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some other projects on the list. We might get one of them, but I doubt it. It's mostly the transportation projects that they've already had on the books for years." Commissioner Kendall suspects that the larger counties with more voting clout will see their projects addressed long before Towns County

ever sees a dime of transportation funding from the Transportation Investment Act. "The way this thing is set up, we don't decide our own fate and I don't like that," Commissioner Kendall said. "We're required to put up a list of projects. It doesn't matter how many folks in Towns County say 'yes' or 'no'

the issue will be decided by voters in the much larger counties. "I think we would have been better off to have had a statewide vote," he said. "I'm not going to pass judgment on this right now. But I think there are some serious issues that must be addressed regarding the Transportation Investment Act."

Crimes...continued from page 1

13 burglaries have been reported. Federal crime statistics also show that overall, the incidence of crimes in Towns County has dropped by 40 percent since 2007. Sheriff Clinton is well aware of the property crimes committed here in March. "We've stepped up patrols in the affected areas," Sheriff Clinton said. "The investigations of these crimes are still ongoing, so we can't really get into a whole lot of detail. "But I'll tell you what helps us more than anything when we deal with property crimes is an alert neighborhood," he said. "We've helped six areas in our community become certified Neighborhood Watch areas.

When you've got all the eyes in one area on the lookout for unusual activity in their neighborhood, the actual occurrence of crime goes down considerably." One of the sheriff's goals for his department is a unified Community Watch program. According to Sheriff Clinton, an effective Neighborhood Watch limits the opportunities for criminals to commit crimes without a witness. The basic idea is for communities to partner with the Sheriff's Office in keeping an eye on the happenings in their neighborhoods. An active Neighborhood Watch in every community countywide would prevent criminals the all important

"window of opportunity" that allows them to get away with committing their crimes, the sheriff said. "Suppose that criminals began to realize that everywhere they turned in Towns County, they ran into a community with a Neighborhood Watch," he said. "How long before they simply gave up and went someplace else?" Bottom line, criminals tend to follow the path of least resistance, the sheriff said. Sheriff Clinton would like all communities in Towns County to take an interest in the formation of a Neighborhood Watch program. For details on how to make that happen, contact the Towns County Sheriff's Office at (706) 896-4444.

Don Williams...continued from page 1

opener with *You're My Best Friend*, a ballad expressing unwavering faithfulness and loyalty to his soulmate. The song became Williams' second No. 1 hit in 1975. Time has been kind to Williams' voice, he sounds as polished as he did when his career began singing folk music in the mid-1960s. He still wears that faithful tanned Stetson, his once auburn-colored beard is gray, and his face is now lined like a road map. However, the road he traveled was of classic Country Music and that led him to the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville. Williams had the crowd clapping enthusiastically to his legendary 1981 hit *Lord I Hope This Day Is Good*. It was a good day as witnessed by the hundreds of Don Williams' faithful, which included Atlanta businessman Michael Mackewich, who asked Gillian Grimsley to marry him on stage at The Hall. During intermission, the traditional \$1 drawing for front row seating brought Mackewich and Grimsley center stage. Called upon for a possible seating upgrade, Gillian, also hailing from Atlanta,

admittedly received a bit more than she expected when she reached the stage. Instead of a seating upgrade, she was presented with a diamond ring from Mackewich, her newly anointed fiancé. "I was looking for the right opportunity (to propose)," Mackewich said. "I was praying about it and it just came about during one of my prayer mornings that this was the perfect place and perfect time. "What's really important is that a lot of the Don Williams' song lyrics, which are obviously sentimental, were part of the lives of her grandparents and her parents for many years," Mackewich said. "So GG has a great appreciation for Don Williams and we both do for the lyrics and what it's all about as they relate to a husband and wife. Those words are so important for us, so this was the perfect place (to propose)." Grimsley was caught completely off guard once she realized what was happening. "I had no idea that this was coming," she said. "I just thought, 'well, yeah, alright I get to get up on stage' which is what I love to do. "When I saw (Michael)

walking toward me that's when, well, I still had no idea. I was clueless but I thought 'oh this looks fun, he's coming up on stage with me' but I hate to say I don't remember everything he was telling me. I was in complete and total shock! It was the most amazing proposal I could've ever have dreamed of; I couldn't have ever even dreamed of anything that amazing!" It was the third time in the history of Anderson Music Hall that a center stage proposal was accepted. Afterward, Williams amazed the crowd with hit after hit, notably singing 21 of his 46 memorable career singles, including the most memorable of his 17 No. 1 hits, *I Believe in You*. He brought the show to a close with *Louisiana Saturday Night*. The crowd departed The Hall with a smile on their face. One could only imagine if they "danced in the kitchen 'til the morning light." If they did, you can bet that they got down the fiddle and got down the bow; kicked off their shoes and threw 'em on the floor; then they danced in the kitchen 'til the morning light; it was a *Hiawasse Saturday Night*.



Michael Mackewich of Atlanta proposed to Gillian Grimsley on stage at the Don Williams Concert on Saturday night at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/James Reese

Contest...continued from page 1

achieve," she said. "In a socialistic society there is no room for personal growth. It totally eliminates the need for effort." She finished in slightly more than seven minutes, well within the allotted eight-minute time frame. Her delivery, constant eye contact with the audience and non-reliance on cue cards vaulted her to victory and a \$1,000 scholarship to help continue her education. "The scholarship money will definitely make a difference," she said. "I didn't think I had a chance; I really thought Jeannie (Bradley) was going to win this competition." It was the only time Sutton was wrong all day. Bradley finished second and took home \$600 in scholarship money. TCHS sophomore Camille Guss finished third and took home \$200 in schol-

arship money. Sutton, Bradley and Guss, all three weighed the issues of capitalism versus socialism. Bradley said she was thankful to finish second. "We all three had the same exact topic and somehow we managed to get the top three," she said. "We all took different standpoints, but it's a very good topic to breakdown and examine the merits." Guss agreed. "Hey, I'm telling you, capitalism is the way to go," she said with a smile. The judges for the contest included Enotah Circuit Superior Court Judge David Barrett, Young Harris College Assistant Professor of Communication Dr. Nick Bowman, Fran Johnston, Senate District 50 State Sen. Jim Butterworth and Hiawasse Mayor Barbara Mathis. The judges had a hard time making a final decision

for the third place selection, having to choose between Guss, Tyler Hoffman, Levi Sherman and Rocsane Tabular. "The judges say it wasn't an easy decision at all," Moderator John Van Vliet told the audience, as he prepared them to wait another five minutes so the judges could examine a tie-breaker method. Other students competing included Dillon Diehl, Jill McCray and Katelyn Patterson. Each of the remaining six students who finished outside the top three received a \$25 check for their participation in the event. The annual event is a means of promoting conservative values and involving local youth in the government and political process by encouraging them to think about what makes America the best country in the world.



Left to right, Tyler Hoffman, Dillon Diehl, Jeanne Bradley, Camille Guss, Nora Sutton, Levi Sherman, Rocsane Tabular, Katelyn Patterson and Jill McCray. These students competed in the annual Youth Leadership Development Speech Contest at Young Harris College on Saturday. Photo/James Reese

Vince Gill...continued from page 1

Prairie League, is best known for his heart-wrenching solo ballads that led him to the top of the Country Music charts beginning in 1983. Since then, Gill has charted more than 40 County Music Billboard hits, brought home 18 Country Music Association awards to go along with 20 Grammy Awards, more than any Country Music male artist in the world. He's also sold more than 26 million albums. Gill began his legendary Country Music career in 1983 when he signed with RCA Records and moved to Nashville to pursue his dream of becoming a Country Music artist.

His debut mini-album *Turn Me Loose* was released in 1984, featuring two Top 10 hits: a duet with Rosanne Cash, *If It Weren't For Him* and a solo hit with *Oklahoma Borderline*. In 1987 he achieved his first Top 5 single, *Cinderella*, from his album *The Way Back Home*. Outside of his singing career, Gill is married to Amy Grant and he also has worked as a studio musician and as a songwriter, composing songs for other well-known country music artists as well as touring with Emmylou Harris. Gill was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2007 and has

earned the honor of CMA Entertainer of the Year on two occasions and is a five-time Male Vocalist of the Year recipient. To date, Gill is the most decorated male artist in the Country Music genre. Tickets for Vince Gill's May 6th appearance at Anderson Music Hall go on sale Friday morning at Anderson Music Hall. Tickets are \$45 plus \$2 handling for Level I seating and \$35 plus \$2 handling for Level II seating arrangements. For more details about the Vince Gill Concert contact the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds at (706) 896-4191.

Local Marine Corps League sporting clays and raffle event a success

The inaugural Sporting Clays competition at Noon-toola Creek Farms (ncfga.net), located just south of Blue Ridge, took place under beautiful skies and temperatures on March 12, 2011. The raffle drawing took place following the shoot during a provided lunch. Walt Scott, local Commandant, took the time to make some fantastic hamburgers that were then grill cooked to perfection by Wayne Roshaven. Our thanks to them! Top team at the event was "The Hiawasse Four", which included George Mitchell, Dick Fille, Ken Mears, and top shooter of the day, Bart Reynolds. 2nd place went to Union County's own, the family Arrowood, consisting of Homer, Kenneth, Davey, and Derrick Arrowood. Congratulations to these teams with respective scores of 335, and 310. As for raffle prizes, the 42" flat screen TV was won by George Polacek; the Remington pump action shotgun went to Caleb Martin; and a 2 night getaway at Horne's Hideaway on Lake Chatuge was won by Kiyu Clendaniel. Congratulations to all the winners! The Unicoi Detachment #783 of the Marine Corps League wishes to thank everyone who contributed time,

talent, and/or money which helped us raise much needed funds for charities supporting the children, elderly, families,

and individuals in need in our local communities, by participating in this year's event. See you next year! NTMar30.Z18/CA