

The Wall...from Page 1

and John Arthur Swords, 21. Brave souls from Lumpkin County are: Bobby Jene Fields, 31, Houston Grant Jr., 32, and Tommy Herman Swain, 20.

Brave soul from White County, Kenneth Gibbs, 19.

Brave souls from Cherokee County, NC, are: Thomas Edward Brown, 20, James Clinton Bryant, 24, William Ralph Graves Jr., 23, Ronald Gene Hembree, 21, Raymond T. Mashburn, 20, Raymond Farley Trantham, 19, William Danny Morrow, 19, Miles Henry Nelson, 33, Jimmy V. Smith, 21, Richard Herbert Wilson, 21, Billie Jack McClure, 35, Lowell Vetter Smith, 34, and Michael L. Garland.

Brave soul from Clay County, NC, David Leon Dailey, 19.

The Moving Wall is expected to arrive at 9:15 a.m. on Oct. 8, and will be erected at 9:30 a.m.

An Opening Ceremony has been planned for 3 p.m. that Thursday, featuring Keynote Speaker Captain Tommy Clack (Ret.) U.S. Army.

A morning service will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11, and on Monday, Oct. 12, students from Union County Schools will be visiting the memorial throughout the morning.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation will be holding a special ceremony at The Moving Wall that Monday, where it will present 20 quilts to area veterans, and a Closing Ceremony for The Moving Wall will take place later that day at 1 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 12.

Bringing The Moving Wall to town has been no small feat, as preparation for the event started a year ago.

Mike Priven, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1101, said that he and the VVA started calling the caretakers of The Moving Wall in September 2014.

Usually it takes about

two years of advance notice to book The Moving Wall, but thanks to a cancellation and persistence from the VVA and its members, Priven said they received word last December that The Moving Wall would be coming to town this Oct. 8.

Logistic work began on the project earlier this year in January, and thanks to the overwhelming financial support of the community at large, through donations as well as ad sales in its Moving Wall Memorial Keepsake booklet, the VVA was able to cover the total cost of the project.

"The reason for this wall – this is going to be our Welcome Home to ourselves," said Priven, a Vietnam Veteran. "We wanted to make sure that we got a welcome home, and the community has been amazing as far as backing us on this one, it really has. I don't think we could live in a better place."

"We're still a small community, but we've had amazing support. This is no small undertaking. We didn't know what this was going to be, but this was about a \$35,000 venture, way above anything we thought it was going to be."

The Moving Wall will be free to the public at Meeks Park, and the VVA will provide paper and crayons to those who wish to make rubbings of names on the wall to take home as keepsakes of remembrance for the great sacrifices made by those brave enough to serve their country.

Guards will be posted around the clock while the memorial is in town, with more than 100 local volunteers and VVA members planning to stand watch over the monument.

The VVA had 15,000 copies of its Moving Wall Memorial Keepsake booklet printed up to match the expected turnout of those who will be paying their respects to the honored dead and missing.

Each booklet contains insight into the Vietnam War, its history, effects and after-effects, as well as information about the scheduled programs at Meeks Park.

"This is a war like no other war that this country has ever fought, and the people who took the brunt of it were the troops that were involved," said Priven of the Vietnam War. "When we came home, we really had a problem – there were troops who were told not to wear their uniforms home."

The impact of the Vietnam War lives on today, in veterans facing both the psychological trauma of a war that was considered then and in retrospect a war the United States had no business waging, as well as the physical toll taken on many veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

And for many visiting the memorial, The Moving Wall will offer a time of reverence and contemplation, as visitors young and old alike will see themselves mirrored back in the black granite of the wall, a reflection of today containing the history of a painful time in America's past.

"For us, and I think for the community, I can't tell you how many people have come up to me and said, 'I'll never get to see this in Washington D.C. – I'm just so glad you're bringing it here,'" said Priven of The Wall in the nation's capital.

"And the fact that many of our guys have never been to Washington and never will, and they're getting to see it, it's really turning out to be a big thing," continued Priven. "You can't understand The Moving Wall until you understand The Wall, and you can't understand the Wall until you understand the war. And that is right on target, that's really what it's all about. If you don't understand the war, you don't understand the Wall."

Barrett...from Page 1

Jury selection began July 12, 2004.

Superior Court Judge Hugh Stone granted Barrett's motion for a change of venue on July 27, 2004.

The trial was relocated to Hall County, with jury selection beginning March 7, 2005.

Then Assistant District Attorney Jeff Langley led the state's prosecution, and 15 days later, Barrett was convicted of beating and shooting to death his friend "Stumpy" following a night of drinking in Helen.

Barrett had argued that he was defending his home at the time of Youngblood's killing.

Barrett alleged that a drunken Youngblood had urinated on his television and attempted to defecate on his bed prior to the physical dispute.

Under Georgia law, defense of habitation is not a defense available to a defendant when the victim is a guest in the home, even in cases where the guest/victim is unruly or even threatening.

The Hall County jury found Barrett guilty of all counts of the indictment against him on March 22, 2005, and recommended a death sentence for the malice murder conviction on March 23, 2005.

In addition to the death sentence, Judge Stone sentenced Barrett to 20 years in prison for aggravated battery,

and five years for one count of possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, with all sentences to be served consecutively.

The aggravated assault conviction and the remaining possession conviction merged with the other convictions. Towns County Superior Court records show.

From that moment on, Barrett began to file appeals for a new trial, which the trial court denied on Nov. 21, 2011.

Barrett filed a notice of appeal on Nov. 30, 2011.

Finally, Barrett's appeals were exhausted and the Georgia Supreme Court upheld his convictions and death sentence.

Sorghum...from Page 1



weekend, but we're trying to revolve the parade and the festival around that. The (Union County) High School chorus is going to come down right after the parade and kind of kick off the festival by singing the national anthem for us."

Union County's own Alan Kay – winner of The History Channel's *Alone* survival TV series – will be Grand Marshal at this 46th annual parade, which begins at 11 a.m. at the Old Middle School Gym on Saturday, Oct. 10, and finishes at the festival in Meeks Park.

The parade offers community churches, civic groups and businesses a unique way to raise money or give to charity, as cash prizes are handed out to winning floats.

Games begin after the parade, and festivalgoers 16 years and older can compete in the ever popular "Biskit Eatin' Contest," with other games to follow.

Parking is free, and admission into the festival is only \$4 each day. Children 12 and under get in free, and both active and retired military personnel also get in free with a military ID.

The Sorghum Festival at Meeks Park opens at 9 a.m. on both Saturday, Oct. 10, and Sunday, Oct. 11, and closes each day at 5 p.m.

The very next weekend, the Sorghum Festival opens again at 9 a.m. on both Saturday, Oct. 17, and Sunday, Oct. 18, closing festivities at the park again at 5 p.m.



As always, there will be a Square Dance each Saturday of the festival, where those who are light on their feet can do-si-do from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. at the Old Middle School Gym.

Sorghum syrup, featured as the festival's namesake, will be made right there at Meeks Park, and the festival will also feature wares by soap makers, jewelry makers, candle makers, quilt makers, apron makers, arts and crafts of a great many varieties, and to top it all, rich and delicious foods will all be available and more.

The Sorghum Festival acts as a community fundraiser of sorts, as civic and school groups are invited to take part

in the festival with their own booths.

The Union County High School Diamond Club, the baseball team's booster club, will be cooking and selling Boston butts, and other student-oriented clubs, such as the Union County FFA and 4-H, are encouraged to participate to learn about mountain heritage.

Apart from all the vendors and games, live music, which has been a staple at the Sorghum Festival over the years, will play a key part in the festivities throughout both weekends.

An entire event schedule, as well as parade guidelines, can be found at www.blairsvillesorghumfestival.com.



Home Show...from Page 1

"When you think about your home, it's probably your single most positive investment you have, and it's a big chunk of most people's assets. If you want to enjoy your home, you really have to keep it up, and you have to maintain it, and you have to refresh it."

Always a highlight of the Home and Garden Shows is Jim Parks, host of HGTV show *New Spaces*, who offered live seminars throughout the weekend.

"It's the people," said Sparks on why he comes to the Home Shows. "When we're on location doing TV, it's the crew and it's the people in the home, but that's about it. Here, I'm shaking hands and finding out people's problems, what their plans are, what they want to do – if they don't know about remodeling, how do you start. If there's a lady that comes in and she's an HGTV viewer, I give her a big hug – you can't beat that."

Terry Thompson of T.L. Thompson Construction, Inc. has been in business for 35 years, building and remodeling houses – 15 years in Florida, then 20 years in Towns County.

"I'm here to promote my remodeling business," said Thompson, who said he stays busy. "Not so much new home construction because there's a lot of people in that. We just want to go after the remodeling market – kitchens, baths, exteriors, replacing siding and stuff like that. This is a retirement community. People come in here, they buy a home, they want to personalize it. And that's what we're doing."

Dexter and Amanda Sherrell set up shop at the



Home Show to showcase their family's business, Misty Mountain Inc., which specializes in water and air purification, and maintains a full line of fish related products and services.

"We have a warehouse in Blairsville, and our headquarters is in Young Harris – you don't get much more local than that," said Dexter Sherrell. "We do anything that's water quality related. Anything from ponds to pools to home water systems. We have the full genre of anything that's water related, and we're moving into another area now called the Air Guards, and that's our latest thing, which treats air quality inside of a home as well."

And for those in the market for reimagined or restored old furniture, Jackie Burt of Appalachian Memories had them covered at the Home Show.

"The reason we named it Appalachian Memories is because we recycle, upcycle furniture, and we take collectibles or antiques that are broken and make them into new things, like

benches or wine bars or wine racks. We just repair them and put them back on the market," said Burt.

Burt works with her business partner Deb Bristol at their brick-and-mortar location on Main Street in Andrews, NC, and the pair cooked up chili during the show and handed out samples from their Cabin Foods selection of goods that they also sell in their store.

"We also carry gifts and things that people can just buy and go if they're traveling," continued Burt. "We also do custom paint – we'll take your pieces and paint them up for you. They tell us what they want, and we try to make it so. If they want it antiques or they want a real clean paint look, we can do both."

The Home and Garden Show schedule for 2016 has already been decided, so mark those calendars for May 21 and May 22, and again for the fall show on Sept. 24 and Sept. 25.

Showcase...from Page 1

An opportunity for businesses to hold raffles, give out samples of their product or simply hand out flyers in order to network across the area.

"This is the Towns County Chamber's first year doing this, and it is a hit. Very, very successful. We have a group of ambassadors with the chamber, there are about seven to 10 of them. We hope that it does increase revenue in the town," said Crystal Fairless, a chamber member.

Chamber President Candace Lee clarified that the showcase was intentionally a local event in order to connect people with services they would need on a regular basis. There was no screening process, and any business was welcome regardless of whether it was a chamber member.

"The services that are here today, like the colleges and the healthcare and the window people and the glass doctor,

they're going to need them year round. It's not just for visitors. So that was our main goal. Like Union General Hospital or a doctor with Chatuge Family Care, the people that they need to meet are the full-time residents," said Lee.

"We'll do it again. We've already got people marking their space for next year on the map. We'll do it again. Everyone seems real happy. It's for the businesses, it wasn't a money-maker, it wasn't anything like that. It was strictly for our businesses," she said.

Vendors included every product and service, to law firms and higher education, to small craft shops and vineyards.

Sherry Owenby, owner of Hi Country Shops, described her store as "country decor and much more."

"We do this to promote the business. We're a fairly new business. We've been here almost three years. We keep

expanding, and we do this to let people know what we have. We actually feature locals artists and crafters," she said.

While some vendors like Hi-Country Shops are relatively new, the showcase provided equal opportunity for older, more established businesses.

"We've been around for almost 20 years now," said Stuart Fensom of Crane Creek Vineyards.

"We haven't surprised a lot of people, but we're just reminding folks that we're out here and to come on by and see us. We have a lot of loyal customers in the area. It's a beautiful spot, especially this time of year, to get a bottle and just go watch everything. We have a big thing coming up. It's the biggest party in the year, it's the Harvest Festival. We've got hayrides, all kinds of live music, art vendors – it's an awesome time," he said.

Forum...from Page 1

be a formal invitation to participate in the forum, giving them the opportunity to speak to whatever they want to speak to about City Council, rather than an email or a phone call. It sets a different frame on it, and it makes it more important, whether than if you just pick up the phone and call," said Howard.

"The format typically for a forum is that each individual has two minutes, no more than three, to present who they are and just to say this is what they want to do. And you have a timekeeper and an impartial moderator. Somebody that's neutral that can manage the process," she added.

All candidates have been mailed invitations, according to Sam Fullerton, co-founder of the Mountain Movers and Shakers.

The Mountain Movers

and Shakers were invited by the Homeowners Association to cosponsor event, and to raise awareness, the Movers and Shakers group plans to print posters and try to talk about the event on local radio stations, as well as send out an e-mail blast.

"This is one of the best things you can do for political awareness, is having a forum. As you know, the Movers and Shakers is founded on these principles: education, political awareness and community needs. So on the political awareness, this is an important election for the City of Hiawassee," said Fullerton.

After the meeting, Fullerton explained why people should care about and attend the forum.

"We feel like a lot of people would like to actually hear from each one of the

seven candidates, and actually let them talk for two or three minutes," he said.

Fullerton anticipates that each candidate will get to answer two questions each from the audience, and then a third and a fourth question from each of the Movers and Shakers and the Homeowners Association.

"It will give the people an opportunity to let them shake hands with them, see why they want the job and what they think they can do for the community. It's still a person's opportunity in America that they can vote, and if you don't vote and be aware of the people that are running, then you shouldn't have any complaints. So we're making that opportunity available to the public. We're looking forward to it, and we think it's going to be outstanding," he said.

Brasstown...from Page 1

young and old alike.

"We're hoping for no rain, because they're going to be outside, and hopefully we won't have to bring it all inside. Last

year we had a good turnout, and so we're hoping for a big turnout. Hopefully, people will be up and we'll see a little bit of fall color, so we're hoping that

they'll swing on by and spend a little time with us and enjoy viewing and looking over our nice facility and having some fun with it," she said.

Correction regarding Carl Vinson Institute

In an article entitled *Hiawassee hires Carl Vinson Institute*, that appeared in the Sept. 23, 2015 edition of the *Towns County Herald*, the year 2010

was stated as the last time that the Vinson Institute analyzed the city personnel. In fact, 2010 is the year that the Hiawassee City Council voted on

the current personnel management system. The Carl Vinson Institute last analyzed the city personnel in 2001. The *Towns Herald* reported otherwise.