

# EMC...from Page 1

Jerry Nichols, who was nominated by the EMC Board of Directors.

In Fannin County, Larry Williams is unopposed on the ballot after gaining admission to the ballot by petition. Wil-

liam Prather, the EMC Board of Directors' president, declined the nomination to seek another term on the board.

For results from the 2015 EMC Annual Meeting, read the Sept. 16 edition of the

*North Georgia News*, and or the *Towns County Herald*.

See this week's *Charles Duncan* column on Page 4 for more details about the *EMC Board of Directors' decisions*.



The BRMEMC membership was extremely vocal in 2014. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

# Duck Race...

the race. "It's something that's fun that kids can watch, and a lot of the campground people come down to watch them, so it's a fun time and it makes us some money, and that's a good thing, too," he said.

The team needs new mats because the old ones have reached the end of their lifespan.

"We've been borrowing Union County's mats for the last four years for our tournament, and it's just hard on the mats, carrying back and forth in the weather. So it's time," said Coach Stowers.

Mats are expensive. A new one costs about \$12,000 and requires plenty of fundraising effort.

"I'm kind of hoping that this duck race gets us if not over the top then at least close to the top," said Stowers. "We'd like to have it for our King of the Mountain tournament that we're going to have this year in the Recreation Gym, but if nothing else we want to order it so we can have it for next season."



Coach Jeff Stowers

He's optimistic. This year alone, the team has raised almost as much as the previous two years combined.

"Last year we didn't do as well, we made about \$2,500 or \$3,000. The kids have done a good job selling ducks, and the community's been really supportive, so I'm hoping that we're going to profit somewhere in the neighborhood of \$5,000 this year," said Coach Stowers. "The first year we probably made \$2,000, last year we made about \$3,000 and this year we'll make about \$5,000. We hope that as it goes on we'll get bigger and bigger."

# Towns Farmers Market in full swing

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Farmers Market is in full swing this season, and on Saturdays, one can stop by and grab some fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers and gardeners.

Rock Hill Farms, owned and operated by former Towns County Sole Commissioner Truman Barrett, is one of the largest providers to the market, though smaller gardens have their place, too.

Just ask Sheleila O'Neal, who sells produce from her 2-acre garden.

"It's not a huge garden, but it's big enough that I can have a little bit of extra stuff to bring over here. I have some fruit trees and some things like that," she said.

Currently, O'Neal is selling summer produce, like leafy greens.

"I like a lot of different vegetables," she said. "One of my good sellers is kale, which I've sold out of. Every week I have a little something different, because it just depends on the season. Early on in the season I have a lot more greens. I have collards and kale throughout the whole season, but I have spinach early in the season and I have Chinese cabbage and bok choy and stuff like that early."

As the season progresses, she usually sells squash and



Sheleila O'Neal

okra. This year, however, she won't be doing a fall garden.

"I'm trying to get rid of some voles that are in my garden. They have just devastated my sweet potatoes this year. I sold sweet potatoes last year, but I'm not going to have enough of them this year," said O'Neal. "So I thought the best way to get rid of the voles is just not to plant any root crops this fall. I thought maybe I could discourage them and maybe they'd leave my garden and go look for something somewhere else."

Voles or no voles, for O'Neal the Farmers Market is not about the vegetables she sells, but the people she sells them to.

"I like meeting people and talking to the people who come, all the different people who come. The locals and the other people who come from

other areas. I like getting new ideas from them, because they'll come in and they'll tell me how they cook some of these things or whatever and it's interesting to hear, and then I can go home and try that, too," she said.

One thing that some might overlook is the "Ask a Master Gardener" table.

"We have this here for availability to people who have any questions regarding gardening, have literature available for them, and just try to answer any questions," said Marsha Elliot of the Towns-Union Master Gardener Association.

"We have lots of resources available to us through the University of Georgia, because what we are trying to do is promote the love of gardening and then be a source of information," said Elliot. "You cannot possibly know all the answers to gardening. But one of the things that we do have is an incredible amount of resources available to us."

"And we have a responsibility, if we really care about our Earth, to first of all be good stewards and to encourage other people to be good stewards," she went on. "And that's the underlying premise of the Master Gardener program, that we recognize the value of gardening and we do all we can to encourage people to be better stewards."

# David Allan Coe performs at The Hall



Outlaw Legend David Allan Coe brought his brand of music to Anderson Music Hall on Aug. 21.

Coe packed the house and had fans lining up to snap photographs to take home to their Facebook pages.

Lining up along the aisles, fans positioned themselves for a chance to take photos up close and personal

as Coe sang.

Coe is noted for his anti-racist hit *Cherokee Cry*, which criticizes the United States government's treatment of Native Americans.

During his career, Coe recorded or performed with such diverse talent as Dimebag Darrell of Pantera, Country Music star Tanya Tucker, and the poet Shel

Silverstein. He has also feuded publicly with Jimmy Buffett.

Much to the delight of the partisan Coe Crowd, the entertainer performed his legendary hits *You Never Even Called Me By My Name*, *Mona Lisa Lost Her Smile*, *Longhaired Redneck*, *She Used to Love Me A Lot*, and *The Ride*.

# Ride...from Page 1

ated from Sprayberry High School in Marietta, where he was a member of the school's ROTC program and band. Skip Wells Scholarships will go to students in those programs, as well as students in any club or organization within Sprayberry.

"Everything that I do, whether it be ride a bike or, next weekend I'm in Chattanooga for a bass tournament with Marines & Mickey, so everything that I do, I do for him," said Wells of her son. "Everything is for Skip. Everything is to keep his legacy and his memory alive. Whatever it takes for me to do that, that's what I'll do."

Sunday's ride offered bikers, many of whom were U.S. veterans and public safety personnel, the opportunity to commemorate fallen heroes - from members of the Armed Forces to firefighters, police officers and other first responders who lost their lives in the attacks of 9/11.

Friends Jeremy Jones and Scott Pulliam made the ride with Kris Smith and her 11-year-old son Nickolas, all from Danielsville, and they agreed that the scenic ride gave them plenty of time to reflect.

Smith, who has a daughter serving in the U.S. Army, called



the ride humbling, and Nickolas, who wasn't yet born when the 9/11 attacks happened, looked back on that fateful day and said that thinking about the tragedy made him sad, but that the patriotic support was uplifting.

"That day changed the lives of the whole country," added Jones, who served six years in the Army. "Not only the people that lost their lives that day, but due to that day, all the men and women - 6,700 have lost their lives in Afghanistan and Iraq since that day, and that's why we do this, to honor them. We lost so much because

of that, and we're still fighting it, whether people with PTSD or with loved ones and family members. It's always going to be like this, every year."

After their destination at the Copperhead Lodge, bikers and those along for the ride were treated to live music and barbeque lunches prepared by the Athens Hog Chapter, and Cycle World of Athens paid for the food with their many partner sponsors.

"The food is free, the ride is free and the fun is free, but freedom ain't free - don't forget," said Cycle World Sales Manager Barry Brugh.

# Arrive...from Page 1

was frighteningly realistic.

"They choose whether they're drinking and driving or texting and driving, and it slows down their response time through a steering wheel and through a computer that's hooked up to it, and shows them what it would be like. Every student in high school will go through it," she said.

Students who go through the simulation get an added benefit.

"They get a picture ID of them driving it, and on the backside they have an app that you download into your phone, and it disables your phone whenever you get in your car so you can't call or text while you're in the vehicle. You can dial 911, but that's the only thing that will work while you're driving," said Dr. Hobbs.

Before the simulation,



Daulton Rogers takes off the goggles.

the students watched a graphic video to inform them of the consequences of distracted or drunk driving.

"We found out through this program today that you're four times more likely to be in a car accident from texting

and driving than from drinking and driving. It happens four times more often. And there's research into it that you are more distracted and it's harder to text and drive than it is to drink and drive," Dr. Hobbs said.

# Heritage Festival looks back at yesteryear

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Union County Historical Society's annual Heritage Festival offers residents of Union County and beyond glimpses into the yesteryears of mountain living.

Every Labor Day Weekend, handmade arts and crafts vendors set up shop in front of the Mountain Life Museum on Cleveland Street in Blairsville to showcase the various skills available throughout the region.

Festival volunteers get into costume to demonstrate life in simpler, though not necessarily easier times.

For the two days of the festival this year, Cindy Rafter, a volunteer with the historical society, wore a multilayered outfit circa 1870 and cooked Brunswick stew in the fireplace of the John Payne Cabin behind the museum, educating festival-goers on 19th century living.

Wind Chapman of Dahlonega demonstrated his blacksmithing skills in front of the Duncan Cabin - blacksmithing is a Chapman family tradition of which he has been a practitioner for 35 years.

And inside the museum, also known as the Mock House for its longtime resident Grapelle Tock, a special dedication took place in the historic site's dining room.

Harry and Susan Roose Nolan donated Judge Thomas Candler's antique dining room set to be displayed inside the museum.

The early 1900s furniture was presented in terrific condition, with no alterations, featuring six chairs with original upholstery, a dining table with a roll-up center leaf, a large sideboard buffet, a highboy meant to hold alcoholic beverages and a type of dressing table called a lowboy.

In terms of history, the dining room suite comes to the Mock House with great significance - not only does the furniture fit within the time period during which the house was built, in 1906, the donation marks a homecoming for the furniture that has spent the last 25 years in Atlanta.

Judge Candler, born in Blairsville in 1890, was appointed to the honorable position of Georgia Supreme Court Justice in 1945, a position he held for more than 20 years.

The donated dining room suite started its life in Union County in the Candler family home, the brick house located



directly across the street from the old Union County Courthouse, just one block from the museum where the furniture resides today.

When Judge Candler moved from his Downtown Blairsville home, Union County residents Bonnell and Roma Akins bought the set from him and incorporated it into their home.

There the set remained for many years, lovingly used by the Akins household, until one day Bonnell and Roma decided to redecorate.

The Akins and Roose families had been friends for many years, and Susan Roose, who at that time some 25 years ago had not yet married her husband Harry, jumped at the opportunity to purchase the suite from the Akins family for her home in Atlanta.

Both of Roose Nolan's parents are buried in the Choestoe Baptist Church Cemetery, and after Susan met and married Harry in Atlanta, he soon fell in love with the Union County area and its people.

"When we got ready to do some changes in the house in Atlanta, Harry and I had been talking about it for years, and we said, I wonder if maybe Union County would like to have the furniture," said Roose Nolan.

And the answer was a grateful, resounding yes to bringing the furniture back home to Blairsville.

Present for the historic donation were Harry and Su-

san Roose Nolan, as well as members of the Akins family: Bonnell and Roma's son Larry Akins, their great-grandson and Larry's grandson Isaac Hyde, as well as Larry's in-laws Bud Akins and his wife Mary Carol.

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley, Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce President Cindy Williams and Union County Historical Society President Bud Akins accepted the donation on behalf of the county.

Union County Executive Assistant Jennifer Queen also attended the dedication. Queen is descended from a Mahan who worked as Judge Candler's executive secretary.

Many memories were shared between those in attendance, and the donation of the furniture was dedicated in honor of Roose Nolan's parents, Richard "Stormy" and Madeline Shuler Roose, and in honor of Bonnell and Roma Akins.

"We've dedicated it to these four fabulous individuals whose heart and souls were invested in these people in the mountains and in this community, as Harry's and my heart and soul are invested here," said Roose Nolan. "We're just delighted to be able to bring it here, and I hope others enjoy it as much as we have - there's a huge amount of history in this."

A plaque of dedication and photos of these four pillars of the community now reside in