

FFA...from Page 1A

like to thank City Manager Rick Stancil for allowing us to use this facility."

The informal contest allowed each of the participants a chance to read a pre-written speech, but when it comes time for the State and possibly National Contest, the student will be responsible for drafting and delivering his or her own six-to-eight minute agriculture-related address for the judges.

Judging the informal contest last week at City Hall were Fullerton, Gene Moss, Ash Todd, Brandy Todd, and Public Speaking Chairman Dr. Aubrey Sanford. According to Fullerton, these students are following in the footsteps of Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal who has quite a background in FFA Public Speaking.

"In 1959, during his senior year in Washington County, Gov. Deal was the State of Georgia Public Speaking Champion and runner-up in the national championships," Fullerton said. In college Gov. Deal served as the president of the Mercer University debate team. Eventually he went on to win

the Georgia Jaycee's public speaking competition. Towns County's FFA Public Speakers began six weeks ago with their orientation back June 24th at the old Senior Center next to Towns County Courthouse. On July 1st the first critique of speeches was held. The following Monday, on July 8th, another critique was held as well as speech practice. Practice would continue on July 15th, before the preparation for the speeches took place on July 22nd.

The National FFA Organization (formerly Future Farmers of America) envisions a future in which all agricultural education students will discover their passion in life and build on that insight to chart the course for their educations, career and personal future.

Everyone is invited to the Movers and Shakers meeting on Friday morning at Mary's Southern Grill. Forrester and retired Assistant U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Bill Wendell will discuss the use of drones in farming, and in other aspects of life in Towns County, and the nation.

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Wilkinson and House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison.

He encourages the community to let them know that they think the bill is a problem.

"They have already heard from me," Clinton assured, adding, "the most powerful thing we can do to affect our legislator is let them know our opinion."

While people sometimes feel their voice has no power, Sheriff Clinton is positive it does. He has seen it work in the past, and he knows it can work in the future.

"I've seen bad legislation defeated because the people called and e-mailed so much," Sheriff Clinton said.

He wants things to change. He drew applause from the crowd when he said, "we're supposed to have a balance of power. I'm tired of seeing these cats (at the State Capital) say that the Governor will never pass that bill or this bill," suggesting, "well, put it on his desk!"

As for House Bill 1, Sheriff Clinton put it into laymen's terms when he explained that if the sheriff's department arrested a dope dealer, and found out the car he was in belonged to his grandmother, until they had proof the grandmother had consented to the usage of her car in her grandson's dope business, the sheriff's department could not legally obtain the vehicle.

In turn, it makes it more difficult to prosecute the dope dealer.

"Last year it should have been defeated," Sheriff Clinton said. "It was tabled so it

could be brought out again, and they're just lying about it. If it's philosophical, say that. Don't lie. I don't respect that, period."

Those in attendance at the Mountain Movers and Shakers gathering seemed to be in agreement. Heads nodded up and down when Sheriff Clinton said, "when you're in a position of trust and you're lying, that should tell you all you need to know about the bill they're trying to pass."

Sheriff Clinton recognized that he can take away incentive, but only if the bill does not pass.

"When trafficking cocaine is a misdemeanor, they won't do any time," he said. "The only thing we can do is take away the incentive of easy money. House Bill 1 would make it impossible for us to do that."

Sheriff Clinton thinks that there is hope in oversight, saying that is the kind of change that law enforcement, including himself, would get behind.

Sam Fullerton, president of the Mountain Movers and Shakers said, "the Movers and Shakers try to educate people about what's happening in our state."

Based on the response of those in attendance, they did just that. After the meeting, numerous guests asked Sheriff Clinton questions, and he was happy to give them his time and answers.

If you would like to contact your local state representative, contact State Rep. Stephen Allison in Blairsville, at (706) 781-3929.

Denied...from Page 1A

Langley read the warrants against Stokes, malice murder, felony murder, unlawful removal of a body from a crime scene, tampering with evidence, and terroristic threats.

Langley urged Judge Miller to deny bail citing that key pieces of evidence are still missing from the investigation.

Turk argued that there was no evidence that Stokes was a flight risk.

"She has exhibited no criminal behavior prior to these events," Turk told Judge Miller. "She's a housewife."

Turk suggested that Judge Miller put Stokes under house arrest, monitoring her whereabouts with an ankle monitor.

Langley disagreed. "She attempted to cover her tracks," Langley said. "She was willing to deter law enforcement; willing to hide a fugitive from law enforcement."

Bond denied, Miller said.

Adams-Donaldson, who spent a portion of her youth in Union County, was discovered in an old hand-dug well at the old Roper farm on Turner Turn-

pike in rural Towns County. Adams-Donaldson's remains were recovered approximately at 7 p.m. on July 11th.

The well was in close proximity to the residence where Adams-Donaldson lived.

Adams-Donaldson was reported missing on June 24th by family members.

Ledford and Stokes have confessed to the crime, which murder warrants allege happened June 17th, following extensive interrogations by Towns County sheriff's investigators and GBI agents,

according to the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

Ledford and Stokes were already inmates at the Towns County Detention Center at the time of their confessions, sheriff's reports show.

Prior to the murder charges, Ledford was being held on charges that include first-degree forgery, eight counts of deposit account fraud, and criminal trespass, Towns County arrest warrants show.

Stokes was being held on an obstruction charge, Towns County arrest warrants show.

CruizIn ...from Page 1A

At 6:15 p.m., don't forget the Parade from Downtown to the Boot Leg Boogie Party at Lake Chatuge Lodge next to the Fairgrounds. Parking is at the Fairgrounds, just follow the signs.

Overall, the CruizIn doesn't just help the Fairgrounds and local shops, it also aids the local hotels.

"The Ridges Resort and the local condos are almost always full during this event," Thomason added.

Kim Farmer, general manager of the Holiday Inn Express in Hiwassee, is certainly benefitting from the turnout.

"It's a great boost for business," Farmer said. "We sold out every night with the exception of one."

This was a welcome surprise, as Farmer added, "Week nights are very rare to completely sell out."

Chad Hooper, general manager at The Ridges, has also benefitted from the event, along with the Bass Fishing Tournament just prior to the CruizIn.

While the estimated financial figures look promising, Rakes Parrish, coordinator of the CruizIn, and Thomason, want to know for sure.

"This year, there will be a survey taken to figure out the income bracket of the car owners, as well as where they're staying," Thomason said.



The Georgia Moonshine CruizIn is fun for kids of all ages.

That survey may not be an easy one to take. After all, Parrish and Thomason are expecting 1,000 cars, and at least 10,000 patrons.

To put that into perspective, the population of Towns County in 2011 was 10,611. If the turnout for the Georgia Mountain Fair was any indication of what can be expected, that huge number may be spotted on.

"This year's Fair was better attended than recent years," Thomason boasted.

Locally-owned restaurants also felt the inflation of people.

Lisa Collins, owner of Michaelee's Chocolate Café in Hiwassee said her restaurant

absolutely benefitted from the Fair.

"This was the best Fair week we have had in the seven years we have been in business," Collins said. "The car show always brings a good crowd too."

With the economy in the shape it is in, smaller communities like Towns can sometimes have a harder time recovering. In order to continue bringing in tourists who help support so many local businesses, the Fairgrounds has big plans in the works.

Thomason has put offers in on the Greg Allman Band, and even Merle Haggard.

While nothing has yet been confirmed, Thomason is

Bash...from Page 1A

gate, Union Hill, Goldwing Motorcycle Club, Episcopal Church of Good Shepherd, Serve Pro, and local lawyer Stephanie McConnell.

The Towns County Food Pantry collected school supply items as well. Gibby-Rosser pointed out that going back to school is not only occasionally stressful for the students, but also financially stressful for the parents.

The Back to School Bash helps ease that burden, and it gets the kids excited to start the new school year.

Along with the opportunity to pick up school supplies, the Bash also gave students a chance to sign up for after school programs and even Right From the Start Med-

icaid.

Last year, within two hours, all of the donated items were taken, resulting in a shortage of supplies for some of the children. This year though, the crew, which included Cynthia Wood, East Development Coordinator of Family Connections, Jessica Bohannon and Samantha Reynolds, YHC graduate Shelby Campbell, intern for 21st Century after school program, and Jenny Stowers, director of 21st Century, was ready for a large turnout.

Along with more items than in recent years, Gibby-Rosser said, "If there is a shortage, we tell our partners in the community and let them know what we're in need of. We keep a school supply shelf through-

out the year in our office, the students know where it is, and they are welcome to come in throughout the year and get whatever they need. We keep anything we receive (via donation)."

Gibby-Rosser was grateful for all of the volunteers that came out, as the Bash can sometimes get quite hectic. To keep the kids busy, Head Start Pre-K had a game, there was corn hole, which some parents were enjoying as much as their children, and there were snacks.

"We've done everything," Gibby-Rosser recalled. "Last year, one table had a science experiment. It's to promote a good time for the kids. It's a time to celebrate

hopeful it will all pan out.

The car show has plenty to offer to locals, too, including classic hot rod cars, trucks, and bikes. There also will be a craft exhibit, a working moonshine still, and \$5,000 worth of cash prizes to be won.

The show also features visitors from around the globe.

A gentleman from Germany is making the trek to Towns County to show his car, and an individual from Nova Scotia will be there as well.

The event runs Aug. 8th, 9th, and 10th. The parade of Classics on Friday begins at 7 p.m. It features all the classic hot rods and cars making the trip to Towns County.

Also on the list of upcoming events at the Fairgrounds is the Fall Festival, a local favorite that occurs Oct. 11th-19th.

The event promises live music, Arts and Crafts vendors, a flower show, and the Georgia Official State Fiddlers' Convention.

Along with all of the excitement, Speed Channel's RU Faster Than a Redneck wants to feature Hiwassee on their show hosted by comedian Jon Reep. The show promises the winner \$10,000, and Thomason cannot wait to show them around the county. The show will be around for the CruizIn, and may even find a few drivers to recruit.

Benefits...from Page 1A

Resort & Marina, said he is certain B.A.S.S. Masters found Lake Chatuge through Young Harris College.

The college hosted the 2013 Carhartt Bassmaster College Series National Championship Aug. 1-3. Teams from across the country, and our own Mountain Lions team, made their way to Lake Chatuge.

Trucks and boats quickly filled up the college parking lots before making their way to The Ridges, and blue flags lined the street in front of the campus representing the different teams that would compete in the tournament.

The rapid rate in which everything occurred was a recurring event. Hooper got an unexpected phone call in April that would positively impact his business in ways he could never imagine.

"Bass Masters wanted to put on an event here on Lake Chatuge. It started from there, and today, we're here with 68 teams," he said.

Hooper said that the group of people that represent B.A.S.S. Masters had been very enjoyable to work with.

He was also excited for The Ridges to be the launch site for the tournament. Hooper felt a sense of pride over the event, adding, "It's great to promote the college students as they become pros."

Aside from national coverage of North Georgia, it also served as great publicity for the resort.

"Most of the teams are staying here," Hooper disclosed. "We would have housed more, but we didn't have enough rooms."

Hooper also added that he was excited to be a part of something new like the tournament. As far as he knew, this was the first tournament, especially of such caliber, to be held on our lake, but he hopes it will be the last.

This was also great for our community, financially speaking

This kind of coverage brings in tourism, which in turn supports local businesses.

Steve Conrad, owner of Enrico's Italian Restaurant in Young Harris said the tournament brought in a good crowd.

"We had a lot of tables Monday, [July 29], and the group got 50 pizzas."

It is also a way to bring the local community together.

"Everyone was welcome to watch the launch at the Ridges property. We love community support."

The teams began staging at 5:30 a.m., and launched at 6:30 a.m., just off the wedding pier on the property.

"I've been up and at 'em with them from 5 a.m. on," Hooper mentioned. "So we got to see a lot of teams here on the property, and this has been great business for us."

Hooper will turn right around and do the Georgia Mountain Moonshine CruizIn starting Thursday, Aug. 8th, hosting the welcome party at 5:30 p.m.

It's better known as the Haulin' Mash Moonshine Bash.

"It's another huge opportunity to promote Towns County with the tourists," Hooper pointed out. "Three weeks after that, we will host the Georgia State H.O.G. Rally, another big event for Towns County, as it definitely promotes the Towns County lucky."

Those of us lucky enough to live in the Towns County area have always known what a hidden secret we have in Mountain Living.

This kind of coverage gives outsiders a peek inside, peeling away the curtain and inviting them to experience it for themselves.

Surely, once people see the beauty that is Lake Chatuge, boat rentals will increase, and local businesses and restaurants will continue to be supported by tourism.

Bass...from Page 1A

8 ounces wasn't enough to bring home a National Championship, but a second place finish at last week's Bassmaster's Carhartt College Series National Championship, has definitely put Young Harris on the National stage.

"This is just incredible," Young Harris College President Cathy Cox said. "It's been an incredible week both for the college, and for our whole community. I couldn't be prouder of our team of Brad Rutherford and Matthew Peeler. Brad is really the one who started this whole effort as a freshman so it's been just a wonderful culmination."

The Mountain Lions' total wasn't enough to top Auburn-Montgomery's total of 43-3 as Jacob Nummy and Tom Frink reeled in 12-0 on Saturday to push them past Young Harris at the final weigh-in.

As Young Harris, who was in third going into Saturday, sat on the "hot seat" in first place, the duo survived weigh ins by Auburn University and Eastern Washington University, but knew that AUM would have to struggle on Day Three for the hometown favorites to survive.

Although, AUM snagged seven pounds more than needed to pick up the National Championship, and with ESPN in the house, enough can't be said about what a second place showing means for Young Harris College.

A word that came up often afterwards was, "awesome."

"This is an awesome event and we couldn't have done it without Young Harris College," Peeler said. "I also have to thank B.A.S.S., Carhartt, and all the capital

sponsors. They made this an excellent event and really rolled the red carpet out for us, and it makes it that much sweeter to have a Top Two finish here. It was an excellent way to go out on top, and I couldn't ask for a better week."

The second place finish has also earned the duo an invitation to the Carhartt Bassmaster College Bracket Championship to be held in Michigan in September.

A win at Chatuge in front of the home town crowd, would have made the trip up north a little sweeter in the eyes of Rutherford.

"This is awesome and I am so happy that it was here, but I also wanted to do well because it's my home lake," Rutherford said. "It's awesome just to go out there and catch fish then come in second place and hold the trophy. I really wanted to win but, I'll take it."

As for the future of the program at Young Harris College, Peeler believes that 2013 will serve as a spring board for future Mountain Lion Anglers.

"I feel like fishing at Young Harris College has really been put on the map now," Peeler said. "We've had a really good year-and-a-half. We've been successful, been fortunate, and blessed to have had a good year fishing with Brad. We've had a lot of fun and to cap it all off with this caliber of an event at home really speaks volumes about the fishing program at Young Harris College."

Young Harris College, without a doubt, is officially on the map, and according to President Cox, an event of this magnitude, allowed North Georgia a chance to shine in the National spotlight.

"We've had visitors from all over the country," President

Cox said. "They've come from California, Oregon, Washington, the west coast, the east coast. Folks have been here seeing our beautiful lake, our beautiful community, they've been shopping, spending money, and they all want to come back and fish Lake Chatuge. We've shown them great southern hospitality and it's just been a wonderful week. Both of our team members graduated in May, so they are ready to go into the working world. Now they also get to go fish in the Classic in Michigan in September, so we've still got a lot of cheering left to do

for them."

The event opened on Thursday with Young Harris posting a 13-11, good enough for third place out of 64 teams, trailing only Eastern Washington (19-4) and Louisiana-Monroe (13-14).

Day Two saw Eastern Washington drop off with only four fish, totaling 6-0. Young Harris remained steady with a 10-4 performance, but AUM made its move, catching a tournament-high 20-15. Auburn catapulted into second with a 14-12 on Friday, keeping Young Harris in third entering the final day.

children. In many places in the world, an intact family, with living parents and children, is an extreme rarity. War and poverty take a terrible toll. Here we are raised, most of us, with a vision of what "normal" life is like. We know our grandparents, our parents die of old age way before us, and we watch our children and grandchildren grow. In a peaceful world, maybe an idyllic world, this is the norm.

We who experience this are the lucky ones. Young people are taken by car accidents, by war, by drugs, by disease, by the careless exuberance of youth. The pain is intolerable and unanswerable.

And so a word here for all of us to be compassionate, caring, and forebear judgement. This young man's mother said to tell all the parents to love their children, no matter what, hug them and tell them you love them. Maybe we can't change our children's lives or "make it all better," but we can let them know we love them, just the way they are.

Fly high, D. We will miss you here and take comfort in knowing you are out of pain, soaring with the angels.

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Nature of Healing Sukoshi Rice

Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground

That's the way Willie Nelson describes it. I've known several, people who are intelligent and beautiful and gifted and kind, but their wings just don't take them high enough and eventually they come to Earth in the saddest way. They die of exactly what they were using to escape, to handle the pain they feel, to block out sad and angry emotions, to feel for just a moment that they are weightless, that they really can fly.

Today one of them did just that and passed off this Earth. The son of a good friend, he was young and handsome and a real sweetheart, kind and funny and a good guy. Sometimes angel wings just don't work here; they can't keep some people up, and he was one. Years ago, I had a friend whose 11 year old daughter died in a long and drawn out way. My friend called it joining the worst club in the world, the club of parents who have lost