

Schools...from Page 1A

the 2019-2020 school year, though she'll certainly miss her old post.

"The decision was bittersweet because my time as middle school principal has been very rewarding," Chastain said.

As for Perren, he's excited to be returning to the high school, which he previously led as principal from 2004 to 2013.

"I am honored and humbled to be named principal of Towns County High School for the upcoming school year," said Perren. "I expect a smooth, seamless transition, as I have worked closely with Dr. Hobbs,

Mr. Melton and the staff of Towns County High for years.

"Due to my past experience as principal of the high school and as a site director at Mountain Education Charter High School, I believe that I can make a positive contribution to building on the great things that Dr. Hobbs has done these past several years."

Perren was part of the group that developed the system's mission statement years ago, which reads, "The mission of Towns County Schools is that all students will achieve at their highest potential."

And he still who-

leheartedly believes in that mission.

"My goal is to help Towns County High School to continue to develop our students so that each child can reach their full potential," said Perren. "I seek to continue to support our teachers and staff as they work with our students each day."

"While we are a small school, we have a lot to offer. I want to build on the things that we have and work out ways to better serve the needs of each child. I look forward to serving our students, school and community."

Penland...from Page 1A

the scene of Penland's death.

It is currently unclear if the investigation will lead to any further arrests in the case, though the progress to date will likely come as a relief to those closest to Penland, some of whom started a "Justice for Shorty" campaign during the prolonged investigation.

Subsequent to his death, Penland was described by his friends and family as having been a hard worker who "loved to big and had an unforgettable smile" in life.



The "Justice for Shorty" campaign started after the prolonged investigation into Penland's death. Photo/Facebook

Carter...from Page 1A

along with Carter's personal property.

"Law enforcement authorities from Georgia and North Carolina had responded numerous times on tips of Carter's presence at Tiger's home. Authorities had spoken to Tiger on multiple occasions and advised him of Carter's fugitive status."

Tiger was given a \$5,000 unsecured bond and will appear in court on May 6 regarding his alleged crime.

According to a GBI arrest warrant, Carter allegedly shot Henderson around 7 p.m. on Sept. 8, 2018, at or near a home located at 11 Lindsay Lane, which has a Young Harris mailing address but is actually in Union County.

Per state law, the crime of aggravated assault occurs when a person uses a deadly weapon or any object "offensively against a person" in such a way that "is likely to or actually does result in serious bodily injury." Aggravated assault carries with it a prison sentence of up to 20 years.

As previously reported, deputies with the Towns County Sheriff's Office responded to Chatuge Regional Hospital in Hiawassee the evening of Sept. 8, 2018, in reference to a male subject with a gunshot wound

to the chest.

The subject was identified as Henderson, who survived the shooting but had to be airlifted to a nearby trauma center.

After allegedly dropping a wounded Henderson off at Chatuge Regional, Carter is said to have left the scene in his Chevrolet Tahoe. The truck was discovered abandoned later that night in the parking lot of the Marathon gas station on Georgia 75 North in Hiawassee.

Detectives determined that Carter left the Marathon in her own red Ford pickup, which was located the next day at Tiger's residence in Clay County, North Carolina.

Within hours of the shooting, the Towns County Sheriff's Office had filed warrants on Carter for aggravated assault and criminal attempt to commit murder.

The Sheriff's Office also requested GBI assistance at the time, after which the GBI took over as the lead investigating agency.

Further investigation revealed that the crime most likely occurred in Union County, and the GBI, after receiving assistance from the Union County Sheriff's Office, took out an aggravated assault warrant for Carter in Union County on Sept. 11, 2018.

Subsequent to the GBI taking out an arrest warrant in Union County, Towns County Sheriff's Investigator Aaron Deyton requested that the charges in Towns County be dismissed.

Ultimately, what charges and where to bring them will be up to Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley following completion of the investigation.

"There is still investigative work taking place to verify the exact location," said Langley previously. "It is believed that a shot was fired from within a motor vehicle, and there was some question as to the location at that time being in either Towns or Union County."

"The law requires that charges be brought and, if necessary, a trial take place in the county where the crime occurred. If after due diligence it cannot be clearly determined whether the vehicle was in Towns or Union when the crime occurred, then Georgia law would allow it to be tried in either county."

"After the investigation is completed, there would likely be a grand jury presentation in July in the appropriate county."

Grand Jury...from Page 1A

financial transaction card theft; two counts financial transaction card fraud; criminal attempt to commit a felony.

Bruce Lyle Gross, two counts aggravated assault; six counts possession of firearm by convicted felon; two counts possession of firearm during commission of a felony.

Aaron Dale Patterson, two

counts entering an automobile; two counts criminal attempt to commit a felony; criminal damage to property in the second degree.

Kristy Lynn McGaha, distribution of marijuana; distribution of methamphetamine; two counts sale of methamphetamine; possession of metham-

phetamine; possession of drug-related objects.

Derek Mitchell Mashburn, possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug-related objects.

Joshua Dustin Carnes, unlawful acts of violence in a penal institution.

Joel Warren Duffey, deposit account fraud.

Confederate...from Page 1A

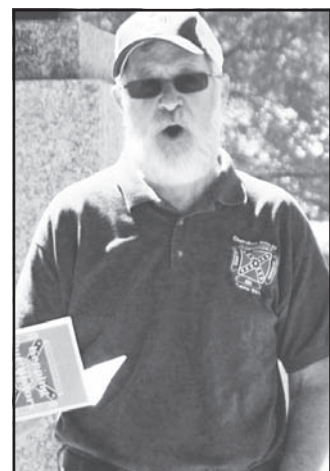
removed the Battle Flag from the monument.

Compatriot Scott Ledford gave an introduction to the ceremony by explaining some of the origins of the occasion and the importance of decorating the monument and the graves with flowers and remembering those who fought and died during the war.

"Back in the day, as veterans were prone to do after their war, peacetime breaks out and shots stop being fired, and every year they have reunions," said Ledford. "They get together like old soldiers do and they tell stories, and every now and then, they put monuments up."

"After a while, they start looking around and keep hearing so and so just died or they have poor health, and as they started noticing this around the 1890s, they sort of realized that they need somebody to pass the torch, so that's how the Sons of Confederate Veterans got started."

Added Ledford, "This camp last year completed a four-year project for that cemetery up there, which was dilapidated, run down, and covered with weeds. And between coordinating with the state and national levels of the



Past commander of the Murphy North Carolina Camp Mike Berlin talked about the importance of remembering the Confederate dead and celebrating their lives. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

organizations plus the city and county government, we had wonderful support from our commissioner here in Union County and the mayor."

Ledford then turned things over to the keynote speaker of the ceremony, past commander of the Murphy North Carolina Camp, Mike Berlin, who talked about the importance of remembering the soldiers and celebrating their lives.

Berlin also spoke on the importance of preserving monuments and enforcing the laws protecting those monuments, to help keep the memorials for future generations to have and celebrate as they are now.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans make it a point that they are not influenced by politics, but they do want to keep preserving their history and celebrating their ancestors who fought in the Civil War, and they want to continue with their tradition of supporting that heritage.

Following the speech by Berlin, the ceremony closed with a benediction by Chaplain Russell Shreeve.

After the ceremony, the group made their way to the Old Blairsville Cemetery to honor the Confederate dead buried there and to continue their memorial service.

Confederate Memorial Day is April 26 every year, though the local observance usually takes place on the nearest Saturday.

The state used to observe the day as a holiday, and though the date remains on the holiday calendar, it reads simply "State Holiday."

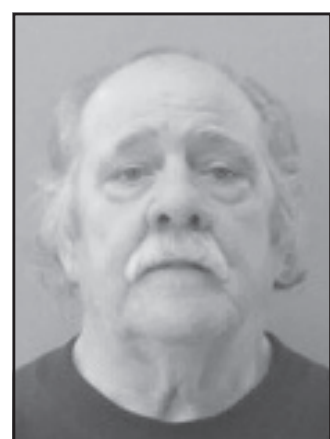


Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy Smith's Legion Chapter 2699 during a Confederate Memorial Day observance on April 27. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

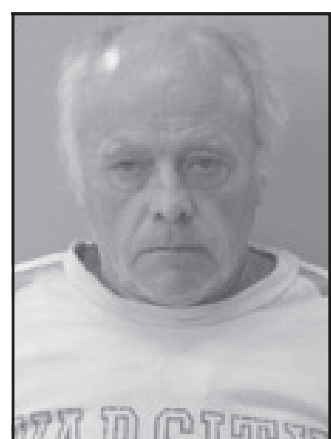
Deputies...from Page 1A



Bonnie Fitzgibbons



William Fitzgibbons



Willis Dyer

Both individuals were charged with the following offenses: distribution of a Schedule II drug (Dilaudid); trafficking of a Schedule II narcotic hydromorphone (Dilaudid); possession of a Schedule II narcotic (Dilaudid); and possession with the intent to distribute a Schedule II narcotic hydromorphone (Dilaudid).

Investigators executed the second search warrant on Saturday, April 20, at a residence off of Mill Creek Road in Hiawassee.

There, they arrested Willis Dyer, 60, on the following charges: possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute; possession of methamphetamine; and

possession of drug-related objects.

Both cases are still under active investigations and additional arrests and charges are possible.

These cases will be forwarded to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Prayers for Dana Benefit

barrels and poles

\$2500 Added Money

Saturday, May 11th

Books open at 9 am / Show not to start before 2 pm

at the Union County Saddle Club

Pre-entry May 9th or sign up at the event!

For more info contact Hannah at 706-994-0501 / prayersfordana@gmail.com

Kids Activities

Face Painting

50/50

BBQ Plates

Live Auction

Cake Auction

Silent Auction

Cowboy Church

Breakfast

at 8am