

Moonshine...from Page 1A



Rakes Parrish and Hilda Thomason meet with local law enforcement and emergency services personnel as they plan for the 2014 Moonshine Cruiz-In

Copeland and Towns County sheriff's Lt. Mark Cecci as Parrish outlined a plan for safe travel throughout the weekend's events. "There'll be a guy from sun up to sundown who will give anyone a pass with a trailer," said Rakes. "We'll pull out of here and I'll lead a tour down into the town. We're supposed to go to where the new Towns County Historical Society space is," said Parrish, referencing the new Historical Society space Commissioner Kendall had put into place, utilizing over 2,200 ft of space

in the previous Towns County Recreational Center. "We're going to open up the concession stand and have BBQ, slow dogs, pizza, all the things we do for a concert. We'll open up the ice cream shop," said Hilda Thomason. "That'll all be available starting Friday night when we have the concert." Tommy Townsend, Steven Phillips and Midnight Express, and Bluegrass band Breaking Grass, from Mississippi, will cater to the crowds' musical sensibilities. "This is going to be a

huge deal for the town," said Parrish. "I know two or three people who are coming from New Mexico. Some are driving from Canada." The Moonshine Cruiz-In and its festivities will start its engine on Aug 7 and continue through Aug. 9 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. It includes a Moonshine Run for Cash event, Folk Show exhibits, Pioneer Village, automotive vendors, mountain crafts and more. Contact Thomason at (706) 896-4191 for more details.

Mountain Fling continues to thrive

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Local artists put their talents on display and on sale over the weekend as North Georgia Technical College and the Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild presented the annual Mountain Fling Arts and Crafts Show.

The juried art show with a full house of more than 50 vendors includes many local artisans from the Northeast Georgia Mountain communities. The talented artists offered their latest works in ceramic items, one of a kind jewelry pieces, unique work with gourds, beautifully sewn and embroidered infant and children's clothing, unusual gifts, all types of wood items such as hand carved pens, walking sticks, turned bowls, furniture, quilts, painting and photography.

The Mountain Fling held annually in the summer time is the Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild's (MRACG) highest drawing show with late November's Mistletoe Market coming in a close second.

September's Celebrate Autumn show in its second year is the newest edition to the Guild arts and crafts shows and is building steam as it becomes a household name along with its two sister shows.

"This show and the Mistletoe Market are our most popular shows," said Wendy Holden of the Guild. "It's a 12-month endeavor preparing for these shows. We start mailing out the applications in January for all three shows. Our Mistletoe Market show is pretty much full right now, but we still have some availability for Celebrate Autumn."

According to Holden, North Georgia Technical College is the perfect location for a show of this size and a lot of factors play into its success.

"On Saturday we had a slow but steady crowd and the next day was pretty good for a Sunday," Holden said. "We had the signs out and I think they help a lot. We love this facility. It's centrally located with the highway right there



Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild draws more than 50 vendors



Vendor applications went out in January, and June's Mountain Fling and November's Mistletoe Market quickly filled up. A few tables are available for September's Celebrate Autumn show. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

to make this a great facility." It is the mission of ArtWorks, an artisan center, operated by the members of the Guild, a non-profit organization, chartered by the state of Georgia, to provide a venue for the public to view and purchase the highest quality art and crafts created by our mountain artisans. The Guild encourages the development of high standards and will provide our artisans the opportunity to share knowledge and skills by conducting classes, workshops and seminars. Many rules and guidelines are in place to provide only the highest quality of arts and crafts to the public at these

shows. Crafts must be 90 percent handmade by the person submitting the work. Only completed crafts will be evaluated. Crafts must comply with state, federal and copyright laws. Crafts must be clean and neat with no objectionable odors. Crafts must be environmentally friendly. Appropriate language is to be used on all items. Glue must not be visible on finished items. Toys must be child safe. Plastic eyes, buttons and trims must be securely sewn. No wire or lead paint is allowed. Items to be labeled regarding stuffing materials and proper cleaning instructions. Only high quality materials and professional workmanship will be accepted. These are just a few of the rules put in place by the Guild to ensure the quality and authenticity of the items sold at these shows. First time vendor, Robyn Ryan Brechbill of Hayesville, NC's Mountain Creek Creations has already made plans to return. "This has been a good weekend and I'll be back for the Mistletoe Market in November," Brechbill said. "All of these vendors are local and that's what makes these events so unique," Holden added. For more details visit the Guild's website at www.artguildstore.com or call them at (706) 896-0932. The e-mail address is mtnregartscraftsguild@hotmail.com.

Fireworks...from Page 1A

Independence Day will offer a mouthful with open concessions and an earful with its music collection at 6 p.m. by Raven and Red, an award-winning North Georgia native Bluegrass band, also well-versed in country, rock and folk. "We're going to do BBQ sandwiches, slow dogs and popcorn," Thomason said. "This is our third year with the North Mount Zion Church of God doing a ministry, a bounce-house, games for children and snow cones.

"And of course, the Chamber will be putting on their annual Boat Parade that we always enjoy," she said. The Boat Parade will begin at Nantahala Bay at 10 a.m. and depart at 10:30 a.m. The parade will end at The Ridges Resort & Marina for a hotdog cookout, along with a \$5 donation. The proceeds go to melanoma.org toward awareness and prevention. Along with the Anderson Bridge, the new Towns County Historical Society building, which is the old Recreation Center on Highway 76, is a preferred point of view for

the visual feast of fireworks provided by the Fairgrounds. Meanwhile, it's July and the 64th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair takes places July 17-26 at the Fairgrounds. Zoey Brooke Wilson will serve as Grand Marshal of the Georgia Mountain Fair Parade. Zoey is the 3-year-old daughter of Towns County's own sheriff's Lt. Brian Allen Wilson, who passed last May. Lt. Wilson served in the Marine Corps and in 2005 began a career with the Towns County Sheriff's Office. The annual Fair will host a vast assortment of attractions from carnival rides to arts and crafts. General Admission, which includes live music, is \$12. Aaron Tippen, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers and the Bellamy Brothers are just a sample of this year's music shows. Kids 12 and under get in free, which also happens to be the rate for parking. Contact the Fairgrounds at (706) 896-4191 for further information.

Academy...from Page 1A



TCSO Deputy Brandon Barrett and K-9 Sarge demonstrate Sarge's efficiency at sniffing out the evidence in a demonstration for the Boy Scouts and Citizen's Law Enforcement Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



TCSO Lt. Mark Cecci and members of sheriff's Dive Team put on a demonstration for the Boy Scouts and the members of the Citizens Law Enforcement Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

"Often times the sheriff's department will come and assist us. We have side-scan sonar for some boats. We have several on Lake Nottely and several on Lake Lanier," Webb said. "We have a lot of equipment and recourses and one of them is motor education class. A boater education and operations course for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1998 is going to be required. We watch the water just like they do the streets."

The boat education and operations course is similar to that of a driver's license for boat safety. Meanwhile, Sheriff Clinton stressed the importance of his K-9 deputies.

"We'll utilize some of our dog's tracking and recovery skills," said Sheriff Clinton. "Our bloodhound K-9 is remarkable for tracking, as bloodhounds are. He sniffs narcotics and recovers. He's really good with detection," the sheriff said.

Detection proved successful as Sarge, head of the Towns County K-9 Unit, alongside sheriff's Deputy Brandon Barrett, gave their own version of community service as 4-year-old Sarge patrolled the Towns County Beach for evidence between land and water. "He's not an apprehending dog. I feel comfortable with him around kids. He's pretty gentle. Sarge is a Passive Alert Detection Dog, which means when he finds the drugs he's looking for he will sit down," said Deputy Barrett. "The other type is Aggressive Alert Detection Dog, which means they'll scratch, they'll bark. It's definitely something you don't want to have an encounter with. I've set up some training aids out here. Sarge is trained to detect marijuana, cocaine, heroin and



Crystal Clinton and members of the Citizens Law Enforcement Academy cook hot dogs to feed some hungry Boy Scouts

methamphetamines. No offense to any one of my partners, but he's probably the best one I've ever had."

Sarge proceeded to lead Barrett across the beach in search of a scent, treading sand as Scout Troop 125, visitors of Lake Chatuge, and sunbathers, caught the K-9 in action as he tracked down his target item, out nearly 50 yards, having passed Lt. Mark Cecci along the way. Lt. Cecci donned a wetsuit as he simulated a dive for evidence as Jeremy Parker and Court Services Deputy Tim Wood followed suit. They spooled neon orange tug-lines on one end as Parker, with an oxygen-filled drop tank strapped to his back, dove beneath the waters to grid and recover evidence, whether a tossed weapon or object concealed in a bag.

"Infrared technology may help us see what it is we're looking for, but we still have to have a dive team grid it out," explained Lt. Cecci. "At times it's hard to tell if it's 100 feet away or right there about to hit you in the face. With visibility so bad underwater, I one time ran face first into a car. There's a lot more involved than just seeing and diving in after something." Each drop tank on the

back of a diver is pressurized to the individual diver's body type and lung capacity through information gathered over the course of several dives. "We can change a drop-tank out in about three to five minutes," Lt. Cecci said. "He starts breathing on that tank until he gets untangled or unhooked from whatever trouble he's in. I don't want my diver breathing on his own tank until we get that drop-tank to him, so he wont lose what he's got."

The Boy Scouts in attendance had questions for the officers, as did adults. Assistant Scout Master Brad Smith was more than ready for the Beach demonstrations. "Chris (Sheriff Clinton) called me up and asked if we'd be interested in doing something like this," said Assistant Scout Master Brad Smith. "His son's a scout too. The Boy Scouts do lifesaving exercises and training, but we haven't seen anything like this."

For details about the Citizens Law Enforcement Academy, contact Chief Jeff Edge at (706) 896-4444, as well as details about the daytime fourth Basic Personal Safety Class, tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 28.

Herbs...from Page 1A

the skin, especially feminine skin. It's the queen of the herbs and oils. It is very expensive, as it takes about thirty roses to make one drop. In the fall, the settlers would gather rose hemp for Vitamin C and to treat scurvy. Some oils are natural bug repellants, such as lavender oil, as are mint leaves."

Boling had a portable stove in tow next to the lineup of dried herbs laid out for those present to gather a handful of their essence. Eucalyptus, granulated myrrh, jewel weed and mint leaves sat in baskets or were suspended on a line--about eyelevel-- for passersby. "All mint leaves have a square stem. They're all edible. As is sage--used in teas, sausages and other culinary areas. Rosemary, also a relative to the mint, was originally used

to take the toxins out of meat and add flavoring."

Some from the crowd chimed in with knowledge of remedies--like sprinkling garlic in shoes to keep fleas out. Or of naturally found jewel weed and its ability to prevent the spreading of poison oak. Janice answered questions as well as commented on fact and fiction. "Some things that grow naturally next to stuff like poison oak may or may not help, but I'd just assume stay away from the poison oak to begin with. There are some herbs that don't grow well in our humidity, such as lavender, but I still try to grow some. I get a lot of my herbs from Ken's here in town. They're a lot cheaper there than you'll find on the Internet," she said,

speaking of Ken's Herbs & Vitamins in Blairsville.

Boling also touched on the medical side of herbs. "Please consult with your doctor before you decide to go the herbal route. Some herbs may interfere with a prescription drug. Herbs are not a quick fix. They are a way of life. If something doesn't sit well with you, that's your body telling you something. The more you play with them and walk with them, the more you'll get to know them and how they can work for you."

Wolf Creek Mountain Crafts Day will host soapmaking, woodworking, and butter churning skills demonstrated on Saturday, July 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Byron Herbert Reece Farm and Heritage Center.

Speaking...from Page 1A

to a 5- and 6-minute talk," explained Fullerton. "We have 20 students signed up, with about four or five on vacation, so there should be even more. We're going to pay \$400 for first place, \$300 for second place, \$200 for third place, \$100 for fourth place, and then \$250 for the most improved student."

At their very first meeting, which took place on June 2, it was apparent that the group of young boys and girls, grades 8 - 12, were ready to share their experiences as first-time speakers as well as some first-timers at hitting a hole in one, catching the biggest fish, or being musically rewarded.

Some spoke of challenges apart from sports or other hobbies, such as learning disorders such as Dyslexia and the challenges those face with such a condition. Dyslexia it is the challenge confronted by those who have difficulty reading or interpreting words but does not interfere with general intelligence. Dr. Sanford stressed how important it is to realize it's not where you're not but where you're at, when it comes to speaking amongst a group. "We're going to help you learn wherever you start, wherever that is. There's no need to compare yourself,"

Sanford said. "This is really not about teaching you to win a public speaking contest. It's about teaching yourself to be the best speaker you can be and becoming confident at something when you walk into a room. I suggest not to ask yourself, 'How am I doing?' but rather, 'Am I doing better than the last time?'"

Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis and Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby will join Debbie Phillips, Branch Manager at the Towns County Public Library at 6:30 p.m. at event at the new Senior Center in Hiawassee on July 7, Fullerton said.

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