

Towns County Herald

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Homecoming tradition a weeklong affair at TCHS

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Many people fondly recall the formative days of their youth, the memories they made that remain throughout life, and this week, the Indians of Towns County High School are experiencing some of those same moments during 2022 Homecoming Week.

Festivities began on Friday, Sept. 23, with a fun-filled dance at the Towns County Civic Center, with exciting activities resuming this week.

"We will have special days during the week including 'ESPN Gameday' on Monday, 'Adam Sandler Day' on Tuesday, 'Anything But a Backpack Day' on Wednesday, 'White Lie T-Shirt' on Thursday, and 'Spirit Day' on Friday, and many other things going on,"

TCHS Principal Roy Perren said.

Always part of the tradition is the naming of students to Homecoming Court, and from whom a King and Queen will be chosen to represent the school.

The 2022 Girls Homecoming Court is composed of seniors Josie King, Brook Murrell, Tabitha Barnes, Sarah Shook, Quincy Rosser and Eden Hill, as well as junior Emma Lallement, sophomore Ansleigh Hardin and freshman Brelee Rowland.

This year's Boys Homecoming Court consists of seniors A.J. Edwards, Ian Wood, Grant Ingram, Kemp Walker, Jonathan Dockery and Seth Gillis.

"This is a special senior class, and I am so proud of them," Principal Perren said.

"It has been a blessing watching them grow up and seeing the great things they have accomplished here at Towns County."

"Homecoming is always a special and exciting time as I look back over the years that it has passed on from generation to generation."

Sarah Shook is proud to be a senior and a part of Homecoming Court, and even at her young age, she recognizes just how swiftly the sands of time flow.

"I have loved my senior year so far," she said. "It has flown by really fast with a lot going on at once, from applications to scholarships and stuff like that. I am really trying to take in every moment of it."

"Homecoming is going to be really fun because all



The 2022 Towns County High School Football Homecoming Court. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Courthouse offices to be moving soon, Bradshaw says

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

In his Sept. 20 regular meeting at the Towns County Courthouse, Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw offered updates on courthouse renovations and other topics, announcing that "this should be the last county meeting in this courtroom" - at least until construction is complete.

"We are still in the final stages with Reeves & Young Construction Co., and there are minor details we are in the process of working out (prior to courthouse construction beginning)," he said.

If all goes according to plan, for the foreseeable future, the new location for upcoming county meetings will be the temporary courtroom inside the Old Rec Gym at 900 N. Main Street in Hiawassee.

The Hiawassee Rec Gym has been established as the temporary lodging for all offices



In Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw's regular meeting last week, Avita Community Partners CEO Cindy Levi spoke on her organization's role in treating mental health and substance abuse issues.

located within the courthouse. Offices should be moving there toward the middle of October, with construction on the SPLOST-funded renovation and addition project at the courthouse to begin after that.

In other news, Bradshaw

adopted an "Enotah Judicial Circuit Funding Option for Court Reporter."

"We are going to accept the agreement for the new Court Reporter, and what it costs the taxpayers of Towns

See County Meeting, Page 5A

Mark your calendars for Georgia Mountain Fall Fest



The Georgia Mountain Fall Festival returns for nine glorious days Oct. 7-15 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Photo by Lowell Nicholson/2013

By Brittany Holbrooks
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

As the weather cools down and the leaves start to change with the transitioning of seasons, the Georgia Mountain Fall Festival is getting ready to return to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Oct. 7-15.

Each of the nine days will run on a schedule of 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., so folks will have plenty

of time to come down and enjoy everything the autumn exhibition has to offer, including several brand-new attractions to look forward to this year alongside returning favorites.

For the first time, third-generation animal trainer Brunon Blaszak will be bringing a troop of tigers to perform two daily 20-minute shows from Monday to Friday, and three 20-minute shows on Saturday and Sunday.

"I think having the tiger show is some great ground entertainment for children as well as adults," said Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason.

Also new in 2022, carnival provider Midway Rides Unlimited will be heading to the Fairgrounds to bring an impressive roster of rides for both adults and children, including classic

See Fall Festival, Page 3A

School systems team up for workforce development



CTAE specialists from Union and Towns counties, as well as Cherokee County, North Carolina, met this month to discuss multi-county student opportunities. Pictured here: Josh Davis, Melissa McConnell and Alissa Cheek. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

By Brittany Holbrooks
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

BLAIRSVILLE - Union County High School hosted the first Advisory Committee of the 2022-23 school year for the

Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Program.

Discussed in the Sept. 13 meeting were new possibilities for not only Union County students but also kids from neighboring Towns County as well

as Cherokee County in North Carolina.

CTAE directors from Union, Towns and Cherokee attended alongside several Union and Towns teachers who

See CTAE Collaboration, Page 3A

Lady Indians spend quality time with Hiawassee Park residents

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

It's clear that a special bond has been forged between Towns County High School and the Hiawassee Park Senior Living Community, as student-athletes joined senior residents on Monday, Sept. 19, for a second community dinner in just the last month.

The first gathering took place Aug. 8 when the Indians Football Team Leadership Council joined Hiawassee Park residents and staff to spend quality time together, and last week, the senior residents enjoyed the company of the Lady

Indians Softball Team.

In addition to enjoying delicious food, the outreach effort served as a chance for community members on opposite ends of the generational spectrum to share stories and support for one another. The occasion also served to recognize junior catcher Laura Mauldin's 17th birthday.

Prior to dinner, Hiawassee Park Executive Director Alicia Rogers expressed gratitude for the venture and read resident Ron Dodd's words of wisdom to inform the journeys of his youthful counterparts' lives, and everyone joined in singing Mauldin "Happy Birthday."

"Hiawassee Park staff and residents are so impressed with the youth in our area, and they deserve to be celebrated and encouraged," Rogers said of the gathering. "Our residents have so much to offer, and I learn from them daily. They have so much wisdom and love to share."

"The student-athletes have a lot to offer as well, and we are so happy to partner with Towns County Schools and thank them for all that they are doing to enrich the lives of young people. They are our future."

Many of the same sentiments were echoed in kind by

See Softball Outreach, Page 8A

TCSO recovers coins stolen from elderly resident



Thieves attempting to cash in on the trust of an elderly resident were apprehended before they could offload her massive coin collection recovered by the Sheriff's Office. Photo/Facebook

News Special
Towns County Herald

The Towns County Sheriff's Office recently received information from a McConnell Memorial Baptist Church member that Ms. Nancy Kelly, an elderly Towns County resident, was being exploited by

handyman Christopher James

Plush and his accomplice Devin Barry Lowery. Sheriff's Office Investigators opened a criminal investigation and found there were missing prescription drugs, a handgun, several hundred rare coins and a large amount of cash. Her vehicle was also stolen, wrecked and damaged.

Sheriff's Investigators worked around the clock to locate the suspects and arrest them. They also worked very quickly to recover cash, the handgun, prescription drugs and hundreds of the rare coins with an estimated value in the thousands.

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Nottely 1,768.10



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SOFTBALL
Sept. 28 vs. Lincoln Co. 5 PM
FOOTBALL
Sept. 30 vs. Greene Co. 7:30 PM
HOMECOMING

Until further notice the
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD OFFICE
will be
CLOSED WEDNESDAYS
Contact 706-745-6343 for assistance
Sorry for any inconvenience

County & Fire Millage Rates
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CTAE Collaboration...from Page 1A

met up to “compare notes” and get a feel for the learning environment of their respective subjects.

This year marks the rollout of the new College and Career Academy at UCHS, which features two massive workshops for students interested in carpentry or automotive study. Completed in time to start 2022-23, the CCA houses the first massive project of the year behind the building.

To give students the opportunity to learn outside of a traditional classroom setting, the Construction Pathway assigns them a hands-on project instead of standard coursework.

Moving forward, Construction Pathway students hope to use the newly constructed academy to build a house annually for Habitat for Humanity, and so far this semester, students have been able to complete the flooring for their very first house.

The foundation for the home sits outside the wood shop beside stacks of beams, away from buzz saws and other power tools under a canopy that protects it from the elements.

“They’ll build it here on campus, and then there’s a company that moves houses, and they’ll move it to the site that Habitat purchases for a family,” Union County CTAE Director Josh Davis said, elaborating that all homes produced at UCHS will be going to Union County families in need.

Right across the road from the new building is the old vocational building, which was “completely gutted” over the summer and redesigned to fit larger classrooms and labs with ample space inside and outside for students to work and learn.

Therein, students are finding a wealth of knowledge about welding, engineering and machining using a state-of-the-art renovated facility in pursuit of career pathways toward further study or direct employment after high school.

“We’ve been (collecting) data for several years,”

Davis said. “Basically, 86% of our students that graduate from Union County each year have completed a CTAE Pathway, which means three courses in a specific area. Probably half of that number complete multiple pathways.”

As such, vocational course enrollment is “basically full” every year, painting a picture of a wildly popular and successful program; in the six years Davis has been working within the CTAE program, he’s seen positive changes regarding local workforce and economic development.

For example, in May of each year, Union County High offers a career sign-in event where students can register for early jobs and internships; when CTAE first began, Davis said only a handful of kids would attend, and now, he regularly sees at least 20.

And their interests start early, with CTAE courses available at the Middle School and Woody Gap. Understandably, the Middle School program serves as a more “exploratory” experience, providing upcoming ninth-graders with the building blocks they need to consider a new career.

“We just added a construction middle school program this year, so it’s a lot of the basics, like how to read a tape measure and how to do those types of things,” Davis said. “And then when they get to high school, they’re building a house for Habitat for Humanity.”

Since adopting the CTAE program in Blairsville, Towns County has partnered with Union County so that students have a wider variety of vocational classes from which to choose. As it turns out, Towns has certain exclusive vocational subjects, and the same goes for Union.

“If a Union County student wanted to take, say, accounting ... their students can come to our school,” said Towns County CTAE Director Melissa McConnell, mentioning Hiawassee’s unique courses not just

in accounting but in business and horticulture as well. In total, TCHS has 18 CTAE Pathways.

“Our Towns County computer science students are being taught by Mr. Mark Vaughn,” she said, providing an example of the working relationship between the schools. “He’s the instructor, but he’s housed here at Union and has students in Towns. So, that’s how we’re kind of trying to meet the needs of all our students, which is the goal.”

In such situations, students mostly learn online, or teachers travel between schools. McConnell described the position as being independent, and she lauded Vaughn for taking strides over the summer to fit his online computer science course to the needs and schedules of Towns students.

“You have to look at your students, look at their interests, look at your (community’s) business and industry, and match those up,” McConnell said. “It’s kind of a puzzle that you have to put together and hope you’re making the right decisions.”

Thanks to this unique arrangement offering additional opportunities, McConnell said about 85% of all Towns students graduate with a completed CTAE Pathway. Additionally, many students pick up two pathways at a time or dual-enroll along with their vocational involvement.

“We’re hoping that we’ve got everybody served,” McConnell said. “That’s your goal, (to have) everybody served and nobody saying, ‘There’s nothing here for me – I want to do this, but there’s no way I can do that.’ We don’t want that. We’re going to find a way for (students) to explore whatever it is they are interested in.”

As for Cherokee County over the state line, educators there have developed a partnership with Union and Towns but are undergoing the very first steps in building their own CTAE center, set to finish construction in January and get furnished by next spring.

And just like Union and Towns have their own exclusive programs on-site, Cherokee boasts a Drone Tech Pathway and a Public Safety Pathway.

Alissa Cheek, Cherokee County’s Curriculum Director and New School Programming Coordinator, said she is thrilled with Cherokee’s addition to the educational triumvirate.

“It’s very smart to think that we need to share resources, because we don’t just service one little piece of the region,” Cheek said. “We are partners in supplying the workforce and making sure that those needs are met, so why not work that way as a school system, right?”

As it stands, a few logistical issues still need to be ironed out. Students generally travel independently between Union and Towns, but Cherokee being farther away poses a problem of student transportation and even where they’ll be eating lunch. The three counties have been working together to try and come up with a solution.

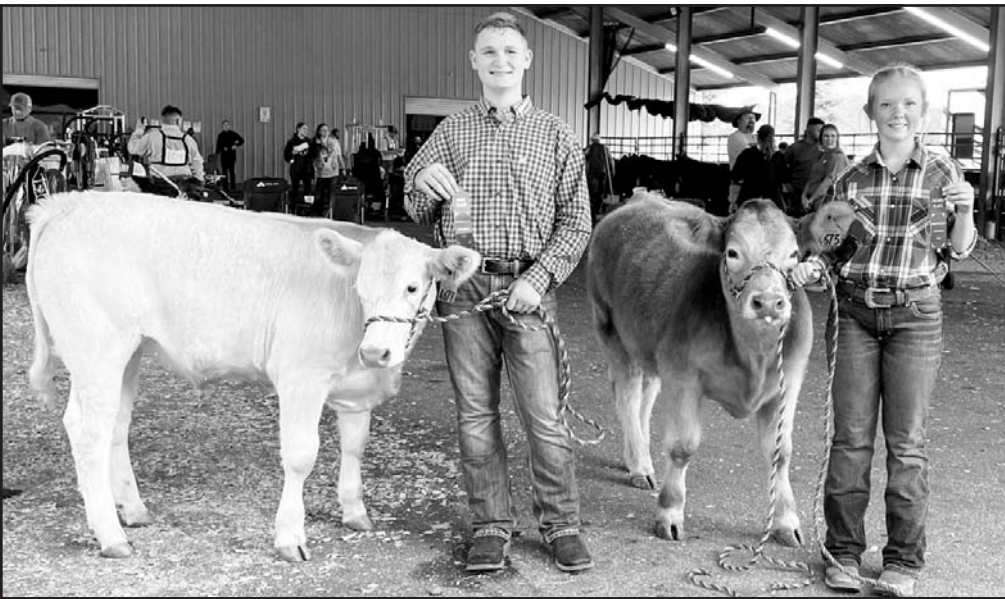
“I can tell you this has been a big influence on our decision-making process as we’re building,” Cheek said, stressing her excitement for the program and collaboration. “The opportunities to have this partnership open up to our students is invaluable.”



The CTAE Construction Pathway at Union County High is working on a Habitat for Humanity home build at the College and Career Academy, with the established flooring of a future home shown here.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

Towns County FFA has thrown their hat into the Animal Science/Livestock Showing arena this year



(L-R): Nathan Garrett and Hailee Gibson

Two FFA members competed on Saturday, September 10 at the Chattahoochee Fair in Toccoa, GA.

After hours of preparation, Hailee Gibson and Nathan Garrett took their heifer and steer to competition for the first time. Hailee placed 2nd in

her Commercial Heifer Weight Class and Nathan placed 1st in his Steer Weight Class.

Congratulations to both of these FFA members for their showmanship and hard work.

We would also like to thank the RC&D and Mr. Frank Riley for his donation

for the purchase of an aluminum livestock chute for grooming the cattle in preparation for shows. Their next show is at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds on September 22-23.

The TCHS FFA Advisor is Ms. Sabrina Garrett.

Fall Festival...from Page 1A

carnival crowd-pleasers such as carousels and Ferris wheels.

The carnival attractions are open weekdays from 5-10 p.m., but on Saturday they open at noon and on Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$1.25 each, or bundles of 20 can be purchased for \$20 and 45 for \$40. That being said, wristbands for unlimited rides cost \$25 each.

Danny Grant’s Cowboy Circus visited the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds for the first time last year, and according to Thomason, “The World’s Smallest Rodeo” was so popular that it’s making a comeback this year.

“He won’t be here the first part of the Fair because he’s at a fair in Charleston, South Carolina, but he comes in on Sunday, and he’s here the remainder of the Fair,” explained Thomason.

Specifically, the Cowboy Circus will be making rounds across the Fairgrounds from Oct. 10-15, starting at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. each day. Fairgoers are encouraged to participate in “cowboy tricks and circus stunts,” along with “comedy, music and more” with open audience participation.

Those interested in a subtler start to the fall season can visit the Pioneer Village, open daily throughout the festival featuring “Old Ways Demonstrations,” with historical reenactments of corn milling, pork skin frying, blacksmithing and more.

Guests will be able to visit the historical schoolhouse,

smoke house, corn crib and barn, and can even explore a cabin furnished as it would have been in the 1800s. Jams, jellies and “all kinds of honey” will be for sale in the Antique Farm Museum.

Of course, the Fall Festival would not be complete without its arts & crafts booths and food vendors. There’s a bit of something for everyone, with plenty of jewelry and clothing, home décor, sports memorabilia and more to choose from. Strolling through the winding paths between the booths is an excellent way to support local artisans and other businesses, to boot.

Fair fare will include street food like tacos, barbecue and hamburgers, and the Towns County Lions Club will be returning this year to sell funnel cakes. Guests can also wet their whistles with lemonade, water and soda.

As per Thomason, music is the most popular attraction of the Fall Festival, and there will be no shortage of live entertainment between the porch, gazebo and Anderson Music Hall.

This year’s lineup includes the Earls of Leicester, Granny’s Mason Jar, the Oak Ridge Boys, the South Wind Band, the Malpass Brothers, the Steve Bryson Band, Aaron Tappin, Hunt-r-Greene, Gene Watson, the Mountain Home Music Band, The Bellamy Brothers, Justin Terry, Mark Wills, the Jim Wood Band, and Ashley McBryde.

The Hall will open its doors at 6 p.m. each evening,

with music to begin around 7 p.m., except for Sunday, which will feature a 2 p.m. gospel show with Jason Crabb, Gold City, and Jeff and Sheri Easter.

Two musical groups will take the stage during the nightly performances, and the cost to attend is covered in the entry ticket price for the festival, though the Oak Ridge Boys and Ashley McBryde concerts will require hard ticket purchases.

Of course, volunteers play a massive role in keeping the Fairgrounds safe and fun for all, and Thomason would like to emphasize that, as with all events, she is immensely grateful for any and all help.

“I just appreciate everybody that volunteers in every booth, gate, security – whatever the position might be, I appreciate all the volunteers that come and help us,” she said.

Additionally, Thomason said she is also thankful for the support of so many sponsors over the years, notably the likes of Lions International, Jasper Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Towns County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Union General Health System, The Ridges: Resort on Lake Chatuge, Springer Mountain Farms, Cattrell Motorsports, and United Community Bank.

Admission to the Fall Festival is \$12 for a one-day pass, and children under 12 get in for free. Just as it has been in years past, parking is free.

For more information, including music show schedules and to purchase tickets online, visit georgiamountainfairgrounds.com.

County Meeting...from Page 1A

County each year is \$46,916," Bradshaw said. "Union County is \$92,422, White County \$105,000 and Lumpkin County \$125,000."

Moving on, the commissioner signed the "Judge's Order Approving Designation of a Temporary Court Facility."

"We have a resolution now so no one can get mixed up where to go during this transition phase, which is designating 900 Main Street N. as the temporary additional and alternate site for the Towns County Court and Administrative Office, in order to be a safer environment for work and court," he said.

Next up, two organizations that receive funding from Towns County spoke on topics of interest to residents.

Western Regional Director Callie Moore of Mountain-True, a conservation nonprofit that "champions resilient forests, clean waters and healthy communities in the Southern Blue Ridge," updated the public on unusual happenings in the waters of Lake Chatuge

near Macedonia.

"Two invasive aquatic weeds have been found there in Parrot's-feather and Brazilian Elodea, formed in aquarium water being dumped or thrown into the lake," said Moore, who recently took a boat tour to survey the dramatic extent of the spread.

The aquatic weed issue came to light after Towns County High Baseball Coach Shannon Floyd witnessed the overgrowth and reached out to various organizations, including the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Department of Natural Resources and the Towns County Herald.

Moore is hopeful that lake drawdown during colder months will help to diminish the spread of the invasive species that thrive in shallow waters, and boaters have been advised not to run through weed patches, as chopped up bits can take root elsewhere in the lake.

Avita Community Partners CEO Cindy Levi then presented information on her organization's programs regarding

mental health, substance abuse and developmental disabilities services, as well as American Sign Language services for those who are deaf.

"As the state's safety net provider, the primary population we serve are individuals who do not have insurance or are Medicaid recipients that otherwise would not seek services because they do not have the means to pay, and our mission is to improve the quality of life for them," Levi said.

Bradshaw handed out donation checks to multiple groups, including Avita, that came from a generous unnamed resident who wishes to remain anonymous.

Receiving the donations were: Levi of Avita, \$1,000; Teresa Stephens of Ninth District Opportunity, \$3,000 to the Food Pantry; and John Seymour and Liz Ruf of Enotah CASA, a court-based child advocacy organization, for \$1,000.

Towns County Commission Meetings takes place the third Tuesday of each month starting at 5:30 p.m.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION



UGA Extension will host a special online workshop on the dos and don'ts of growing and harvesting wild American Ginseng in North Georgia on Monday, Oct. 3. The program, called Georgia Ginseng, will be held online via ZOOM from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event is free, but registration is required.

"We want folks to know how to identify and grow American Ginseng while pre-

serving natural plant populations on public and private lands," said Jacob Williams, UGA Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent for Union and Towns counties.

Topics and speakers will include, "Ginseng Regulations and Conservation in Georgia," by Lisa Kruse of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources; "How to Start a Ginseng Patch," by Margaret Bloomquist of the North Caro-

lina State University Extension; and "Uses and History of Ginseng," by Holly Campbell of UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources.

Participants will not be required to have a ZOOM account, but it is preferred. To establish a free account on ZOOM, visit <https://zoom.us>.

To register for the event visit <https://tinyurl.com/uga-ginseng>.

For more information about the workshop or to register by email or phone, contact Jacob Williams at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu or 706-439-6030.

Stolen Coins...from Page 1A

The victim and her husband, who is deceased, had collected valuable rare coins for years. One rare coin has an estimated value of \$23,000. There is no way to estimate the value of the coins without an expert.

Sheriff Ken Henderson stated that elderly citizens are easy targets for fraud and theft, and he advises residents looking for a handyman that it is best to know the individual and ask for references.

The sheriff wants to thank the concerned citizen for the information that led to the investigation and arrests in this matter. The quick work in locating the suspect and his accomplice led to the recovery of stolen property, which will be returned to the victim.

Christopher James



Christopher James Plush

Plush, 30, homeless, was arrested and charged with one count of burglary and three counts of theft by taking.

Plush's accomplice, Devin Barry Lowery, 24, of Ducktown, Tennessee, was



Devin Barry Lowery

also arrested and charged with one count of burglary and one count of theft by taking.

The above individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Homecoming Week...from Page 1A

of us on it this year are really close friends, and even though we are all competing, the fun of it is getting to do things like that with your friends, so that is what I am looking forward to the most."

Senior Grant Ingram shared his perspective on how he is registering his senior year of high school before entering the world at large, and he, too, has been keeping busy.

"It has been exciting and going by really fast between football, and basketball coming up and everything going

on, so I am trying to make the most of it and spend as much time with everybody as I can," he said.

After graduation, Ingram plans to go to either Kennesaw State University or the University of Georgia for electrical engineering, while Shook is deciding between UGA and the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega to become either a traveling nurse or a physical therapist.

Homecoming Week highlights include the return of the popular PBIS Powderpuff

Football Game featuring female teams taking to the field at Frank McClure Stadium on Thursday, Sept. 29, beginning at 7:30 p.m., where the Homecoming King will be crowned at halftime.

The big Homecoming Game will be Friday, Sept. 30, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at home against Greene County, and the Homecoming Queen will be crowned at halftime as well.

Be sure to attend these two public events to support the next generation of Towns County leaders.

Georgia Mountain Writers Club September 7th Meeting



L-R: Richard Rayborn, Franklin Boulineau, Ginny Valletti, Alan Cone, Catherine Lipnick-End, Jean Nethery, Jackie Volk, Brenda Kay Ledford, Idell Shook, David White, Connie Rosenberry, Rick Sapp.

The Georgia Mountain Writers Club met on September 7, at the North Georgia Technical College for our monthly meeting. We welcomed two visitors, Ginny Valletti and Rick Sapp. Our suggested writing topics for this month were "My First Love," "An Embarrassing Moment," "A Brave Act," and Labor Day.

Franklin Boulineau shared the story of how he met a Japanese man at a coffee shop while stationed at USA Brady Air Base in Japan during the Korean War. Hirata Masaharu took young Franklin under his wing helping him navigate the culture and avoid the houses of ill-repute that many soldiers fell prey to. The two friends maintained a life-long friendship until Masaharu's passing as an old man.

Idell Shook read a moving poem reflecting on 9/11. In "Day of Tears," written several days later, Idell processes the sadness that enveloped our world that day.

Brenda Kay Ledford's poem "Home Economics," relates life in her High School class, where the teacher struggles to teach her how to sew and cook. Brenda, an outdoor girl at heart, survives, but bemoans she will never be 'Martha Stewart'.

Jean Nethery continued her Travels in Africa. In her third installment we learned of a leopard that seemed to lead the way on one excursion and

Blondie, a lion and two lionesses enjoying an antelope not too far from their campground.

Rick Sapp read "If You Were Here," a wistful poem dreaming of his lover's presence.

Ginny Valletti read the introduction to her book, "Soul Sightings, Science Reveals the Invisible Orb" due out soon on Amazon.

Catherine Lipnick-End let the "Voices in My Head" relate the difficulties in believing the things we wish to write about could be meaningful, important, and need to be converted to the written word.

David White gave the topic of "Labor Day" a literal feel in his story of son Jordan's birth. Jordan wasted no time in arriving; his birth took just 45 frantic minutes, much to the distress of his grandmother driving the car and his mother in labor.

Jackie Volk's "Labor Day" followed the more traditional direction as she and her granddaughter explored the history of Labor Day, the ways we celebrate it and one of the odd customs related with it; why we don't wear white after Labor Day. One reason is that in the days of long dresses, white was harder to keep clean during the months of mud and slush.

Connie Rosenberry also chose "Labor Day" as a topic. Her essay compared employee

complaints from the past with those of the present. While people no longer work 16-hour days, and children cannot be employed, employees still want better pay, freedom from workplace harassment, and safe working conditions.

Richard Rayborn used "First Love," for the theme of his story; a memory of the girl next door who had a high school crush on him that continued into college until she realized her plans were moving faster than his.

In Alan Cone's "Detour Through the Land of Dreams," the life of a timid New England librarian changes when he visits Dirty Jacks, a bar frequented by rough types, and falls for the dangerous leader of a female biker gang.

Suggested Topics for next month are: "9/11", "Betrayal", and "Halloween." All readings should be kept to 5 minutes, so all have time to read.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 5, at the North Georgia Technical College at 10 a.m. Room 414 is found off the main entrance in Bldg A. To avoid the flight of stairs at that entrance, visitors can park in the back of the college and enter through Bldg E. From there walk straight ahead until you reach the room on the right, near the front doors. For more information, email connie.rosenberry3@gmail.com.

Softball Outreach...from Page 1A



Lady Indians junior catcher Laura Mauldin blowing out candles during a joint celebration of her birthday and community togetherness with residents at Hiawassee Park Senior Living on Sept. 19.
Photo by Lowell Nicholson

TCHS Assistant Principal Bryan Thomason, who said that the school was grateful for the opportunity.

"It was natural to do because we are so close to each other right next door," Thomason said. "And it was great for people of different generations to get together and just talk about their experiences, young and old, and how both can learn from one another."

"This community has done nothing but pour into the

school, and this is an opportunity for us to come and reach back out to the community and get to know more of the people that support us.

"The folks at Hiawassee Park love having our kids come over and just talk life, talk sports and really anything. This is such a great connection that we have seen forged, because of the love for the sport and for our people, so that excitement can only strengthen the community as a whole."

The Lady Indians will welcome Hiawassee Park residents to their last game of the regular season on Monday, Oct. 10, when they take on Loganville Christian Academy at home beginning at 5 p.m.

Also that Monday, there will be a "special tailgate kickoff at 3 p.m. where we will provide some great snacks, treats and a meal to the team for a pregame party," Rogers said.

Before transitioning to her position at Hiawassee Park, Rogers actually served as a substitute teacher at the Towns County School System, so she has experience working with both students and senior residents and looks forward to ongoing collaborations.

"It is our absolute desire to plan to partner up with the other sports as well," Rogers said. "This has been in my heart for a long time, and this year seemed like the perfect year to get it started."

"We are hoping that this will just be a spark to ignite the flames in our community, not just here at Hiawassee Park, but our local churches, other organizations and all of the community."

Another community outreach effort took place at Hiawassee Park on Saturday, Sept. 24, with an awareness walk for Alzheimer's Disease, in which attendees were treated to a free T-shirt and biscuit breakfast before heading out for a walk around the park.



Question: My husband really enjoyed himself at your Golf Tournament. Do you have anymore events or fundraisers coming up?

Answer: Our next big fundraiser does not take place until May of next year and that is the Yard Sale and BBQ. But we do have a couple of things going on. In October we are asking the churches in the community to support us by collecting "Baby Bucks". Essentially churches are asked to select a Sunday in October and request that everyone in their congregation donate one dollar.

In November we are

conducting a toy drive. Every December we host a Christmas Shoppe for our clients to shop for their children and families. Each client is given a gift of 50 points to shop and they are allowed to use up to 50 points of their own. In many cases these are the only toys the client's children will receive. Therefore, we ask that all items donated be in new or like new condition, in the original packaging with original parts and directions if provided.

If you would like more information regarding either of these projects, please call the Center at 706-745-7518.