

# Moonshine Cruiz-In...from page 1A

kick off the event on Aug. 12. "Last year, we had about 1,000 cars," Hooper said. "I can't even begin to imagine how many we'll have this year. They've been the sign ups and getting booked for this year's event since the event ended last year.

"We want to get everyone behind this," Hooper said. "We'll have plenty of food vendors to accommodate hungry folks.

"They'll eat in our restaurants at breakfast and supper," he said. Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall once again has pledged his support for the event.

"It's a boon to our local economy," Commissioner Kendall said. "Any way we can support this, we're here."

The inaugural kickoff party last year almost took Hooper's breath away – literally.

"We were tickled to death to host the first kickoff at The Ridges," he said.

"It was an awesome feeling to see all those cars coming in on Thursday night. It was an anxious feeling trying to think of where we were going to park them.

"This year, we're better organized and better prepared for what should be another solid year for the Cruize-In," Hooper said.

Towns County Tourism Association Chair Hilda Thomason, who also serves as general manager of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, said she too was excited about the prospects for 2010.

"Year One was a learning experience for all of us," she said. "We hope to capitalize on that experience to the 2010 event. This is an exciting event for Towns County.

"It's going to flow this year," she said. "We're going to make this happen."

Parrish, who spent the summer months of his youth growing up here on Owl Creek, said he was pleased to

see such an encouraging support for the event.

"I want this to become a lasting event for Towns County and Hiawassee," he said. "We want to see folks in your shops and restaurants.

"We'll only have these car show folks from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Then we'll turn them loose and we want them to come do business with y'all," he said. "Anyone who wants to stay open late on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, that's great. We can direct these folks to you."

Hooper said The Ridges Resort is geared up and ready to go in terms of the Haulin' Mash Moonshine Bash.

"Steven Phillips and The Midnight Express Band will provide the kickoff event's musical entertainment,"

Hooper said. "It all kicks off at 5:30 p.m. at The Ridges. It's open to the public, there's no admission and we'll do a Tour of the Lakes on our 36-foot tour boat."

## Look who's 1!



Sara-Ashlyn Nichols

Sara-Ashlyn Nichols, daughter of Terry and Lisa Nichols, turned 1 year old on Saturday, July 17. She celebrated with a Barney party surrounded by family and friends. She would like to say, "Thank you" to all who came and for the gifts she received. You are our sunshine, Boo Boo! We love you very much!

Love, Mommy and Daddy

T(Aug4-F4)SH

## Letters from the Mountains

Deborah Burford  
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### The Cat-Whisperer

Zinger recently presented himself with a wounded leg. He limped home and was immediately scooped up and confined to the bathroom. "This," he said, loudly and often, "was a dirty trick." What he wanted was tuna and sympathy; what he got was cat-prison. The addition of tuna to his confinement did not mollify him. "It's no use trying to buy me off," he growled sulkily. "I do not forgive you."

The next day David took him to see his favorite vet while I was scurrying into town for an emergency dental visit. Normally Zinger rides in my lap while wearing his harness, but David was unwilling to drive alone with a highly indignant cat-on-a-string. Zinger was stuffed unceremoniously into a carrier, something he detests above all things. We had, he said through gritted teeth, officially "made the list."

When we returned home, our eldest son and his girl friend had arrived from Arizona. Now Andrew is a born cat-whisperer. His cats actually come when called and will sit patiently while he (or the vet) pluck cactus spines from their tender parts—once even from their mouths! When he plops them on the dryer, they wait for all their medications and then pat his cheek in affectionate gratitude. His once-shy rescued cat has become Mr. Sociability and greets everyone with joyful enthusiasm.

Andrew and Zinger had a conference. Zinger wanted no part of his antibiotics and was prepared to go all ten rounds in protest. "This is for your own good, Zing," cooed Andrew, scratching all the favorite places. Zinger relaxed a little. "I'll be over in a flash, you'll see," and with that Zinger was put into Andrew's favorite cat-hold, two droppers of medicine were slipped into his side cheeks, and then Zinger was (still being firmly held) rewarded with a massage.

Once released, Zinger limped outside and curled up under a bush. Very quickly he remembered that outside was a heat wave and inside was air conditioning... and Andrew. He limped back through the cat flap and found a place in front of the register, meowing pitifully and soon receiving more healing touch. "Hmmm, he thought, "this has distinct possibilities. Can I keep him?"

For the rest of the visit, we received instructions on The Grip, which was mastered, and The Words, which we, apparently, still need to practice. Andrew was Zinger's new best friend. Even Miss Cattitude (Caylee) was friendly and Carley, who normally runs and hides for days at the mere mention of "a stranger" was soon settled in the human lap and sharing all sorts of secrets. Zinger, of course, finished his course of medications. "What's wanted here," he said to Andrew between throaty purrs, "is more massaging and less squirting."

Alas, Andrew and Traci had to leave, but Zinger has been taking notes. "Now," he began last night while tucking us in, "Here's how you say 'tuna' in cattese... Nope; try again..."

Love From the mountains, D.  
N(Aug4-G3)SS

## Kennel Club monthly meeting

Hiwassee River Valley Kennel Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. We invite all those interested in pure bred dogs and canine activities to attend. Call President Kit Miracle at 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman at 828-835-1082 for details.

NT(Aug4-G1)gg

## Local quilter featured in publication



Quilt artist and designer Audrey Hiers, of Blairsville, GA, appears in the August edition of McCall's Quilting Magazine. Ms. Hiers is shown with her quilt made in her original design, "Crazy Daisies". Ms. Hiers is an active member of the Misty Mountain Quilters Guild and will be teaching classes in "intermediate quilting" for members of the Guild, beginning Sept. 3. For more information, visit the website: [www.mistymountainquiltguild.com](http://www.mistymountainquiltguild.com).

N(Aug4-G5)SH

## Allen - Rhodes wed



Mr. and Mrs. George Philip Rhodes

Dana Ashleigh Allen of Augusta and George Philip Rhodes of Augusta were married at five thirty p.m., Saturday, April 17, 2010, at Fleming Baptist Church. Reverend Rick Oglesby officiated at the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis L. Millians of Hiawassee, GA, Mrs. Janet Green Allen and the late Mr. Tommy J. Allen, Sr. of Hephzibah, GA. She is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Sims of Waynesboro and the late Mr. and Mrs. James Dana Allen of Hephzibah.

The groom is the son of Mrs. Vivian Rhodes of Augusta and the late George Pressley Rhodes of Augusta. He is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Harrison of Augusta and the late Mr. and Mrs. John Wright Rhodes of Augusta.

The bride chose her sister, Mrs. Whitney Street of Augusta, to serve as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Mrs. Shawn Rhodes, friend of the bride, Miss Hannah Rhodes, niece of the groom, Mrs. Angela Allen, sister-in-law of the bride. The Junior Bridesmaid, was Miss Kathryn Rhodes, niece of the groom.

Groomsmen were Mr. Douglas Rhodes, brother of the groom; Mr. Michael Rhodes,

brother of the groom; Mr. Kelvin Rhodes, brother of the groom and Mr. Zachary T. Allen, son of the bride.

The flower girls were Miss Ansley Barbee, niece of the groom, and Miss Michaela Rhodes, niece of the groom. The Ring Bearer was Master Pressley Barbee, nephew of the groom, the Bell Ringer was Master Alexander Allen, cousin of the bride. The Ushers were Mr. Brian Hargis, Jr., nephew of the groom, and Mr. Christian Allen, cousin of the bride. Videography and music was directed by Mr. Aubrey Street, brother-in-law of the bride. Miss Holly Edwards, cousin of the bride, distributed wedding programs at the church and Miss Heather Edwards, cousin of the bride, kept the Bride's Book at the reception.

The bride was given in marriage by her son, Mr. Zachary T. Allen.

The bride is a graduate of Burke County Comprehensive High School and attended Augusta State University.

The groom is a graduate of Curtis Reption High School.

A reception was held at the River/Berlin Room at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Augusta. The newlyweds spent their honeymoon on a Caribbean cruise and now reside in Augusta. T(Aug4-F3)SH

## Firefighters complete Emergency Vehicle Operation Class



Chief Mitch Floyd and Safety Officer Leslie Moore brief the Evaluators on course safety and regulations prior to firefighters taking to the course.

Towns County Fire and Rescue Firefighters completed the third section of a three sessions Emergency Vehicle Operation Class (EVOC) Saturday. Over 35 firefighters put two fire engines through their paces in a standardized Competency Course setup in the Hiawassee High School parking lot. Starting at 7 in the morning and running until after two in the afternoon, drivers traversed the course demonstrating their competence in Emergency Vehicle Operation. Looking much like a driving maze the eight station course tested the firefighter/driver's ability to maneuver in tight areas and move from one area to another without hitting cones or crossing invisible lines marking the course. The day's Competency Course program was conducted by Volunteer Firefighter Insurance Services' EVOC instructor Mark Moore with Leslie Moore and Robert Munger serving as Safety Officers. Four Firefighters; Cory Ledford, Jonathan Wilson, Edward Berrong, and Wayne Canterbury were evaluated first by the instructor then given a safety briefing by Fire Chief Mitch Floyd and Leslie Moore to then served as evaluators for the rest of their department under the instructor's supervision.

The first and second classes, held over the previous two weeks, gave firefighters information on among other items; state laws, vehicle operating characteristics, proper vehicle operation and then tested their knowledge.

The classes highlighted that the use of emergency lights and sirens is a request for the driving public to yield the right of way and although state law requires the motor-

ist to yield, public safety is still the law when operating any vehicle in an emergency mode.

Anyone interested in

public service is urged to contact the Fire and Rescue unit who like the Marines are always looking for a few good men and women. T(Aug4-H2)SH



Firefighters work on a tabletop problem dealing with where to place emergency vehicles arriving on an accident scene. Divided into several groups each had to place the responding vehicles at the "scene" and relate why they selected that placement.



In a difficult maneuver Dianne Nelson parallel parks the large fire-truck within 6 inches of the curb.



Leslie Moore and Robert Munger oversee safety on the Competency Course as evaluator Cory Ledford checks the truck wheel location to insure the operator stopped in the correct position. A second truck passes by on the outside of the course returning from the highway driving portion of the program.

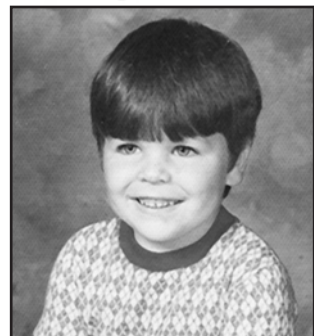
## Sweet Pea turns three



Sweet Pea celebrated her 3rd birthday with 8 of her friends. Being princess for a day, she wore a pretty red bow in her hair. Cinderella, Tinker Bell, Sweet Pea and Mindy were the Shih Tzus, Chip, Darsey and Boomer were the Yorkies, Oreo, a Japanese Chin

and Nicky, a Terrier mix. All the furry little friends enjoyed a cup of Frosty Paws ice cream, while the owners had strawberry cheesecake ice cream cake. After eating, they played and laid around. It was quite possibly the cutest thing to watch. T(Aug4-H1)SH

## Lordy, Lordy, guess who's 40?



Happy birthday! We love you!

Brianna & Cheyenne