

Fair...from Page 1A

Teachers hosting it. "Then we also have a schoolhouse that was actually used in Towns County many years ago, but was brought to the Fairgrounds."

On Saturday, July 22, the Georgia Mountain Fair Parade will kick things off at 11 a.m. Billy Clark, who ran away and joined the carnival in his teens, and later owned the carnival, will be the Grand Marshal of the 67th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair Parade, Thomason said.

Clark got his start in the carnival business at a young age, at the Georgia Mountain Fair.

The 2017 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Pageant begins at 8 p.m. on Monday, July 24.

"We have 10 contestants this year, and we can't wait for the 2017 pageant," Thomason said.

Amaira Barrett of Towns County was crowned the 2016 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair.

"We hope to have a lot of people attending the Fair this year," said Thomason. "It's a great deal, really. It's a great way to come out and see good entertainment and check out the Fair at a very reasonable price. Bring the whole family for a vacation. There really is something for everyone."

For each of the nine days of the Fair, there will be music shows. Those shows kick off on Friday, July 21 with Neal McCoy, and Country River Band, Saturday is Crystal Gayle and Mountain Home Music Band, Sunday's guests include The McKameys; Archie Watkins and The Inspirations, and Chris Rumpf and Family.

On Monday, Ronnie McDowell comes to town. Blend will open for McDowell; Tuesday, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, with Shelby Lee Lowe as the opening act; Wednesday features the late Merle Haggard's oldest son, Marty Haggard with a Tribute to Merle, with Soco

Creek Band opening for Marty Haggard; Thursday is Bluegrass Day featuring Rhonda Vincent, Little Roy Lewis and Lizzy Long, and Raymond Fairchild.

On Friday, July 28, Jim Wood & The Georgia Mountain Fair Band lead off the day, followed by legendary Mickey Gilley, of "Urban Cowboy" fame. Gilley is a cross-over artist - Country and Pop, with a Royal lineage. He is a cousin of "The Killer," Jerry Lee Lewis. Show times are at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

At 8 p.m., Friday, the annual Talent Contest with Jim Wood & The Georgia Mountain Fair Band. This year features 35 entries.

The music shows come to a close on Saturday, July 29, with Jim Wood & The Georgia Mountain Fair Band, and B.J. Thomas, famous for a career of Pop, Gospel, and Country Music.

For more details, call the Fairgrounds at (706) 896-4191.

City Council...from Page 1A

New members of the council will take the oath of office on January 2, 2018, so since Smith's resignation is just short of six months, the council has the option to appoint a successor. However, the council decided to function as a five-person council up until that point.

That being said, if only one person qualifies for the seat in August, the council decided to move forward with appointing said person to the council seat before the January swearing in, as allowed under the charter.

Qualifying for the council seat will close the third week of August. Smith could not be reached for a statement regarding her resignation by press time.

In other city council news, the council held the first reading for the Water/Sewer Rate Ordinance. Since Harkins became the new city attorney, the city has been working toward cleaning up old ordinances and making sure everything is up-to-date, meeting all qualifications that the council deems fit, such as the water and sewer rate ordinance.

"This incorporates changes that were suggested during the administrative committee meeting," said Harkins. "There is language that addresses the issue of temporary meters, that is also reflected in the master fee schedule, where the charges for residential are going to be different than the charges for the commercial temporary meters."

"The last half is



Young Harris City Councilmembers Jared Champion and Stuart Miller. Photo/Lily Avery



Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby and City Attorney Marvin Harkins. Photo/Lily Avery

regarding when people move and a bill is sent out and the post office sends it back, the city is sent a new address without a forwarding address.

"So, what this does is allows the city to have the ability to send the notice to the corrected address. It's just a way for people to get in contact with folks."

Before the second reading of the Water/Sewer Rate Ordinance during the August monthly meeting, the council will be holding a public hearing regarding the ordinance, as well as the Master Fee Schedule, before the Aug. 1 meeting at 6:50 p.m. that same evening.

Indictments...from Page 1A

the indictments show.

Meanwhile, Gowder was indicted July 5 in Towns County on charges that include 16 counts of fraud in obtaining a controlled substance, and 16 counts of Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act, Towns County court records show.

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

Langley said he was pleased with the return of indictments by grand jurors in Union and Towns counties.

"This investigation has taken months of work by law enforcement, followed by months of work within the District Attorney's Office," he said. "We are pleased with the decisions of the grand juries in Union and Towns counties. They were regularly scheduled grand juries, and it was an appropriate time for these cases to be presented."

As previously reported, Gowder and Heaton's North Carolina criminal cases came up in June 26 administrative sessions at the Cherokee County Courthouse in Murphy, resulting in both receiving Dec. 11 continuance dates for future administrative sessions.

Heaton and Mike Gowder were arrested in North Carolina on March 2, 2016, following indictment



Mike Gowder



James Heaton

by a Cherokee County, North Carolina grand jury, both for five counts of trafficking in opiate medications, and five counts of obtaining a controlled substance by forgery, according to Cherokee County, North Carolina Sheriff Derrick Palmer at that time.

Previously, 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, 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 Gowder, and the two appeared again for administrative sessions June 26.

Dr. David Gowder, Mike's brother, was also arrested Feb. 4, 2016, on 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 same day in connection with the incidents in question.

David Gowder and three of his 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.

Golf...from Page 1A

When he heard that, the upcoming senior knew he needed to make something happen on the last hole to have a chance as individual state champion.

"I was two over, and I decided that I needed to go for it and see," said Williams. "It was a par 5, so I decided to just try to go for eagle, get on in two."

In other words, Williams wasn't going to play it safe - he had to improve his score to have a shot at the big prize, so he went for it.

Now, Williams is the first to admit that the move "didn't pan out." He ended up with a score of 79 after a few shots into the woods, though he still did well enough to secure a tie for Third Place among individuals.

Asked if he would do it over again, Williams said that he would, underscoring the ambition and drive of a young man who will surely do great things in Towns County Golf his senior year.

"After doing that, I've really been practicing on how to get myself in tournament condition, and put a lot of pressure on myself so I don't buckle underneath that pressure," said Williams. "I'm still definitely going to be a go-getter, like I was at state."

"You've got to do what you've got to do. If you're going to be cautious, you can't win. You've got to be willing to go for it. I was willing to go for it, it just didn't work out. But it will, it'll work eventually."

Since then, both Williams and Lady Indian Kenzie Jenkins were announced as having made All-State for their accomplishments on the green this year.

Of course, the Towns County Herald is well acquainted with the accomplishments of Kenzie Jenkins, as previously



Towns County High School Lady Indians

reported.

She has earned the title of Area Champion every year she has golfed, been part of a state championship team, and is headed to Truett McConnell College this fall on an athletic scholarship.

As for the 2016-2017 state tournament results, which featured only one day of play since the second day did end up getting canceled, the Towns County boys tied for Fourth Place and the girls made Sixth Place.

Along with golf, Williams is active in FBLA and HOSA, and though he chose to focus on golf his junior year, he has been involved in basketball, cross country and football all his life.

Williams is also a true entrepreneur with two local businesses: an apparel company called Southern Sophistications, and Extraordinary Lawncare.

His plans after high school include getting a golf scholarship and continuing to play in college while pursuing anesthesiology as a career, though Towns County High School Golf Coach Brett Keller believes Williams will always have many irons in the fire.

"He's been working on a plan for life since he was

a ninth-grader," said Coach Keller. "He knows what he wants to do and he goes for it. Some adults could look to him for some motivation, that's what type of kid he is."

Williams has already gotten offers for scholarships from several colleges, including Earlham College in Indiana and Hilbert College in New York, as well as the closer-to-home Truett McConnell College, and he's been talking with Princeton University to potentially be a future recruit for the Class of 2018.

Of course, the senior still has some time to decide which school he wants to attend, and he has at least one more year as a Towns County Indian.

Williams would like to thank Coach Keller for his guidance, as well as his uncle, Bill Jesel, for getting him into golf years ago, and Mike Kelley, the grandfather of Towns County golfer Connor Kelley, for helping him get a hook out of his swing the day before the state tournament this year.

2016-2017 Lady Indian golfers were Kenzie Jenkins and Summer Swanson.

2016-2017 Indian golfers were Chase Williams, Will Travis, Caleb Ledford, Danny Reagan, Connor Kelley and Kyler Garrett.

Cruiz-In...from Page 1A

"We absolutely love the area, the scenery is beautiful, and we will definitely be back next year," said first-time visitors Connie and Buddy Warner, who brought their 2016 Dodge Challenger Scat Pack from their hometown of Little Rock, Arkansas. "We had some friends that we met at the Emerald Coast car show in Panama City (Florida) who recommended this show and we decided that we would check it out."

The green flag dropped on Thursday with a 60-mile cruise through the mountains that culminated in a parade and downtown block party on the Hiwassee square.

A second 60-mile cruise followed the block party before day one culminated with a kickoff party, hosted by event sponsor, Granddaddy Mimm's Moonshine at their Blairsville distillery.

"This has been a great weekend for us and we've all had a good time," said Debby Townsend, granddaughter of Granddaddy Mimm, the namesake of event sponsor, Granddaddy Mimm's Moonshine. "We had our kickoff party on Thursday and despite a few rain showers we had a big turnout and participation."

The gates opened at 8 a.m. Friday morning at the Fairgrounds, with a Grand Opening ceremony at 10 a.m. The highlight of the day was the concert at Anderson Music Hall featuring Georgia's own Confederate Railroad along with CMA, ACM, and Grammy Award winners The Kentucky Headhunters, who performed their country and Southern Rock hits from the 80s and 90s.

Despite thundershowers on Friday evening and clouds that gave way to hot and humid conditions on Saturday, vendors, and visitors alike all returned for Day 3 that featured live music and awards on the event site stage.

Whether you are a fan of classic hot rods, vintage rat rods, or contemporary



Beautiful trucks on Lake Chatuge. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



The Kentucky Headhunters. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



The Chris Clinton Band. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

muscle cars, the Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In was certain to bring back memories from the past or awaken fantasies of finding your own dream car.

A regular at the event, Frank Capozzi of Brasstown, North Carolina, owns multiple muscle cars and brought two to the Cruiz-In - a 1961 Ford Starliner on Friday and a 1970 Dodge Challenger convertible on Saturday.

"This is a great event, I've been here every year and we all have a good time,"

Capozzi said.

Another regular is Paul Hensley of Ducktown, Tennessee who's recently purchased 1970 C-10 pickup was making its first appearance at the Moonshine Cruiz-In.

"We enjoy the beautiful nature setting of this event, instead of being on hot, black asphalt," Hensley said. "You can't beat the views here on the lake and the friendly people. This is one of our favorite events and we look forward to it every year."