

# CLEA...from Page 1A

and he said he always enjoys a good trip back to the North Georgia Mountains.

"It's kind of a two-fold thing," said Cpl. Wofford of their visit. "We're coming out and we're showing the public what their tax dollars are going for. A lot of people, believe it or not, don't realize that the State Patrol has an aviation unit."

"We've got 12 aircraft, 13 pilots, two full-time TFOs and probably 20 part-time TFOs. I'm a pilot, I fly the aircraft and work the radios. (TFO Jones) will work the radios also, but he operates the forward looking infrared camera, FLIR."

The Bell 407 that Cpl. Wofford and TFO Jones work together on is a multi-mission aviation vehicle, capable of handling a wide variety of support functions for any first responder agency in the state.

"We can do everything from fight fire, VIP transport, missing people," said Cpl. Wofford. "We're constantly going out to search for people who may have dementia and Alzheimer's that walk away from their residence. Missing children, anything, they'll call us."

The GSP Aviation Division has six hangars stationed around the state with pilots and TFOs always at the ready, ensuring that the State Patrol can have a team in the air pretty much around the clock if needed.

Public outreach is just another of the many facets of the job carried out by Cpl. Wofford and his fellow pilots and TFOs, and they do a lot of similar "static displays" at schools around the state.

Wofford and Jones are both full-fledged troopers, though they don't actually pull people over like their road-bound brethren.

The Aviation Division regularly takes part in manhunts and searching for outdoor marijuana grows, and can perform crowd control functions during riots.

Cpl. Wofford even said that the division helped with relief efforts after Hurricane Irma moved through the state.

CLEA class members exhibited plenty of curiosity and asked the troopers many questions that day, and the soon-to-be CLEA graduates stuck around afterward to take pictures with the helicopter, which, interestingly, the GSP



**Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw with Sheriff Chris Clinton and his boy. Photo/Shawn Jarrard**



**The GSP helicopter taking off at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church on Tuesday, Sept. 19. Photo/Shawn Jarrard**

bought from crime writer Patricia Cornwell.

"This is the first time we've had GSP Aviation," said Sheriff Clinton, who understandably takes pride in his CLEA participants for the 10 weeks each class commits to learning about a variety of subject surrounding law enforcement.

All told, when the seventh CLEA class graduates in early October, the sheriff's office will have educated 175 Towns County residents over the last three years, and that kind of outreach is something the sheriff said is critical in today's toxic environment of mistrust of law enforcement.

"I really believe that by communicating and by talking about ideas - we don't have to agree, but at least we can understand each other and have a mutual respect," said Sheriff

Clinton.

And in a show of mutual respect, Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw made an appearance toward the end of the class to visit with the sheriff and CLEA students, and to thank the GSP Troopers for their time that day.

"The sheriff's office, they're here to help people," said Commissioner Bradshaw. "That's exactly what it says on their car, to protect and serve. These folks are out here risking their lives every day to help people."

"People should not be afraid of any officer. If you're pulled over, you do what they say, but they're risking their lives to help you. They're trying to keep you safe and keep others safe. The way things have changed and the way people feel about officers is terrible, but they do a great job."

# ICL Fall 2017 at Young Harris College

The Institute for Continuing Learning (ICL) at Young Harris College has announced a diverse array of courses for the Fall term. The Institute offers a wide range of educational opportunities for mature adults who are interested in intellectual stimulation as well as cultural enrichment and shared interests.

The Fall schedule has 17 courses offered, so there should be something of interest for everyone. The ICL Bulletin & Course Announcements have been posted on the iclyhc.org web site.

The following courses start the week of October 5th:

Fall Birding - starts 10/5 (Thursdays 9-11 a.m. for 6 weeks) by Tom Striker.

This course will explore bird watching as a hobby to be enjoyed at any age and location. After an introduction to biology and behavior, the course will focus on finding and identifying the birds of the southern Appalachian region. Related topics will include field guides, binoculars, and migration. Weather permitting, most classes will be field trips to hotspots in the Young Harris/Lake Chatuge area.

One or more field trips (Ivy Log Gap Road and Brasstown Bald) will be scheduled off campus starting before 9 a.m. and extending beyond 11 a.m. Participants will need decent binoculars and a fairly recent field guide to eastern birds. Beginners are welcome!

Finding The Forgotten - starts 10/6 (Fridays 3:15-5:15 p.m. for 5 weeks) by Jason Edwards. The class will learn about the history of African-Americans in northeast Georgia and western North Carolina. We will explore, through case studies and documents, the history of free blacks, slaves, and freedmen in the region from the late 1700s to World War I.

The Institute's curriculum committee continually reviews members' interests and expands the curriculum accordingly. Individual course registration fees normally range from \$12 to \$24 each. ICL offers a new series of subjects every quarter, commencing in January, April, June and September.

For more information please visit [www.iclyhc.org](http://www.iclyhc.org) for registration and detailed course information or call 706-



**Tom Striker**  
379-5194 and leave a message or send an email to [icl@yhcc.edu](mailto:icl@yhcc.edu). You can also find us on Facebook as "ICL at YHC".

## All you can eat Spaghetti Dinner

An all you can eat Spaghetti Dinner will be sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary, Post 7808, Hwy 288, Hiawassee, GA. Available Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost per person is \$8. Tickets will be sold at the door or buy from any VFW Auxiliary member. NT(Sep27,22)CA