCHS school record for number of times competing at the national level. Congratulations, McKenzi! She stated, "FBLA has given me amazing opportunities to meet new people, visit places that I would have never had the chance and increased my professionalism and confidence. I will always cherish the memories that I have made through FBLA these past 4 years."

Mia Manto is no stranger to national level competition. Having competed and won last year as part of the Emerging Business Issues team, she knew the level of competition would be staggering. Manto knew what she had to do to make it past preliminary round to gain Top 10 status. Not only did she make it to final rounds in Job Interview, she placed 5th in the nation! Manto said "FBLA has been one of the best experiences I have ever had. The NLC is definitely the



highlight of my summer. I am grateful for the opportunity to compete and represent Georgia and Towns County High School. I have learned so much and made memories to last a lifetime!"

The presentation team of Lesleigh Irvin and Allison Page competed at NLC in the Business Ethics event. Georgia FBLA Region 13 President Lesleigh Irvin commented, "My last NLC in Nashville was a great experience. We learned everything from business ethics to line dancing." Senior Allison Page responded, "I am so proud of everything that TCHS FBLA has accomplished this year! NLC has been a truly amazing experience and I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to attend."

First time competitors and freshmen Major Moss and Nick McConnell competed in the Principles and Procedures event. Moss stated, "This conference has shown me what a great organization FBLA is and I would encourage other students to get involved in the many FBLA projects and to compete in an event." McConnell added, "I am so glad

I made the decision to get involved with FBLA and to compete this year. NLC was such a great learning experience and so much fun!" Devin Wheeler, a sophomore, competed in the Networking Concepts competitive event. Wheeler commented, "I had a blast at FBLA NLC and met tons of new people. Having competed at HOSA NLC in Nashville last year, I was able to make new memories this year with FBLA. I am so thankful to FBLA and my local chapter for the opportunity to compete again this year."

The Awards of Excellence Program is part of a comprehensive national competitive events program sponsored by FBLA that recognizes and rewards excellence in a broad range of business and career related areas. For many students, the competitive events are the capstone activity of their academic careers. In addition to the competitions, students immersed themselves in educational workshops, visited an informative packed exhibit hall, and attended motivational keynotes on a broad range of business topics throughout

the conference.

Seniors Courtney Marshall and Lesleigh Irvin were also presented with the FBLA America Award which is the highest honor anyone can achieve in FBLA. Marshall and Irvin have worked diligently for four years by completing projects at each level of the FBLA Business Achievement Awards - achieving Future Level, Business Level, Leader Level and now America Level. Along with over 500 hours of FBLA service each, these two young business leaders have organized programs and projects at the local and state level as well as participated all four years in the competitive events program. Congratulations Lesleigh and Courtney!

The 2014 National Competitive Events Team from Towns County would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support throughout their journey including our Superintendent, Mrs. Williams, our principal and counselor, Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Chastain, the Board of Education, our parents and families, our teachers, our corporate sponsors and the Hiwassee community. A special thank you is in order to our FBLA adviser, Mrs. McConnell, for her unwavering dedication and commitment to the members of Towns County FBLA.

Corporate sponsors for Towns County FBLA include: Lake Chatuge Rotary Club, Towns County PTSC, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Robert C Williams, CPA, Stephanie W McConnell, Attorney, Susan DeVries State Farm Insurance, and Towns County Lions Club.

Congratulations to Towns County High's FBLA chapter, its members, adviser and national winners!

CRCT...from Page 1

state and the first year eighth grade social studies achieved 100 percent pass rate. This also makes four consecutive years that TCMS has had a No. 1 state ranking in at least one subject.

TCMS was the second highest achieving system in the region in seventh grade science, 94.3 percent passing, and eighth grade ELA, 98.9 percent passing. Seventh grade science ranked No. 7 in the state while eighth grade ELA ranked No. 11 out of 183 school systems.

TCMS had five subjects that ranked third in the region, sixth grade science, 90.5 percent passing, sixth grade social studies, 92.9 percent passing, seventh grade reading, 97.6 percent passing, seventh grade math 95.2 percent passing, and eighth grade math 93.5 percent passing.

While compared to the state, sixth grade science was No. 11, sixth grade social studies was No. 8, seventh grade reading was No. 28, seventh grade math was No. 24, and eighth grade math was No. 12.

Towns County schools together with 13 other school systems make up the Pioneer RESA region of North Georgia. Banks, Dawson, Franklin, Gainesville, Habersham,

Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Union, Fannin and White Counties make up the other 13 systems. Each year, Pioneer RESA ranks the systems one through 14 in all CRCT grade levels and subjects. There are 15 tests that TCMS is ranked for: sixth, seventh, and eighth grade reading, English/Language Arts (ELA), math, science, and social studies. The rankings have been completed and results indicate that TCMS has once again proven to be one of the highest achieving schools in the region ranking in the top 3 in 10 out of the 15 tests given.

Georgia has recently announced a new assessment system that will begin in the 2014-2015 school year, the Georgia Milestone Assessments.

The new assessment system will replace the CRCT and the End of Course Tests will be given in each grade for subject's math, science, social studies, and a combined reading/ELA. The fifth and eighth grade writing assessment will be terminated.

The EOCT are said to be more difficult and the state is preparing systems for a dramatic decrease in student achievement on the new assessment due to and extreme increase in rigor.

Festival...from Page 1

unnoticed. The Southeastern Tourism Society has selected the festival as one of the top festivals in the southeast for six consecutive years.

The artisans donate a portion of their proceeds to Meeks Park, summer camps, and the after school program and Union County Middle School will feature a student art display at this year's festival.

As expected, most of the vendors call Georgia and North Carolina home, but a handful come from South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, and Virginia.

Not all of the artists are fortunate enough to reside in the beautiful Blue Ridge mountains, and despite the meticulous application process, some vendors are willing to travel close to 1,000 miles for two days at the Butternut Creek Festival at scenic Meeks Park.

"The number of vendors is limited to keep the event free of charge," said Mike Smith of the High Country Artisans. "We could fit another 100 booths on the ball field but we also don't want the show to become diluted. We pick out the four best from each category, such as woodworking. Applicants will also send in a photo of their work and one photo of them making their product."

Jamie Estes will bring her homemade natural soaps to Meeks Park all the way from Virginia, approximately

250 miles away. Barbara Dupree from Moncre, NC, just outside of Greensboro, NC, specializes in glass and metal crafts. Dupree, along with Connie and Norris Crawford from Greensboro, Ala will travel almost 350 miles. Crawford and handcrafted leather are from deep in Tide Country, just south of Tuscaloosa, Ala. During last year's festival, Norris Crawford praised the Meeks Park staff on behalf of all of the vendors.

"I can't thank the Park staff enough for the new side walks that they have put in," Norris Crawford said. "It has made a world of difference to all of the vendors."

However, not every one will top Skip Staab of Lecanto, Fla who's bringing his rustic furniture and pottery from nearly 500 miles south.

Live Entertainment begins at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday with Bruce Adams, at noon will be Bill Torrance, at 1 p.m. - Fast Gear, 2 p.m. - Bill Torrance, and 3 p.m. Fast Gear.

On Sunday, 12:15 p.m. - Elvis (Roy Perrin), 1:15 p.m. - Raven & Red, 2:15 p.m. - Elvis, and 3:15 p.m. - Raven & Red..

The Blue Ridge Dulcimer Players will be performing Saturday and Sunday. Craftsman will be demonstrating their crafts all weekend with Mal McEwen, chainsaw carving at booth 78.

Jerry King, foot pedal wood turning at booth 26, Da-

vid Little, Hand Adze Bowls at booth 28, Robin Weinrich, jewelry at booth 6, and Beth Zorbanos, corn shuck dolls at booth 20.

At booth 77, Butch Dey will hold a blacksmith demonstration.

Hans Meier, puzzles, booth 47, Linda Woody, pottery, booth 45, Don Donaldson, brooms, booth 16, and Alpaca Farm, weaving, at booth 25.

Not only is the festival

free, but there is no charge for parking as well. Gates open at 10 a.m. on both days. Come on out and enjoy one of the most treasured community events in Union County history.

For more details, you can visit the festival's web page at www.butternutcreekfestival.com or on Facebook at Butternut Creek Art Festival. For additional details regarding the High Country Artisans, you may call (706) 781-1221.



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