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and that child never went a day without telling me that he loved me.

"My last conversation with him on Saturday morning was 'Mom, don't you worry about me, I love ing to friends at the scene."

A Union County Sheriff's Office patrol boat was in the area when Worley went down, Sheriff Stephens said.

"We had our boat in the water about two coves over and we were able to respond quickly," Sheriff Stephens said. "The guys on the boat hit the water as soon as they got to the scene."

"The first call came into dispatch at 4:45 p.m., we got in motion at 4:46 p.m.," Sheriff Stephens said.

Sheriff Stephens immediately requested the Union County Dive Team, rangers from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and additional backup from the U.S. Forest Service rangers.

DNR rangers used their boat with side-mount sonar search equipment Saturday evening until 10 p.m. The search was called off because of the dangers of night diving, Sheriff Stephens said.

Around 7 a.m. on Sunday, the recovery crew began another sweep of the area with the sonar equipment where Worley was believed to have gone down. About 9:40 a.m. on Sunday,

the first divers hit the water after a sonar scan of the water.

Union County divers searched the area, encountering depths of more than 50 feet, until shortly after 1 p.m. on Sunday. Cadaver dogs were brought from Alpha Search and Rescue, who searched the area from the Union County Sheriff's Office pontoon.

At 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sheriff Stephens made a call to Dawson County Sheriff Billy Carlisle asking for mutual aid assistance from Sheriff Carlisle's dive team, led by Dawson County Sheriff's Major Greg Rowan.

The Dawson County Dive Team searched until late Sunday evening before the dive had to be called due to expiration of dive team members' time in the water.

On Monday, members of the Georgia State Patrol Dive Team were there, rangers with the U.S. Forest Service, a member of the Commerce Police Department, a member of the Demorest Fire Department, a member of Hart County Emergency Management Agency and personnel with the Union County Commissioner's Office, including Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris.

Worley's body has been sent to the State Crime Laboratory in Decatur for an autopsy, according to Worley's mother Shannon Ashe.

## Judges...continued from page 1

nior Judge Murphy Miller on the Enotah Circuit Bench.

Gunter, who served 12 years as the Enotah Circuit district attorney, serving Union, Towns, Lumpkin and White counties, currently is the executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council.

Gunter is a native of Northeast Georgia and served as the district attorney in the Enotah Judicial Circuit, which includes Union, Towns, White and Lumpkin counties, for 12 years. While serving as the Enotah Circuit district attorney, Gunter served on the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council and was president of the District Attorneys' Association.

Gunter and his wife,

Rita, have been married 29 years and have two sons, Chase and Trey.

George, a Dahlonega and has more than 20 years of trial experience, having also served as the chief assistant district attorney in the Northeastern Judicial Circuit serving Hall and Dawson counties.

He also has served two years as a commissioned officer in the Military Police and eight years as a police officer and detective with the Clarke County Police Department. George also has served as a guest lecturer at local colleges and high schools regarding law and government. He and his wife, Sharon, have been married for 32 years and have two sons, Michael and Andrew.

## Qualify...continued from page 1

Ridge, was unopposed.

In the 9<sup>th</sup> District Congressional race, Doug Collins, Martha Zoller and Roger Fitzpatrick will square off in July to determine who will face Demo-

crat Jody Cooley, a Gainesville attorney for the new Congressional seat.

Stay tuned for the July 31 Democratic and Republican primaries. They're just around the corner.

## Youth cheerleading registration

We are very excited for another season of cheerleading. Registration will be held June 2, 2012, at the Towns County Recreation Center from 9am to 12pm. We recommend that your daughter wear a bathing suit to aid in the fitting process (however, there are locker rooms available to try on uniforms). The fee for participation this year is \$80. The fee includes the uniform, bow, bloomers, team socks, and liner. We will have optional information available for purchasing cheer shoes, which will be required if your daughter is interested in participating in competition. If you are unable to attend the above fitting, please contact one of the directors below within one

week of the above fitting and arrange another day for fitting. We will not take anyone after one week. Lastly, this summer we are hosting a cheerleading camp, being directed by the Universal Cheerleading Association. This two and a half day camp is open to all elementary school girls (even if you aren't registering for the cheerleading season). It is being held July 10-12. The cost is \$87. Camp registration will take place on June 2 as well. At that time, parents will sign participation waivers and we will hand out the camp schedule.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Markham 706-897-1337 or Lisa Walls 706-994-0215.

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## 2012 Summer Day Camp

Summer is just around the corner and that means hot weather and Summer Day Camp for boys and girls ages 6 thru 12. This summer the Recreation Department will offer day camp for 3 sessions, each session being two weeks, running Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sessions will be as follows: Session I - June 4th thru June 15th. Session II - June 18th thru June 29th. Session III - July 9th thru July 20th.

The fee for the two week session is \$120. The fee is payable to the Towns County Recreation Department the first Monday of each session.

Day Camp offers chil-

dren sports game activities, social game activities, field trips, nature hikes and much more. Give your child a lot to do this summer and sign them up for Day Camp. You may send your child to any or all of the sessions. Children need to bring a swimsuit, towel, sprayable sunscreen and sack lunch. The Recreation department will furnish the drinks for the campers.

Registration will be the first Monday of each session at the Recreation Department located on Hwy. 76 west of Hiawassee. For more information please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

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## Graduates...continued from page 1

talented class. You have made that rite of passage from childhood to adulthood. You will succeed, because you want to succeed. Prepare for the best you can be when leadership roles come your way. Stand up for what is right, even if you are standing alone, and at the end of the day, rest easy because you did what was right," Perren said.

Towns County School Board Chairman Larry Kimsey joined Perren in the delivery of diplomas. Superintendent Melissa Williams was on hand to shake each graduate's hand and congratulate them.

"At this time Class of 2012, you may stand, turn your class rings and flip your tassels. I'm proud to present to you as the Class of 2012," Perren said.

## Reflect...continued from page 1

served so bravely and valiantly, without regard for self, to protect and defend this great country and the freedoms we cherish today.

The ceremony opened with the traditional Posting of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance. VFW Post Commander Marty Mynatt recognized Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall. "Every time we've needed something, he's been there for us," said Mynatt.

VFW District Chaplain Max Flaig provided the invocation. "We are free because ordinary men stepped up to the challenge," said Flaig.

Monday's keynote speaker was Alfred Lipphardt of Stone Mountain. He is a member of the VFW and currently serves as the Department of Georgia Judge Advocate.

## BBQ...continued from page 1

down. It didn't take long for a warm morning to turn into a scorcher as the sun beat down and the humidity increased.

The gnats seemed to multiply in number and became downright mean!

There were a large variety of events scheduled throughout the day; there was something for everyone regardless of their age.

If you are a fan of Blue Grass music, you were probably up front and center when the Georgia Highlanders Blue Grass band took the stage.

This is a local group of musicians with a whole lot of talent.

Another very talented local band that was there to entertain was Steven Phillips and Midnight Express.

They have been performing together since the early '90s and they certainly put on a great show.

Naturalist Andrea Tucker, representing the Department of Natural Resources, was there educate folks on the various birds of



The Class of 2012 in their final moments as seniors on Friday night at Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium in Hiawassee. The Class featured 58 seniors moving into adulthood Photo by Lowell Nicholson

"I am humbled and honored to share this day of remembrance and ask that you join me in celebrating the lives of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the good of this great nation. I would also like to remind you that there has been no other nation on earth whose sacrifice has been greater than ours. Nowhere in history has there been a country before ours that has given so much to ensure freedom for others. But, the lives of our fallen warriors were not lives lost in vain. For each life lost has contributed to the evolution of American as we know it today- a free nation, a strong nation, and the greatest nation on earth," said Lipphardt.

Lipphardt reminded us that, as we honor and memorialize the fallen, we need to continue to be mindful of

those that are still listed as Missing in Action and/or Prisoners of War.

"It is our duty to teach our youth that nothing comes without a price, and that sacrifices are meaningless without remembrance. I ask that today you not accept feelings of grief or affliction without encompassing a feeling of honor, patriotism, and pride. This is the land of freedom and liberty; it is the home of the brave," said Lipphardt.

He concluded his speech with these very powerful words, "Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Post 7807-that building on the hill is where warriors meet and heroes gather. Today as we stand united as a nation under Old Glory, the silent sentinel of freedom that you have defended, we will forever see

the faces of our fallen comrades embedded in our symbol of red, white, and blue. We dedicate this day to them, and vow to devote this day wholeheartedly to the preservation of their memory. Everyday should be Veterans Day. God bless our departed heroes, their families, and God bless America."

The Laying of Wreaths was conducted by the following: VFW Post 7807, VFW Post 7807 Ladies Auxiliary, American Legion Post 23, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 23, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary 23, Marine Corps League Unicoi Detachment, and the Army-Navy Squadron # 66. It was a beautiful grand finale as The North Georgia Honor Guard gave a rifle-volley salute in honor of our fallen heroes followed by the sounding of Taps.

was the other daredevil of the day.

"He's the star today. We got an 8 foot ramp and they'll be making a seventy-five foot jump," said Carothers.

What would a BBQ Showdown be with the cooks.

There were thirty professional teams entered in this year's competition. Michael Mixon, representing Jack's New South, had traveled from Unadilla, Georgia hoping for a top spot in the competition.

He professed to be following in his father's footsteps.

"He was the legend; I am the legacy," said a very humble Mixon.

He is videotaping 2 cookbooks tomorrow courtesy of Marc Farris of BBQ TV. Phillip Brazier, Master Judge and Kansas City Barbeque Society Representative, explained how the judging process works.

The teams are rated in 4 categories: chicken, ribs, pork, and brisket.

They are rated on a

point system from 1-9. The food is judged based on appearance, taste, and tenderness.

"There will be one winner in each category and a Grand Champion Award," said Brazier. This year's winning team that took home the title of Grand Champion was Team Bub-B-Q.

They also took top score in every category except brisket; that win went to Team Adam's Rib. Karen Rogers, assistant organizer for the event, emphasized that it takes 6-9 months of planning and hard work by the BBQ Festival Committee to get everything coordinated.

The committee has dedicated much time in planning and implementing to ensure that the event was a success.

"In addition to all the resort workers, we had lots of volunteers from S.A.F.E. and Family Connections assisting with the different events," said Rogers.

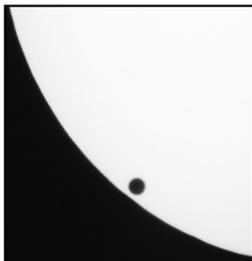
The proceeds from Saturday's event will be split between these two very worthy organizations.

## VFW Golf League News

5/24/12 we had 18 players which made 3 foursomes and 2 threesomes. We had a beautiful day too. The winning team of George Darden; Robert Harper; and Jim Fletcher came in with a score of 67, 5 under. They had 6 birdies and 1 bogey. Nice shooting fellas. We would still like to invite some more folks to join us in playing on Thursday mornings at Chatuge Shores Golf Club. This includes the ladies too.

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## Rollins Planetarium showcases rare astronomical event



The transit of Venus.

Young Harris College's O. Wayne Rollins Planetarium will present a special planetarium show at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5, to showcase a rare astronomical event as the planet Venus passes directly in front of the sun. Immediately following the show, visitors will have the opportunity to safely observe the transit of Venus at 6 p.m. outside Maxwell Center on the YHC campus. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children and free with YHC ID.

A transit of Venus is among the rarest of predictable astronomical events, and the next one will not occur until 2117. Such transits were once considered to be of great scientific importance. In the 18th

and 19th centuries, nations sent teams of astronomers around the globe in a quest to measure the size of the earth's solar system. Today, astronomers use the transit method to discover new planets around distant stars. Now you have the opportunity to enjoy a front-row seat to this cosmic spectacle!

The show at 5:30 p.m. will include a simulation of the transit using the planetarium's full-dome digital projection system. During the transit, Venus will appear as a small black dot moving across the face of the sun.

Safe viewing of the transit through a telescope requires special filters and optical instruments. Two properly outfitted telescopes will be set up outside Maxwell Center for optimal viewing between 6 and 7 p.m.

For a safe, non-magnified viewing of the transit of Venus, visitors can use specially coated solar viewing glasses that can also be used to view solar eclipses. A limited number of these glasses will be available free of charge at the planetarium on a first-come, first-served basis.

O. Wayne Rollins Plan-

etarium features a state-of-the-art GOTO Chronos Space Simulator star projector with a state-of-the-art full-dome digital projection system, the Sky-Skan Definiti, in a 40-foot dome theater. Recently renovated with comfortable seating for 104, Rollins Planetarium offers public shows and educational opportunities for school groups throughout the year. Rollins Planetarium is located in the Maxwell Center on the campus of Young Harris College.

For more information about planetarium and observatory events, call (706) 379-5195 or visit www.yhc.edu.

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## Cherokee County Arts Council Art, Music & Garden Festival

The Cherokee County Arts Council will host its 2nd Annual Art, Music & Garden Festival on Saturday, June 2nd from 9am to 4pm at the L&N Depot in downtown Murphy, NC! This free event will include many wonderful art and craft booths, music, dancing and artist demonstrations, all lining the beautiful River Walk

trail! The performance line-up includes The Harmed Brothers, the Brasstown Morris Dancers, Ms. Emma Garret - Cherokee River Cane Basket Maker, and more! Gardening booths will have spring plants for sale, and activities for kids are included too! For more information visit [www.cherokeeartsCouncil.org](http://www.cherokeeartsCouncil.org).

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