

# Sheriff...from Page 1A

At the start of the year, the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes had little hope that expenses would be met. Thanks to fundraising efforts across the state, including the efforts of the Towns County Sheriff's Office staff and Chatuge Gun Club during the 5th Annual Youth Homes Benefit Trap Shoot held June 28th, sheriffs across Georgia were able to raise enough money to operate the five Youth Homes campuses across the state. Sheriff Clinton wishes to thank all those who have donated to the Georgia Sheriffs' Association and Youth Homes throughout the year.

"It is the citizens who respond to requests from us that make this all possible," the sheriff said. "These children, who are, through no fault of their own, at risk, are provided a nurturing environment where they can grow and learn to be successful adults. "They are given the same opportunities that you and I would give our own children," he said. "Without the generosity of the citizens none of this would be a reality. I am especially thankful that our county is among those counties who, over the last four years, has repeatedly been a top contributing county."

# Poole...from Page 1A

chose Heather over more experienced writers for one reason, she knows Towns County. "That will always be our focus, to have writers who know Towns County, who know the people and who know the lay of the land," Duncan said. Poole, a senior at Young Harris College, has always loved writing. She'll get her chance with the Herald, Publisher Kenneth West said. "We're happy to have Heather at the Towns County Herald," West said. "She's a bright young lady, and she has

a passion for writing. "In this business, it is a must to have that inner desire to write," he said. "Reporters are a different breed. "They work hours when most folks are asleep. They know what it takes to get the news that means the most to readers," West said. "Our focus is to give our readers the best newspaper we can put out each week. "We're proud to have Heather as a part of our team," he said. "Please join us in giving her a big welcome to the Herald."

# Fair...from Page 1A

"The Georgia Mountain Fair went out all over the country on Tuesday morning, July 23rd. "That gave us an incredible amount of exposure. The kind that money can't buy," she said. "CNN was wonderful, I was with them while they filmed five hours of footage. "Did we reap rewards from that this year, well, I think we did," she said. "We will in the future, and I think that publicity will pay off during the Fall Festival in October." The Fair was featured on CNN's *Morning Express with Robin Meade* at 6:41 a.m., 7:41 a.m. and 8:41 a.m. on July 23rd. The station also put a link to the Georgia Mountain Fair on its Website and Facebook page. "We were known nationwide," Thomason said. "It doesn't get any better than that." The Fair's music shows were a popular attraction. From Neal McCoy, to Mel Tillis, The Bellamy Brothers, Marty Stuart, Dustin Lynch, Brent Cobb, the Claire Lynch Band, Ronnie

Reno, Balsam Ridge, Jim Wood and the Georgia Mountain Fair Band, John Anderson and Gene Watson, Anderson Music Hall stayed packed with patrons. The Midway was popular again with the young folks, as the rides stayed busy. Another popular attraction was Robinson's Racing Pigs, with daily performances. The Pioneer Village returned to prominence, as tourists got a trip back in time to witness how the old-timers did things. With the Fair in the history books, the focus now shifts to the Georgia Moonshine Cruizin, Aug. 8th-10th. "Rakes Parrish has another outstanding event lined up for Towns County at the Fairgrounds," Thomason said. "It just keeps getting better year-after-year. "Then we've got the Georgia State Hog Rally in September, and of course the Fall Festival in October," Thomason said. "It's a great time to be in the North Georgia Mountains."

**From the Desk of:**



**Sheriff Clinton of Towns County**

Odds are, if you have an email address you've received an email from someone trying to scam you. This is such a frequent occurrence that it is often the theme for late night comedy or stand up routines, yet people still get taken advantage of. Often, these scams referred to as "Nigerian Email Scams" are designed to tug on one's heart strings. There will be a sob story as well as an opportunity to help this person and make a lot of money doing so. These emails generally contain a plea for help from someone claiming to be former government leaders, business people, spouses of former officials, etc., whose money is tied up in a foreign country. Frequently, Nigeria was used in the story lines, thus the name "Nigerian Email Scam." The themes vary, but generally there will be an offer to transfer a large sum of money to the recipient's bank account in exchange for the recipient paying taxes or fees so that the sender can access the

rest of their fortune. Typically, when one responds they will receive further instructions complete with official looking documents. Sometimes they are invited, or encouraged to travel to a foreign country to complete the transaction. There are documented cases of scammers having large amounts of counterfeit money to complete the hoax. Here's the catch: these emails are from thieves who would steal your money. They will come up with any number of emergencies that will delay transfer, but once they have your money, it and the thieves will vanish. There are reports of people who responded to these scams being threatened, beaten, and even murdered. So what should you do? Remember that con-artists are very good at manipulating people. They often use tactics that play on your emotions, but they are thieves and nothing more. If you receive an email from someone in a foreign country asking you to send money, simply delete it. Their sad story is concocted and they are only trying to steal your money. If you are concerned, not sure what to do, contact our Sheriff's Office at 706-896-4444, or via internet at [www.townssheriff.com](http://www.townssheriff.com). We will be more than happy to assist you in any way we can. As your sheriff, it is both my duty and my desire to help keep you and your property safe from all criminals.

# FBLA...from Page 1A

award stage and the opportunity to win over \$145,000 in cash awards. Future Business Leaders of America, the largest and oldest business student organization, held its National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, Calif., welcomed participants from around the country to compete in this conference to sharpen their core business skills, expand their networks, and participate in more than 55 business and business-related events. Towns County FBLA proudly represented Georgia with six competitors who advanced as state winners to earn their place there. Taylor, Harris, Manto, Marshall, Moss and Calhoun arrived in the "Golden State and set records never before witnessed. All were declared national winners, a feat never before accomplished by Towns County FBLA. Additionally, Marshall broke more barriers by being the first competitor from Towns County to ever place first at NLC. "FBLA is an amazing organization and I had a blast competing at their national conference, Marshall said. "Attending NLC was a wonderful experience because I was able to meet new people, reunite with old friends from past conferences and represent the state of Georgia and my local chapter at the national level. "The best part however

was not only placing first in my event, but watching my fellow competitors from TCHS also place in the Top 10 in their events." Marshall competed in Spreadsheet Applications. This challenging event consists of evaluating spreadsheet application knowledge when creating and using spreadsheets, formulas, functions, graphs, charts, reports and advanced spreadsheet tools. Calhoun competed in the Word Processing event, where she placed third in the nation. "I learned so much about competition at the national level and met many interesting people," Calhoun said. "I also enjoyed experiencing the West Coast. I'm very proud of our FBLA chapter and am thankful for the tremendous support from my advisers, Mrs. McConnell and Miss Holloway." This wasn't Moss' first rodeo at the national level, having competed her freshman year, sophomore year and now as a junior. She is hoping to set a FBLA school record by going to Nationals all four years. She is currently tied with former FBLA national competitors Megan Shook and Ian Calhoun, who both represented Georgia at NLC three times while at TCHS. Moss placed third in the nation in the Advanced Word Processing event. "I have many memorable experiences from FBLA NLC that I will hold dear for the rest of my

life," Moss said. Taylor, Harris and Manto competed as a team in the Emerging Business Issues event. The two seniors and one sophomore represented Georgia as they advanced from taking first at region and state level to contend in Anaheim. Teams in this event must research the topic and prepare both an affirmative and negative argument on a current emerging business issue. Teams randomly drew their side five minutes before presentations. The 2013 topic was, "American corporations have been moving their headquarters to foreign countries to avoid paying the federal income tax in the United States which is 20 to 25 percent higher than foreign countries. Should the federal income tax for corporations be lowered to keep corporations in the United States?" Argue either affirmative that the United States government should cut taxes for corporations or negative that the taxes should be left as is. The Team argued affirmative in the preliminary round, and advanced to final rounds based on judge's scores. At finals, the team drew the affirmative position to argue once more. The team had to answer questions from the judges after they presented their position on

the issue in both rounds. After an excellent presentation and Judges Q&A, they were called to the stage when Top 10 were announced and walked away with 8th placed in the nation in the EBI event. Senior and EBI Competitor Taylor said "as a senior, getting the privilege to compete in this year's national competition was a great way to end my career at TCHS. I know each of us worked very hard and made sacrifices to prepare for our competitions and it felt good when we saw that hard work pay off on stage" Senior and EBI Competitor Harris said, "FBLA inspired me to step out of my comfort zone and be part of an awesome EBI Team. It is such an honor to have the opportunities and experiences that do and none of it could've been possible without supportive and kindhearted advisors." First time EBI competitor Mia Manto said "When it comes to Towns County FBLA, we don't mess around, our hard work paid off big in the great state of California." Additionally, Adviser Melissa McConnell was honored by being named to the National FBLA Adviser Wall of Fame in Reston, Virginia for her 20 years of service to the FBLA Organization. Congratulations to Towns County High's FBLA Chapter, its members, advisers and national winners.

# Tommy...from Page 1A

Townsend, who now calls Nashville home. "I'm always looking for an excuse to get back to the North Georgia Mountains, so, needless to say, this will be an adventure." In the eyes of his hometown, Tommy is a Country Music legend. He became Waylon Jennings' protege at the young age of 13. He played and toured with Waylon. And today, he helps keep the spirit of Waylon Jennings alive with his energy, enthusiasm and his incredible talents. Tommy grew up in Union County's Owtown community dreaming of becoming a Country Music singer. When he wasn't picking a guitar or writing songs, he was logging with his father Roy Townsend. A trip with his parents to Lanierland's Concerts in the Country as a young boy changed his life forever. Waylon Jennings and the Waylors were performing. Tommy's Momma, Ida, talked to a member of Waylon's security team (an actual Hell's Angel member) about getting

her son backstage to meet Waylon and getting a picture together with the legendary performer. The security team member told Ida that he didn't think that would be a problem. Waylon, you see was big on visiting with his younger fans and eager to make their day with a photo opportunity. That chance meeting turned into a lifetime friendship between Tommy and Waylon. Tommy and his now mentor, Waylon Jennings would collaborate on music the rest of Waylon's days. The two collaborated several times over the remaining years of Waylon's life. Waylon played and sang harmony on some tracks, and even co-produced a full album for Tommy with the Waylors' bass player, Jerry "Jigger" Bridges. Waylon and Jigger took Tommy under their wings, recording in the studio, and occasionally, appearing with him out on the road. Tommy and his wife Christy and their two children, Megan and Maggie, moved to Nashville in 1995 and still live there today.



**Waymore's Outlaws sure know how to draw a crowd.** Sturgeon was thrilled to book Waymore's Outlaws to help christen his magnificent amphitheater. "We jumped at the chance to bring Waymore's Outlaws in here," Sturgeon said. "Tommy and the band, and Confederate Railroad, I can't think of a better way to break this place in." Of course Tommy is still promoting his Granddaddy Mimms Authentic Corn Whiskey, or, legal moonshine. Tommy sees Granddaddy Mimms as a tribute to his

grandfather, infamous mountain moonshiner Jack "Mimm" McClure, of Young Harris. "I've always admired the outlaws; people who colored outside the lines," Tommy said. "I guess that's what intrigued me about Waylon Jennings. "I've always compared my grandfather and Waylon," he said. "No one ever told my grandfather what to do, people were always coming to him for advice," Tommy said. "Waylon was kind of the same way."

# Enotah...from Page 1A

budget with a clause in there that made it mandatory for these employees to receive state benefits," Kendall said. "We used to receive the money for their salaries and pay them from the county. Now that funding goes to the state and they write the paychecks. "Since the state is paying them, it requires the counties to match state benefit payments and that doubles what the taxpayers of Towns County would be liable for if we paid them," Kendall said. "It just isn't fair to ask people to pay that extra money for benefits." It is a very delicate situation and involves a significant amount of taxpayer dollars. The commissioners and boards of all the four counties agree that it is a problem that would put undue tax burden on taxpayers in an already suffering economy. These are technically county employees being paid by the circuit so the state can boost revenues in the retirement coffers. It is basically an unfunded increase in retirement payments by using county tax dollars to pay county employees receiving state benefits. The retirement plans for the county and the state are basically the same just more expensive if funded through the state. "We have to pay more in state benefits to some employees who really work for the county, but have state benefit plans," Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said. "The plans are real similar and not much different except in cost. The state package is more expensive. The state keeps raising the rates and that is tough on county funding when the economy is like it is." Both commissioners agree to this is an issue that needs their attention in the coming months before approving the 2015 budget. The circuit Fiscal Year is June 30, 2013 - July 1, 2014 and the final draft presented in June of next year will be looked at very closely by all the county representatives before it will be passed, evidenced by the fact that Kendall refused to sign the original this year. The clause that worried

Kendall has been removed, but for now the four-county committee has decided to table the new agreement and settle it later. Kendall does not feel that the people of Towns County should have to pay this extra money for state benefits on county employee positions. He'll work hard over the next year to try and get this matter resolved. "We don't want anything that would obligate Towns County taxpayers funding this, and that is why I demanded this requirement removed," Kendall said. "The elected official paid by the circuit receives state employee benefits but their staffs work for the county. "It is not fair that we pay extra for state benefits that are no better than what these folks would get through the county. It's foolish," said Kendall. The 2013 budget increases were almost totally caused by an increase in benefit payments, and the rates could continue to soar at the state level as county levels decrease. Kendall feels that locking Towns County into this agreement will mean even higher rates in the future. "Once we commit to this it will just get worse and we will be faced with higher rates than we are seeing now," he said. "Practically all the increases we see in the 2013 budget are for these more expensive benefits from the state and we just don't need to pay that out." Kendall approved the Tax Empowerment Act, that prohibits a county commissioner from borrowing money to fund projects without the people voting to approve such project. He doesn't believe taxpayers should pay for anything they aren't responsible for. The Georgia Constitution allows a commissioner to borrow up to \$20 million without voter approval and Kendall limited his ability, and other commissioner's ability, to borrow such funds. He said that he will work diligently, as he did on the TEA, to give this matter his utmost consideration by working with all county and state officials to find a way to make the outcome fair to everyone.

# Bass...from Page 1A

Little Rock, Ark. Young Harris College hosts this year's championship competition, including a team from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education in Mexico. Teams qualified through a series of regional championships or at the first-ever Wild Card tournament on Pickwick Lake, June 14-15. The Wild Card served as the anglers' last shot at securing a National Championship berth. Several schools will send more than one team to the championship. Bethel University in Mackenzie, Tenn., which offers scholarships to outstanding young anglers, will be represented by five teams, and New Mexico State University is sending four teams. Once the anglers make their way onto Lake Chatuge and the National Championship begins, the entire field will compete for two days to determine which teams can weigh in the heaviest five-bass daily limits. The field will be cut to

the Top 5 teams for the final round, after which the Carhartt College Series National champions will be crowned. In addition, the Top 4 teams in the championship will advance to the Carhartt College Series Classic Bracket, which will be held in conjunction with the Bassmaster Elite Series post-season tournament: Toyota All-Star Week, Sept. 27-29 in Muskegon, Mich. In the Classic Bracket competition, teammates compete individually for one berth in the 2014 Bassmaster Classic to be held Feb. 21-23 in Birmingham, Ala. In the 2012 championship, the final two survivors in the single-elimination fish-off were teammates — and brothers — representing Auburn University in Alabama. Matt Lee outfished his brother, Jordan, and won the right to compete in the 2013 Classic in Tulsa, Okla. The Lee brothers will again represent Auburn in the upcoming College Championship. This time, however, they're not teammates.

# Stroke and Osteoporosis Screenings coming to Blairsville

Residents living in and around the Blairsville, GA community can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke or bone fracture. United Community Bank - Junior Bracket Community will host Life Line Screening on 8/19/2013. The site is located at 177 Highway 515 East in Blairsville. Thomas Abbott of Marietta, GA attended a Life Line Screening and said, "I do want to thank you and your team for saving my life". Four key points every person needs to know: Stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of permanent disability; 80% of stroke victims had no apparent warning signs prior to their stroke; Preventive ultrasound screenings can help you avoid

a stroke; Screenings are fast, noninvasive, painless, affordable and convenient. Screenings identify potential cardiovascular conditions such as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women. Packages start at \$159. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com). Pre-registration is required.