

# Schools...from page 1

of seniors that have been here the entire time that I've been here," Perren said. "They're a special group, they're smart and they're prepared to move on."

"What really gets me is how fast four years rushes by," Perren said. "It seems like just yesterday that they were ninth graders and here they are about to walk and graduate. You really get to know them over the years, you care about them and you want them to succeed."

Scholarships could be lean this year, despite Grade Point Averages. The economy has provided a

setback for some scholarship programs. Students will be more than gracious this year when they earn those local scholarships.

"We appreciate those in the community who continue to support us through scholarships," Perren said. "They stuck with us through thick and thin and that makes a big difference to these kids."

It's not official yet, but it looks like Towns County Schools will have achieved their eighth straight year of Adequate Yearly Progress, the benchmark of the No Child Left Behind federal program.

"And these seniors have

been a big part of that success over the years," he said.

The Towns County School System is one of only seven school systems in the state of Georgia to make Adequate Yearly Progress for seven consecutive years, state education records show.

Also, the school system is one of 43 systems statewide with 100 percent of schools making AYP for the 2009-2010 school year.

Adding another AYP success to that number is special, Perren said.

"I'd like to know how many public school systems have achieved AYP eight years running," Perren said.

# Vince Gill...from page 1

It's a song that his wife Amy Grant admittedly didn't care for, Gill said. The song was written by Gill in concert with Rodney Crowell, also a member of the Notorious Cherry Bombs.

Gill was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2007 and has earned the honor of CMA

Entertainer of the Year on two occasions and is a five-time Male Vocalist of the Year recipient.

To date, Gill is the most decorated male artist in the Country Music genre.

On this night, it was easy to tell that Vince Gill is still a crowd pleaser. He almost sold out Anderson

Music Hall and he stuck around performing longer than most artists.

For all his hard work, the appreciative Anderson Music Hall Crowd gave him one standing ovation after another.

His daddy was probably looking down from Heaven with a huge smile on his face.

# Bankers Hour supports local organizations

On April 9th, United Community Bank employees entertained thousands of customers and friends with their 17th annual live production of The Bankers Hour. The bank is proud to announce that donations from ticket sales raised a total of \$25,650 for charities throughout the markets served by United Community Bank in Georgia, western North Carolina and east Tennessee. The total donations raised are divided evenly among United's 27 communities, with

each receiving \$950.

This annual event is another example of United Community Bank's commitment to its communities. In that same spirit, United is proud to announce the following donations as selected by each local bank: Towns County: Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes, Towns and Union Special Olympics, Hiwassee Kids Performing Arts Camp, Scott Hogsed Memorial Youth Conservation Project, Towns County Fire Department. TMay11,K2JSH

# UCB supports Towns County FFA



L to R: Future Farmers of America students Andrew Turpin, McKayla Moody, and Alex Bacardi, United Community Bank's Leah Henderson, and Instructor & FFA Sponsor Frank Riley.

United Community Bank makes a donation to the Towns County FFA and the Towns County FFA Alumni Association as a sponsorship of the 1st Annual Bulls-N-Barrels Rodeo to be held on Saturday, June 11th, 6 p.m., at The Stables at

Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris, GA.

United Community Bank has an unwavering commitment to Towns County, and is proud once again to support the activities of our communities and schools. TMay11,F2JCA

# BMT Fun Hike May 21st

Benton MacKaye Trail Association Hike Leader, Pam Sullivan, of Morganton, is pictured while on the club's April 7th Fun Hike in the Chattahoochee National Forest. A total of 17 hikers participated.

The next Fun Hike is set for May 21st on the BMT. Stanley Gap to Weaver Creek Road, 7 miles, difficult hike at slow pace.

Non-members welcome. To sign up, call Hike Leader Ralph Heller, 770-235-9760 or rshat1@etcm.com. NTMay11,A5JCA



Pam Sullivan

# Writers' Night Out features Kimsey

Friday the 13th of May will be lucky for audiences who come hear poet Robert W. Kimsey at 7 p.m. at Mountain Perk Coffee House in Hiwassee. To celebrate the first anniversary of Writers' Night Out, one lucky audience member will win a book. Also, those who'd like to share their own poetry or fiction can participate in the open microphone portion of the program following Kimsey's reading.

Kimsey is a retired technical writer and illustrator who lives in McCaysville, GA. His poems have appeared in print and online publications including Kudzu, Pegasus, Southern Ocean Review, New Southerner and various anthologies. He is a member of the Georgia Poetry Society and was the judge for their youth contest in 2010. He is also a member of, and has won various awards from, the Kentucky Poetry Society. Robert has taught workshops in Ohio, Kentucky and Georgia, as well as at the Blue Ridge Writer's Conference. *Paths From the Shawnee Spring* is the title of his first poetry chapbook. His new chapbook, *Air Swimmer*, is due out in May.

Writers' Night Out takes place on the second Friday of each month at Mountain Perk Coffee House, 1390 Highway 76 East in Chatuge Harbor Plaza across from Towns County High School. The evening is

# For the love of children

Shriners love children! Individual Shriners raise millions of dollars each year for their 22 hospitals located in the United States. Three hospitals are dedicated to treating burns and 19 address crippled children's medical problems. There is never a charge to the parents/guardians of children treated at these outstanding facilities. To date, Shriners, with the help of their communities, have raised \$3 billion dollars for operating cost and another \$7 million for construction and renovation. What football fan hasn't watched the Shriners' "East-West" game with the proud motto "Strong legs run that weak legs may walk"?

Shriners bring their fundraising projects to our attention by playing hard while they work at helping children. Their antics are legend as they bring joy to our community with displays of tiny motorcycles, crazy vehicles, big bangs in local parades! Who doesn't wait for the Shriners to see what they come up with next to entertain us all?

William Lovell, President of the Appalachian Shrine Club, found a treasure to draw the community into awareness of the efforts to raise monies



Noble William Lovell thanks Sean Thomas Tire and Service Center for helping get the Appalachian Shrine Club's wheels back on the road again. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

in our beautiful mountains. An old stretch, 1971 Checker eight door Limo, that had seen better days and did not look as though it would draw attention for the right reasons. Maybe, it would evoke pity from on-lookers but not much happiness! But, as usual, Shriners always have a plan.

Noble Lovell is seen here after many donations of parts, pieces and labor brought this once wild ride back to its former glory! With donations of parts and pieces by O'Reilly's and Auto Zone in Blairsville the only thing left was some expert skills of how to get the old Checker Gal rumbling. Luckily, along comes Sean Thomas' Tire &

Service Center in Hiwassee with the skills and willingness to put the Shrine Mobile back in the parade of life!

When looking for a way to help out in your community, look toward your own skills and talents! These are businesses that stepped up when needed to contribute toward the well-being of all children no matter their race, creed or color. When it comes to "walking" all these fellows should be "walking" a little taller as the next parade rolls by in the mountains. Ask William Lovell how you can help. You never know when your skills may be just what a child needs to put them back in the parade of life. TMay11,K2JSH

# "Boogie Dog and Guinea"

Melinda Bramlett Joyner Author

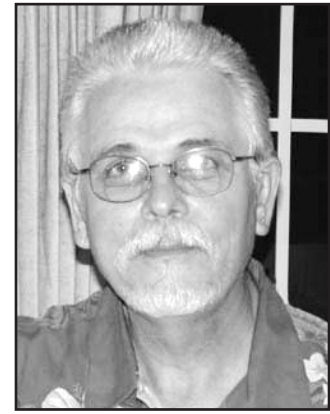
When a family in the mountains adopts a lonely little Red Bone Hound pup, they have no idea that their family will increase by two, not just one. This little red pup, Boogie, whose name matched his speed, bonds with a wild bird, a guinea, who just shows up one day at Boogie's new home in the mountains. The couple who adopted Boogie already had three other dogs and several cats. This unlikely group, made up of dogs, cats, a wild bird and a wonderful couple, give a new meaning to family. This warmhearted story will appeal to children and adults of all ages.

"Boogie Dog and Guinea" is based on a true story written in a rhyming form, and filled with great illustrations which are loved by children. Part of the year, the author lives with her husband, Ken, and cat Attie Mae, in a small

town in the northeast Georgia Mountains, Hiwassee, GA. This is where the story takes place; Boogie was her neighbor who adopted her as his second family.

Melinda Bramlett Joyner is a native of the Asheville, NC area, born on a snowy Easter Sunday. At least five generations of her family are natives of the North Carolina Mountains. Many family members, as well as friends, still reside in the Mountains of Georgia and North Carolina. Melinda is a member of the McConnell Memorial Baptist Church and is a volunteer with the Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary.

"Boogie Dog and Guinea" is available thru Xlibris and is registered with over 2500 online booksellers including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Borders. The author's website at Xlibris is: [www2.xlibris.com/bookstore/bookdisplay.asp?bookid=90289](http://www2.xlibris.com/bookstore/bookdisplay.asp?bookid=90289). TMay11,F2JCA



Robert W. Kimsey

free and open to the public. Food, gourmet coffees and other refreshments are available for purchase. Those interested in reading at the open microphone may sign up at the event. Each writer can read for up to three minutes.

Writers' Night Out moved to its current location last month when Green To Bean Coffee House closed. The event began a year ago and has steadily grown in popularity. Mountain Perk offers a larger space to accommodate the usual audience of 30 or more people from four counties. It's a relaxed and fun atmosphere for anyone who loves the written word.

For more information, please contact Karen Holmes at (404) 316-8466 or [kpaulholmes@gmail.com](mailto:kpaulholmes@gmail.com), or call Mountain Perk at (706) 896-0504. NTMay11,C2JCA

# Cleanup Day at Enotah Baptist

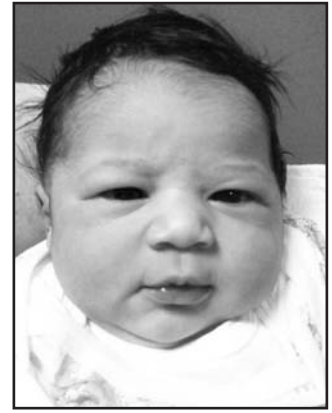
Enotah Baptist Church Cemetery Clean Up Day will be Saturday, May 14. Anyone who has family members buried at Enotah Cemetery are welcome to meet at 7:45 a.m. on Saturday to help clean up around grave sites. Light lunch will be provided at 12 in the church fellowship hall.

Rev. Ricky Rogers, Pastor TMay11,L1JSH



Mountain High Hikers schedules two hikes each Tuesday, occasional specialty hikes, and regular trail maintaining trips - all in the beautiful mountains of Georgia and North Carolina. Check the website [www.mountainhighhikers.org](http://www.mountainhighhikers.org) for schedule and meeting locations. NMay11,Z1JCA

# Birth Announcement



Malia Isabella Hillsman

Mary Elizabeth Plott and Kendrick Lamar Hillsman are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Malia Isabella Hillsman on April 28, 2011 at Union General Hospital delivered by W. David Breedlove M.D.

The birth weight of the baby was 7 pounds. She was 19 inches long. NMay11,C2JCA

# AARP Safe Driving Course

There will be an AARP Safe Driving Course at the First United Methodist Church in Blairsville, GA, on Tuesday May 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (a break for lunch). The classroom course is geared for drivers 50 and older. Anyone may attend. It will help senior drivers to better understand their driving skills, vehicle safety and physical changes that could affect their driving safety. The course is taught by an AARP volunteer. The enrollment fee is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members (cash or check).

Completing the Driver Safety Course may mean a reduction in your auto insurance (consult your insurance agent). All participants must register before May 16. For more information and to register call 706-745-2073. The UMC is located at 938 Highway 515 in Blairsville, GA. The course will be taught in the MAC building. NTMay11,A1JSH

# Handbell Concert by The Brasstown Ringers May 13th

The Brasstown Ringers will present their annual spring concert of handbell music in the Keith House Community Room of the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 13. The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome.

In keeping with the Brasstown Ringers' philosophy that "handbells are not just for Christmas," this spring's concert entitled "Bronze Challenges" will feature the ringers "borrowing" bells from each other, ringing two or three in each hand, swapping from bells to chimes and just having fun with their most challenging program ever.

Founded in 1992 by Pat and Henry Meinecke, the Brasstown Ringers have grown from a small group of seven ringers, to a fourteen member ensemble playing six octaves of Schulmerich English hand bells interwoven with six octaves of Malmark choir chimes.

Members of the Brass-

# Bereavement support group

NOTE: New times and locations for Regency Hospice Bereavement support Groups: 1st Thursday of each month 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. at United Community Bank in Blairsville. 3rd Thursday of each month 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Bank of Blairsville, Blairsville.

Welcome to a community bereavement support group. A place to share your thoughts and feelings and grow together with others who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

The group is presented by Regency Hospice and will be facilitated by Suzanne Repp, LCSW. There is no charge to join this group. Please call 800-577-8791 or 706-896-1251 for more information. Suzanne Repp, Bereavement Counselor. NTMay11,Z1JCA



Brasstown Ringers are from parts of Georgia and North Carolina

town Ringers are Pat Love from Andrews, NC, Brian Fagan, Steve Holcomb & Mary Simmons of Murphy, NC; Linda Sterret, Diane Schickedantz and Mark Schickedantz of Franklin, NC and Henry Meinecke of Brasstown, NC.

The Georgia contingent includes Bruce Brunner of Mineral Bluff; Liza Lawrence and Pattie Williams of Blue Ridge; Glenda Wattenbarger of Epworth, Joyce Knappenberger of

Blairsville and Travis Vaughn of Atlanta. The director is Pat Meinecke of Brasstown, NC.

Upcoming Folk School concert performers include Lorinda Jones (May 27) and Curly Miller & Carole Anne Rose (June 3). The Folk School concert schedule is available on the world wide web at <http://www.folkschool.org>. For further information call the Folk School at 828-837-2775 or 1-800-FOLK-SCH. NTMay11,C2JCA

# Unique lodge to open in Franklin, NC

A new lodge, owned by Phil and Sharon Drake, is opening with nine suites in the Holly Springs Community of Franklin, NC, on May 4th. The lodge is secluded enough for relaxation, yet close to historic downtown Franklin.

The recently renovated lodge is all beautifully decorated one bedroom, one bath suite accommodations (plus sofa beds in each suite), with high speed wireless Internet access, flat screen televisions with Direct TV, personal kitchen areas with sinks, mini-fridges, and small dining tables, and personal screened-in porches (including porch swings on most units). A handicapped suite is available. All rooms are non-smoking and breakfast is included each morning.



Interior of Lodge

The lodge also features a large swimming pool (scheduled to open in June), outdoor gas grills, and an inviting fire pit for evening fun.

To become one of the very first guests at the lodge, please call 828-524-0991 or visit [www.catcreeklodge.com](http://www.catcreeklodge.com) for more details and booking. TMay11,F4JSH