

Prom...from Page 1A

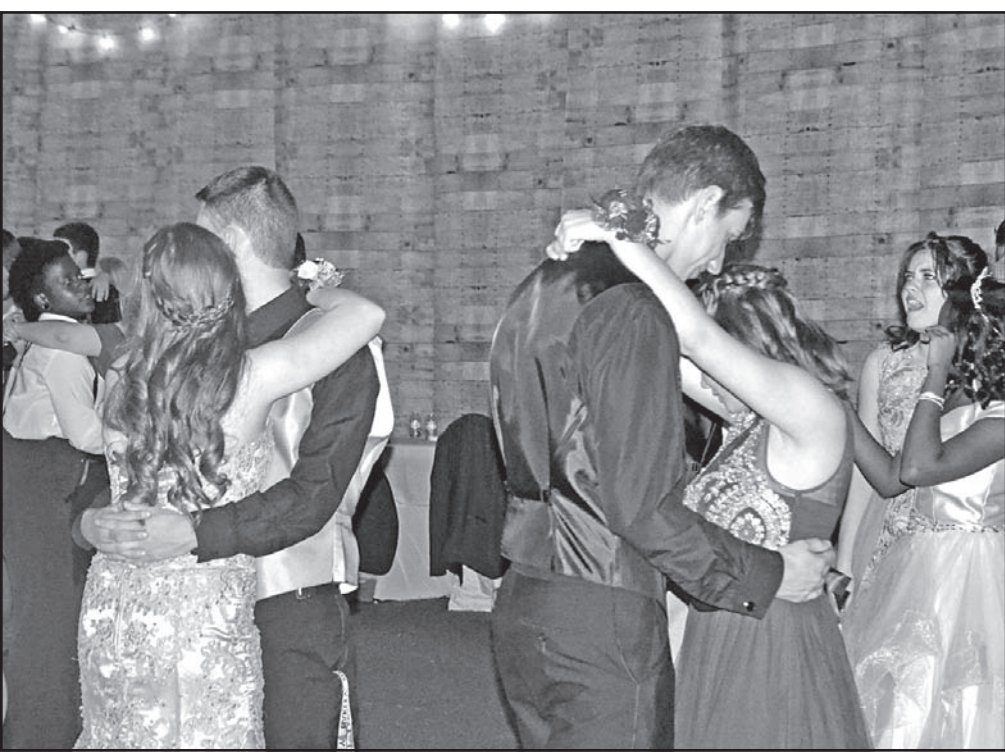


Photo by Jarrett Whitener

TCHS seniors will graduate in less than a month, which is one of the many reasons prom night is always so special to students.

dancing, there were snacks such as popcorn, cupcakes and fruit to enjoy, and the option of playing a game of cornhole while they cooled off from the main event was a popular attraction.

The theme for this year was Rustic Rendezvous, which featured wooden decorations and mason jars used as lights.

One of the most noticeable decorations displayed a wooden pallet with senior portraits attached to it and served as a recognition to the Class of 2018.

All the decorations for the event were created and worked on by a group of students and faculty that made up the prom committee.

"Everything these students do to create the prom is absolutely amazing," said Melissa McConnell, who teaches at the high school.

Teachers Christa Houser and Sarah Vardo contributed a

large portion of their time to help organize and direct the students in how to arrange the event.

Creating a memorable prom can be a daunting task, and the committee begins working on the funding for the event as early as the beginning of the school year.

Small community loans helped to fund this major high school event, and the committee members and all faculty and students that attended were thankful for all the support they received to make it all possible.

The faculty and students who helped put the event together came in to Foster Park a week prior to the event, so they could ensure that the theme would be complete and perfected for the students that attended.

"They came out here during their own time, and even on the weekend," said

McConnell. "They really put in all the effort."

The hard work of the faculty and students payed off in the end, and attendees of the prom enjoyed a fun-filled night that could not have been possible without the time put in by the committee.

Towards the end of the night, seniors left the dance floor and walked out to stand together and be recognized by the other students and teachers at the event.

A major highlight of every high school prom is the declaration of the king and queen for the year.

The honor of being named Prom King went to Aaron King, and the honor of Prom Queen was awarded to Sarah Bastian.

The announcement of the king and queen left students in an uproar of applause as they cheered on their classmates.

Although the night came to a close, students were still enthusiastically dancing and enjoying a night that they would remember for the rest of their lives.

The next step for the Class of 2018 will be graduation, which will be held on Friday, May 18, marking the ends of the students' high school careers and the beginning of the next chapters in their lives.

Business partners arrested again for stealing, says UCSO

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

BLAIRSVILLE – Two former business associates are back behind bars after 22 people allege stolen property, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Michael David Osborne, aka Jerz Mike, 46, of Towns County, and Dennis Lamar Lynn, 56, of Union County, have once more been arrested, and they now face 22 counts each of theft by deception, per UCSO Lt. Daren Osborn.

"Back in November of 2017, Osborne and Lynn entered into a lease-to-buy agreement with the owners of (a local business)," said Lt. Osborn, no relation. "Once they entered into that agreement, they took over the consigners of the business, and also took on new consigners for the business."

The original owners have since reacquired sole ownership of the business, but nearly two dozen customers have contacted Union County



Michael "Jerz Mike" Osborne



Dennis Lynn

investigators about property they say Osborne and Lynn never paid them for, per Lt. Osborn.

As reported in February, Osborne and Lynn were initially arrested and charged with financial identity fraud, forgery in the third degree, and theft by deception, per Lt. Osborn.

The previous charges against them stemmed from their having deposited of a counterfeit check in a Blairsville bank, after which

they immediately withdrew the funds, per Lt. Osborn.

Unfortunately for the original owners of the business, who shared the account with Osborne and Lynn, the account went negative after the bank discovered the check was counterfeit and reversed the bad deposit, per Lt. Osborn.

"The victims had to come up with money out of their own personal accounts to put into that account to get it back in the black," said Lt. Osborn at the time.

Eggfest...from Page 1A

that's by purchasing a demo Egg.

Demo Egg packages are being sold by local business Hiawassee Hardware, and purchasers will be able to see their new Egg put to good use by an experienced Green Egg cook during the Eggfest.

Of course, demo Eggs will go home with their new owners at the end of the Eggfest, and the main benefit of purchasing a demo Egg is the savings that can be had through Hiawassee Hardware, over \$150 on large and extra-large Eggs.

"All of our demo Egg packages are supplied by Hiawassee Hardware and can be pre-ordered by calling Brenda McKinney or the associates at Hiawassee Hardware at (706) 896-3201," per MountainEgg.com. "Please note, all sales are final and there are no refunds."

"Each package will include: a Big Green Egg, Egg Nest, Tel-Tru External Temperature Gauge, Ceramic Damper Top, Dual Function Metal Top, and Stainless Steel Mesh Draft Door. If you wish to purchase additional Big Green accessories, they will be available at a 10% discount with the purchase of an Egg."

And this year, Egg buyers get two free taster tickets for the Eggfest.

"We have cooking classes, we have a lot of vendors set up, we have some Bluegrass Music," said Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason. "When you buy a taster ticket for \$25, you can go through and taste all the food that they cook that day."

"It starts at 9 a.m. and goes until 3 p.m., so you need to come for breakfast and just graze all day long. They do pizzas, they do desserts, they do barbecue ribs, sausage and biscuits, shrimp, any kind of

seafood that you can think of. Everything – the sky is the limit."

Added Thomason: "It's grown tremendously over the years. We had 2,400 people last year. It's a family event, and under 12 is free."

People looking to purchase a Big Green Egg should contact Hiawassee Hardware by May 1 to guarantee delivery by the time of the Eggfest, though Eggs can be purchased all the way up to the day of the event.

The first day of the Eggfest, May 18, is reserved mainly for a Meet & Greet and event registration, and guests are asked to bring a covered dish with enough food for six people, "or something you wish to cook on the egg."

"There will be 6 large eggs set up at the Meet & Greet along with charcoal and lighters for your use, plus several experienced cooks to assist you if needed," per MountainEgg.com.

John Wilkinson, Republican.

For State Representative in the General Assembly from the 8th District, Incumbent Matt Gurtler and Mickey Cummings, both Republican.

For District Attorney of the Enotah Judicial Circuit, Incumbent Jeff Langley, Republican.

On the Nonpartisan General Election Ballot:

For County Board of Education Post 1, Incumbent Robert C. Williams and Steve Green.

For County Board of Education Post 2, Tamie Bradley and Brandi Rutan.

For County Board of Education Post 3, Incumbent Stan Chastain.

For Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia, John Ellington and incumbents Michael P. Boggs, Britt Cagle Grant, Harold D. Melton and Nels Peterson are all running unopposed.

Incumbents Charlie Bethel, Stephen Dillard, Amanda H. Mercier, M. Yvette Miller, Clyde L. Reese III and Brian Rickman are all running unopposed for Judge, Court of Appeals Georgia.

Ken Hodges and Ken Shigley are running against one another for Judge, Court of Appeals Georgia, to succeed John Ellington.

Raymond E. George and N. Stanley Gunter are both running unopposed for Judge, Superior Court of the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

have to help us here."

There are 93 Firewise communities in the state of Georgia, and 21 of them are in Towns County.

"You can't beat that we've got 21 out of 93 in Towns County, Firewise Communities recognized nationally with the national program services," said Riley. "That's a tribute to these people right here, and we thank you."

There is no charge to people to have their neighborhood assessed for fire hazards by the coalition.

"We'll come out to your house and we'll assess your property and tell you that you probably should fix this and this," said committee member and Mayor of Hiawassee Liz Ordiales. "You don't have to, but this is what you should fix, and we'll even come out and chip your stuff, and it's all free."

Additional Committee members from the Firewise coalition that attended the signing were Ann Atchison and Michael Courney.

Chatuge Nursing Home celebrates Nurse Appreciation Week

Chatuge Regional Nursing Home is pleased to announce a celebration honoring our incredible Nursing Staff as part of National Nurse Appreciation Week. This celebration will take place on Friday, May 11th at 2:30 p.m. in our Main Dining Room. The program

will feature some key speakers, a "Blessing of the Hands" ceremony and of course lots of goodies, snacks and drinks!

If you have ever wanted to know what sets our nursing home apart from all the rest come and see for yourself!

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Voting...from Page 1A

Macedonia Baptist Church.

Voters looking for absentee ballots will need to contact the board office, which is situated next to the Towns County Courthouse, or call (706) 896-4353.

Tuesday, April 24, was the voter registration deadline leading into the election.

Each of the following candidates will appear on the ballot of their respective political party:

For Governor, L.S. "Casey" Cagle, Eddie Hayes, Hunter Hill, Brian Kemp, Clay Tippins, Marc Urbach and Michael Williams, all Republican; and Stacey Abrams and Stacey Evans, both Democrat.

For Lieutenant Governor, Geoff Duncan, Rick Jeffares and David Shafer, all Republican; and Sarah Riggs Amico and Triana Arnold James, both Democrat.

For Secretary of State, David Belle Isle, Buzz Brockway, Josh McKoon and Brad Raffensperger, all Republican; and Josh Barrow, Dee Dawkins-Haigler and Rakeim "RJ" Hadley, all Democrat.

For Attorney General, Incumbent Chris Carr, Republican, and Charlie Bailey, Democrat.

For Commissioner of Agriculture, Incumbent Gary

Black, Republican, and Fred Swann, Democrat.

For Commissioner of Insurance, Jim Beck, Jay Florence and Tracy Jordan, all Republican; and Janice Laws and Cindy Zeldin, both Democrat.

For State School Superintendent, Incumbent Richard Woods and John Barge, both Republican; and Sid Chapman, Sam Mosteller and Otha E. Thornton Jr., all Democrat.

For Commissioner of Labor, Incumbent Mark Butler, Republican; and Richard Keatley and Fred Quinn, both Democrat.

For Public Service Commissioner District 3, Incumbent Chuck Eaton; and Lindy Miller, John Noel and Johnny C. White, all Democrat.

For Public Service Commissioner District 5, Incumbent Tricia Pridemore and John Hitchins III, both Republican; and Dawn A. Randolph and Doug Stoner, both Democrat.

For U.S. Representative in 116th Congress from the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, Incumbent Doug Collins, Republican; and Dave Cooper and Josh McCall, both Democrat.

For State Senator from the 50th District, Incumbent

Wildfire...from Page 1A

Committee have planned a fun-filled event for the Hiawassee Square on May 5.

In the county meeting, Elliott spoke on her personal knowledge of the dangers of wildfire, right here in Towns County.

"If you were a Towns County resident in 2008, you probably remember that there was a fire in Young Harris, Cedar Knob, that whole ridge caught on fire," said Elliott. "It burned for a week."

"We had to get firefighters from out West who had experience in fighting (wild) fires to come to Towns County to help assist the local folks putting those fires out."

Added Elliott: "Had there been a change in wind direction, Asheland Cove subdivision, my subdivision, would have been one of these victims of the fire."

That fire served as a wakeup call for Elliott and many residents of the county.

"That got the attention, that got the program going," said Elliott. "Frank was very familiar with the Firewise Program out West, and he got it going here in Towns County. It's still going strong. We have a very active coalition. We're very dedicated to educating our community."

Continued Elliott: "Firewise organizations and other community agencies come together to promote this Firewise program, and we're going to do such in Towns County on May 5. We're inviting the public to join us on the square in Hiawassee on that day between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to see just exactly what resources are here in our county."

"All of our fire equipment and fire personnel are going to be there with all their bells and whistles and toys and trucks and what have you, and letting the community see just what kind of equipment and personnel we