

Arthur ...from Page 1

seven months," he said during an interview with the Towns County Herald in 2010.

Arthur voted in the Old Rock Jail, a building that he helped construct in 1930.

He was born Feb. 5th, 1908, to the late Elisha and Lou (Watkins) Shook in Young Harris.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Cloie Shook, son and daughter-in-law, Loman and Betty Shook, son, Loyal Shook, and son-in-law, Burl Henderson.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, Sept. 15th, at West Union Baptist Church with Rev. Jimmy Rogers, Rev. Jerry Young and grandson, Ricky Tanner officiating.

Pallbearers included Dexter Shook, Jeff Tanner, Gary Hooper, Mike Hooper, Harold Henderson, Larry Shook and Cecil Shook. Interment followed in the West Union Baptist Church cemetery.

Safety ...from Page 1

rooms. The buttons will each have specific GPS coordinates, so emergency personnel would be able to immediately identify if it came from the math room, or the gym.

This system eliminates any guess work for emergency responders. It also takes out the middle man when it comes to emergency responders in the first place.

"If you can save seconds, you can save lives," Gibson said. "With the buttons, we get to skip dispatch. When the button is pressed, all emergency responders, including the police, firemen and EMS are immediately notified of the emergency."

The school looked at numerous options and chose the buttons they felt were the best for Towns County Schools.

The buttons will be placed in at least five high school classrooms, but Gibson insisted they will be placed in such a space that the teacher can easily use them, the students will know where they are, but it will be difficult for students to press the buttons as a joke.

As with all of the other safety precautions the school system has implemented, Gibson explained that it is all to

Banister Funeral Home of Hiawassee had charge of arrangements.

In 1930 served as a worker with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal work programs, Arthur was 22 years old at the time.

He remembers getting up well before daylight to walk through Ivy Log Gap with Cicerio Nichols and Ott Hooper to get to Crow Gap and through to Hog Creek to get to Hiawassee where the Rock Jail was being built.

In his lifetime, Arthur Shook, who grew up in part in Union County, has been a moonshiner, saw miller, a logger, he worked on cars and as a farmer during his days on this earth.

Arthur went to a doctor for the first time at age 98.

"The doctor said I had the vital signs of a 20-year-old," he said with a laugh during his 2010 interview.

Arthur Shook, son, Loyal Shook, and son-in-law, Burl Henderson.

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Leon ...from Page 1

As John Wayne says in the movies of that day, "war is hell."

Today, Leon, now 87, is fighting his greatest battle, cancer.

Jackie explains that until this year, Leon was in great health.

Two months ago, he suffered from severe breathing problems, and after his wife took him to the doctor, they found out Leon had cancer.

They sent him to the Veterans Administration Hospital and his condition only continued to worsen.

Jackie takes good care of Leon, and hospice comes two times a week.

"They make it easier," Jackie said.

She brings Leon home cooked meals to make him more comfortable, which also helps him.

A long-time Hiawassee resident, Leon is originally from East Point. He worked for Western Electric, which later became Bell South.

After a while, he wanted to be closer to family, so he moved to Towns County.

He graduated high school at just 16 years old, and went to Emory University shortly thereafter. He was drafted at 17.

Leon still has a photo of himself during his time serving



Leon West, right, and his good friend and fellow Iwo Jima vet, C.E. Bud Johnson, prior to their 2011 trip to the Pacific War Veterans Reunion in Rome, at Berry College. Photo/Charles Duncan

our country in his room.

While his teenage years might not have gone as he planned, it is obvious he is proud of what he did for our freedom.

Linda Gorman of the Misty Mountain Quilters Guild was at the hospital to present Leon with a Quilt of Valor.

Typically, the ladies in the Guild do presentations twice a month for a large group of veterans, but due to Leon's fragile state, Gorman knew there was no time to waste.

The quilters make beautiful quilts for nominated veter-

ans, as well as matching pillowcases.

When the quilts go to recently wounded veterans in hospitals overseas, the pillowcases serve as convenient bags to toss in all of their paperwork.

Even when the quilts go to long time veterans, the pillowcases are still presented, as it has become part of the tradition.

Leon had multiple friends, also veterans, in attendance, crowding the small room in the care center where Leon has been staying.

Two of those friends were C.E. "Bud" Johnson, also an Iwo Jima veteran, and Vince Miller, who started sharing stories almost as soon as they entered the room.

The Rev. Richard Hoblitzel also was there. A veteran as well, the Rev. Hoblitzel said, "It is so important to do this for people who put time in, now that their time is almost up. Today's young people have lost sight of what it means to maintain our freedom."

Gorman agreed, as one of the main goals of the Guild is to let veterans know how appreciated they are.

She explained the goals to Leon, as he looked at her with emotion brimming in his eyes.

She held his hand and told him, "we are working for you so you know how in debt we are to you for our freedoms."

After being awarded the beautiful, patriotic quilt, Leon put it to use, having it spread on his bed.

After all the excitement, he fell asleep quickly.

Those who had come to witness the celebration were very moved by the event, not to mention nostalgic.

Johnson and Miller traded war stories, most of them light-hearted to accommodate the mood, while Leon rested under the quilt that was so much more than sewn fabric.

by the lake and chatted with guests who were staying at the resort.

Hilda Thomason, general manager at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds worked hard to ensure that the group felt welcome, and based on all of the smiling faces, she succeeded.

A Waymore's Outlaws concert at Anderson Music Hall on Friday night provided the kickoff.

Earlier that morning, the motorcycles took part in a Parade of Flags that began in Downtown Hiawassee and made its way back to the Fairgrounds.

After the parade, the vendor area was open to the public. There, visitors could shop for unique, hand-made items.

The group headed out of town on Sunday, a visual that was hard to miss, as so many of the bikers rode around together creating long lines of Harleys.

It was a short stay, but everyone in here worked hard to make them feel at home.

If the great time the bikers appeared to be having is any indication, there is a good chance they may return in 2015.

a curve and hit a tractor trailer carrying goods for Wal-Mart, traveling north, head on.

The driver, Michael Reid Waddell, age 61, from Ball Ground, died of injuries sustained in the crash, Trooper Saunders said.

Witnesses say the motorcycle exploded on impact, but, Waddell survived the early moments following the crash. He died en route to a Union General Hospital.

Waddell's brother was in front of him on another motorcycle. Pete Waddell had to turn around and come back to find his brother, Trooper Saunders said.

Tanner's Wrecker Service, of Blairsville, hauled the damaged 18-wheeler to the Blairsville Wal-Mart.

Harley ...from Page 1

keep the Georgia State H.O.G. members coming back.

It's in close proximity to the infamous Dragon, a must ride for Harley enthusiasts, and, the mountain hospitality is unparalleled, many H.O.G. members said on Saturday.

Previously, students could exit through a side door, but now, when the school day begins, every door is locked and the only way in or out is through the front.

Gibson is confident in all of these precautions.

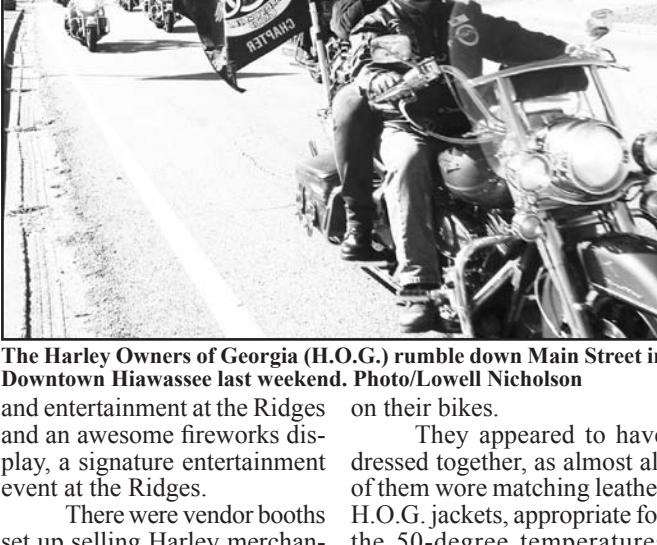
"These kids do not know how lucky they are," Gibson said.

While the students are all lucky to have never faced an emergency situation at the Towns County Schools, they also are lucky to have a Board of Education and a principal that care so much about keeping them safe.

The community also received high marks for hospitality.

The Harley Group was especially active all weekend long, taking full advantage of the welcome they received at the Ridges Resort and Marina, and driving back and forth to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

On Saturday night, the group was treated to a cookout



The Harley Owners of Georgia (H.O.G.) rumble down Main Street in Downtown Hiawassee last weekend. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

and entertainment at the Ridges and an awesome fireworks display, a signature entertainment event at the Ridges.

There were vendor booths set up selling Harley merchandise, patches, and sunglasses.

There also were more than a few bikers having a good time.

Many of the bikers took advantage of the beautiful, fall-like weather and toured around

on their bikes.

They appeared to have dressed together, as almost all of them wore matching leather H.O.G. jackets, appropriate for the 50-degree temperatures Towns County experienced, as fall hinted at its impending arrival.

Meanwhile, the bikers present at the Ridges broke the stereotypes as the not-so-bad boys and girls as they lounged



A group of Georgia State H.O.G. Rally enthusiasts wait for permission to leave Saturday's fatal accident scene. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

mad motorcycle was traveling south on Georgia 11, when the driver crossed the centerline in

Crashes ...from Page 1

Richard Fahlteich, of Pasadena, Md., and Vincent Angelo Glorioso, of Elk Ridge, Md., experienced minor injuries and damage to their motorcycles, Trooper White said.

Trooper White said no charges are pending in the incident.

"The silver car pulling out was not a factor because Mr. Carswell's girlfriend slowed down for the car in front of her," he said. "Mr. Carswell just wasn't paying attention and couldn't get slowed down in time."

"We don't expect any charges, it's just an unfortunate tragedy that unfolded here today," Trooper White said.

In Union County, Senior Trooper Tony "Bream"

said.

He likened the debt to a train coming down the tracks.

"Trillions of dollars of debt creates momentum," he said. "The sooner you apply the breaks, the easier it is to change direction."

Even though Congressman Collins was not in attendance, and a lot of people left when they found out, Langley, who represents Towns, Union, White and Lumpkin counties, still spoke to a standing room only crowd.

He complained to the audience about government bureaucracy, but remained hopeful.

"As a local leader, I have to add my voice to your voice," Langley said.

He wanted the room to know that he supported them.

He tried to share as much about current open prosecution

cases as he could, so he mentioned there were currently 2,300 cases pending in the circuit.

The case load is tremendous, and the circuit budget constraints are tight, so Langley is constantly trying to figure out what is worth spending our tax money on and what is not.

He also put a halt to the rumor that people in Atlanta are going to prison who do not need to be there.

He quickly confirmed it was false saying, "If you spend time and speak to them like I do, you will see they need to be in prison."

He said there is also an idea that prisoners are being held only because they are first time drug offenders.

Denying it, Langley said, "It just is not true. I have looked at the numbers. They are going to Drug Court and

getting help, not filling the prisons."

He left the group asking them for a favor.

"Whichever approach our leadership chooses to deal with the debt, do not shoot the messenger," he said. "That results in shooting the wounded."

He tried to make everyone understand that often times, we receive bad news from government figures that had nothing to do with the decisions in the first place, yet our blame is directed at them because they are the first people we see.

Langley stuck around to answer questions, and Fullerton continued to apologize for the change in the program.

Congressman Collins' camp told Fullerton that the congressman would be happy to reschedule, but Fullerton was against it, thoroughly offended by the whole event.

ally acclaimed pianist Frederick Moyer in concert at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, October 13 at Keith House, John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, NC. No reservations required. Adult tickets: \$18; student tickets: \$10. For information contact a BCA Board member at 828-837-1863, 828-837-8822 or brasstownconcertnews@gmail.com. NT(Sep18,C4)ac

Towns County Herald Classifieds Sell

For information

706-896-4454



Cheryl Barrett hands gavel to Reverend Dr. Tim Moore.

Rotarians meet to kick off the new Rotary year. Past President Cheryl Barrett hands over the gavel to the Reverend Dr. Tim Moore of Young Harris College.

The Citizens Award went to Frank Riley of Towns County. Frank has served Towns County by serving on many committees such as the Farmers Market, Food-to-the-School program, T. C. Future Farmers of America, F.F.A. Rodeo, Volunteer fire fighter, coordinator for Fire Rescue

and Fire and Safety Educational Group which administers the "