

Fireworks...from Page 1A

Hayesville, North Carolina, dressed to impress that evening, down to a festive, patriotic necklace, and came out to enjoy the fireworks, and snag a little candy beforehand, with her grandchildren.

"I love the festivities of the Fourth of July," said Patterson. "I've been coming to the fireworks at the Fairgrounds since I was a little girl. I love it. I grew up in Blairsville so we would always come over here.

"I love the fireworks that go up and come out like a fan, with all the beautiful colors."

Patterson also worked with North Mt Zion Church of God's festivities, helping with registration and making sure that children and parents alike enjoyed the evening.

While the rains may have fallen earlier in the day, all who braved the chances of showers, proudly wearing red, white and blue in honor of Old Glory and this great nation she represents, enjoyed an evening of music, fellowship and beautiful fireworks freckling the night sky over Lake Chatuge.



Raven and Red performed at this year's Fourth of July Fireworks at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



This youngster is enjoying some delicious cotton candy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Family fun at the Fairgrounds included face painting and balloon animals. Photo/Lily Avery

Gowder...from Page 1A

statute of limitations. Bottom line: the arrest warrants are not drying up.

Not knowing about O.C.G.A. 17-3-2, subsection 2, the newspapers only reported on O.C.G.A. 17-3-1 as it pertained to the Gowder, Heaton cases. The newspapers apologize for the oversight.

Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley aided in this clarification.

Meanwhile, Mike Gowder's Towns County indictments, as presented last week by Langley, include 16 counts of fraud in obtaining a controlled substance and 16 counts of Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act, court records show.

The fraud charges allege that Gowder illegally obtained prescriptions from Dr. James Heaton for controlled substances that were not prescribed for legitimate medical purposes, the indictments show.

The VGCSA charges are in regard to Gowder's alleged unlawful possession of Schedule II narcotics, namely hydrocodone and oxycodone, the indictments show.

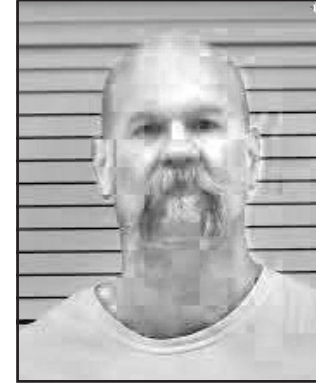
Heaton did not face any charges in Towns County, according to arrest warrants.

As previously reported, Mike Gowder and Heaton's North Carolina criminal cases came up earlier this year in Feb. 27 administrative sessions at the Cherokee County Courthouse in Murphy, resulting in both receiving June 26 continuance dates for future administrative sessions.

Resulting from their June 26 administrative sessions, Gowder and Heaton have received continuances in their North Carolina cases until



Mike Gowder Dec. 11.



James Heaton

Heaton and Mike Gowder were arrested in North Carolina on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, following indictment by a Cherokee County, NC, grand jury, both for five counts of trafficking in opium or heroin, and five counts of obtaining a controlled substance by forgery, according to Cherokee County, NC, Sheriff Derrick Palmer at that time.

Previously, Mike Gowder and Dr. Heaton received 2016 continuances in their North Carolina cases from March 28 to April 4, then from April 4 to July 11, and from July 11 to Nov. 7.

On Nov. 7, Mike Gowder received a continuance to Feb. 27, 2017, while Heaton got a Jan. 3, 2017, court date to appear in front of a North Carolina Superior Court Judge.

The result of that Jan. 3 appearance was a continuance for Heaton to a Feb. 27 administrative session, the same day as Mike Gowder, as previously reported.

Heaton and Mike Gowder were arrested in Union County on Feb. 4, 2016, Gowder for three counts of fraudulently obtaining a

controlled substance, one count of conspiracy; and Heaton for 40 counts of unauthorized distribution and dispensation of controlled substances, one count of conspiracy.

Dr. David Gowder, Mike's brother, was also arrested that Feb. 4 for 36 counts of fraudulently obtaining a controlled substance and seven counts of unauthorized distribution and dispensation of controlled substances. Three other Gowder family members were arrested that day in connection with the incidents in question.

David Gowder, and three other family members, Gail Gowder, Virginia Lou Harkins, and Jamie Harkins were indicted in Union County during the April session of the Union County Grand Jury.

Agencies involved in the investigation at the time of the February 2016 Union County arrests were the DEA Tactical Diversion Squad, the DEA Digital Forensics Lab, the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency, the Union County Sheriff's Office, and the Cherokee County, North Carolina Sheriff's Office.

at (706) 896-4191 for more details.

And Saturday, the final day of the 2017 Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In, the Chris Clinton Band will perform in Pioneer Village, and the weekend will end with a bang as the Cruiz-In hosts its Saturday Night Hill Top Party at Lake Chatuge Lodge in Downtown Hiwassee.

"We see the spectators more and more every year," said Parrish. "We're still getting the large amount of cars every year, ending up with close to 800 cars every year.

"But it's really getting to be so big that we're filling up hotels from Hiwassee to Blairsville, all the way to Murphy, North Carolina, and Helen. But we're getting more people driving up from wherever on Saturday to bring their cars, which is always a good time."

Admission to the Cruiz-In for spectators is \$10 per day, and children 12 and under get in free. The gate fee includes all nightly activities.

Bradshaw...from Page 1A

finished the 2016 year budget audit," said Commissioner Bradshaw. "Everything is good. They said that we are a very financially strong county, which I knew and was hoping that they would find that as well.

"Everything is good financially. We're on budget, we're on target and everything is going good."

Commissioner Bradshaw shared county updates with the group, explaining the projects that he is currently working on as well as the projects he will be moving forward with in the coming months.

Of the several projects that Commissioner Bradshaw has been diligently working on since coming into office, improvements to the Foster Park ball fields and the Highway 288 project highlighted the meeting.

Using detainee labor, the county has continued the work on the Foster Park ball fields, beginning with the construction of a field house for Little League football at the bottom of the hill.

"When I was campaigning, I was promising that I'm going to get out and bring people together and get activities going," said Commissioner Bradshaw. "At Foster Park, I want activities going every good weather weekends during the good months, as well as at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

"And we're doing it. We



Chase Rogers

have nice facilities and we want to make good use out of them."

Buildings and recreational structures are not the only things that Commissioner Bradshaw wants to make good use of, but the natural beauty of Towns County as well, which leads to the Highway 288 project.

With an emphasis on improving an already existing outdoor walking trail; Commissioner Bradshaw also plans to work toward creating a kayak and canoe water trail, something that will be a one-of-a-kind asset for the area.

"On 288, the county has property there with a boat ramp," said Commissioner Bradshaw. "We're getting that boat ramp repaired. We're going to have handicap accessible walking trails; a handicap accessible fishing

pier and we're going to extend the boat ramp further.

"We're going to be one of the first people in the state to have a canoe kayak water trail around that peninsula, all the way around. We're going to have workout stations around the trail. We're going to have benches, a pavilion and bathrooms. We're working on that."

Commissioner Bradshaw invited everyone to the next county meeting on July 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the courthouse where he will be giving a thorough presentation of the park, including a map laying out the exact plans and locations for the park as well as an estimated time frame for when this will become accessible to the public.

Also during the meeting, Commissioner Bradshaw wanted to remind all citizens of Towns County that they are covered through the county under the Air Methods helicopter out of Union General Hospital in Blairsville.

"If you have to be flown out of the county in a helicopter, the county has paid for this plan through Air Methods," said Commissioner Bradshaw. "You're covered. I want to make that clear. So, if you received a bill in the mail, please ignore it. They made a mistake.

"If you've already paid, you can call Union General Hospital and it will be refunded to you."

Brown...from Page 1A

Graham's struggles with alcohol. Today, T. Graham still performs his long list of chart-topping hits. However, his music of choice in the 21st century is Gospel.

Later in the show, T. Graham was joined by Fortune and Wills, with the latter performing a Dan Seals hit, Everything That Glitters, with Fortune on backup vocals.

If you closed your eyes, you could imagine Seals standing on stage. Wills, Fortune and T. Graham gave the crowd their money's worth for the evening.

It was a rare opportunity to hear three of the purest voices in Country Music.

The trio closed the show with their rendition of God Bless America, a fitting tribute

for a Fourth of July weekend.

After the show, they lived up to their promise by greeting fans, signing autographs, shaking their hands and hugging their necks. And of course, they posed for photographs.

Those who came from near and far to hear the show went home with smiles on their faces.

Sidewalk construction underway on Main Street

By Shawn Jarrard North Georgia News Staff Writer

Construction has begun on the new sidewalk addition on Main Street Hiwassee, and will continue this week, weather permitting.

July 5 was the start date of the construction, and residents will notice that grass has been removed and sidewalk forms have been staked out starting around Sims Circle, and all construction zones have been taped off for safety.

"Sidewalks have been a concern for the citizens for years," said Hiwassee Mayor Pro Tem Liz Ordiales. "When I first started going to council meetings four years ago, they were talking about sidewalks and putting in sidewalks.

"So, I feel like this is a good response to what the citizens have asked for over many, many years that they've never been able to get accomplished."

Speaking on the remainder of the work, Ordiales said that digging was near completion as of press time Monday, and she was hopeful that all the concrete pouring would be completed this week.

"If we can get a string of three days, we'll be good," said Ordiales. "We're hopeful that this will be done soon, all of the new sidewalk stuff, the fixes and the railing along the cove."

In the June regular meeting of Hiwassee City Council and the mayor pro tem, the council approved a contract with C&G Concrete to install a new stretch of sidewalk on Main Street, as well as to fix several problem areas on already established sidewalks around the city.

The cost of the contract is around \$63,000, to be paid for with a roughly 65/35 split between SPLOST funds and money from the Georgia Department of Transportation's Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG), though traffic control will be handled locally by Hiwassee PD and Towns County Fire & Rescue.

C&G Concrete is the company behind the installation of the crosswalk at the Hiwassee Post Office, so residents of the city are already familiar with their handiwork.

"We waited purposely until after the Fourth of July weekend to start the sidewalks," Ordiales said, "but our plan is to install a new sidewalk from Sims Circle, which is right where Kim Farmer Insurance is,



Construction of the brand-new sidewalk on Hiwassee Main Street.

all the way to the Hiwassee Hardware, where the sidewalk already exists.

"In the process of doing that, we're going to cross over the only patch of the city right in town that doesn't have any sidewalks right now."

An area near Mull's Inn where the lake comes close to the road will require a guardrail alongside the new sidewalk there.

Most of the city already has access to sidewalks on U.S. 76, and the fixes and new sidewalk will go a long way toward fulfilling Ordiales and the council's goal for the city.

"We want 100 percent sidewalk coverage," said Ordiales. "This is our first step in developing our downtown. If we can provide better walkability, we get ready for the next step, which is bringing in more stores,

restaurants - activity coming into downtown.

"Walkability is a big plus, and this is step one to doing it. Parking is an issue, as it is with any other small city, but you can park at the square and you can safely walk all the way to Georgia Mountain Restaurant now."

Hiwassee City Hall called 811 before the start of the project, in preparation for all the digging.

A couple of the areas receiving much-needed sidewalk repairs are the corner near Eller's Tires and the sidewalk in front of Chatuge Regional Hospital.

The C&G contract also includes the creation of a double set of stairs out front of the main entrance to Hiwassee City Hall, leading up from street level for people crossing from the Towns County Courthouse.

Moonshine...from Page 1A

to 2 p.m., residents and car enthusiasts alike can check out the Mayor's Block Party on the Hiwassee Town Square, with hot rods and classic cars filling the downtown area, Parrish said.

"That event features fun, food and more," Parrish said.

Another cruise will follow later in the day and conclude at Granddaddy Mimm's Moonshine Distillery in Blairsville, the host of the Ninth Annual Moonshine Kick-off Bash.

Parking for the Bash will be at Shady Grove United Methodist Church. A shuttle service to Granddaddy Mimm's will be provided. Parking cost is \$5, which goes to the church, Townsend said.

The Bash will feature music by Tom Floyd Band and plenty of food to go around, said Granddaddy Mimm's founder Tommy Townsend of Waymore's Outlaws fame.

"This is our first year hosting the Bash," Townsend

said. "We're excited about it. There will be plenty of music, plenty of food and plenty of moonshine. We'll actually be running a batch that afternoon.

"I think folks will have an incredible time," Townsend said. "They'll get an up close and personal look at how moonshine is made and get a tour of the facility. It should be a treat for everyone."

The fun does not stop there. Friday morning, bright and early at 8 a.m., patrons can come out to the Fairgrounds and enjoy a day of folk show exhibits, swap meets, mountain music and checking out automotive part vendors. Pioneer Village will also be open so that visitors can experience authentic mountain crafting.

Friday also features a 7 p.m. concert by The Kentucky Headhunters and Confederate Railroad. Tickets to that event hosted at Anderson Music Hall cost \$37. Call the Fairgrounds