

# Towns County Herald

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## Gunter offers legislative overview in meeting

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

House District 8 State Rep. Stan Gunter visited with the Mountain Movers & Shakers on Friday, June 2, to provide an after-action report on the most recent Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly.

The 40-day session lasted from Jan. 9 to March 29, and Gunter said that this year's assemblage "wasn't that controversial" compared to last year, which heralded the passage of bills focused on parents' rights in education and the teaching of "divisive concepts and ideologies."

"We have a new crop of Republican legislators and also Democrat legislators," Gunter said of the session, "and the new Democrats that came in I have found to be very pleasant

people to deal with considering what we've had to deal with before."

Gunter highlighted "Sine Die," which is always the last day of the legislative session and features a marathon of back-and-forth negotiations between members of the state House and Senate to get bills passed before time runs out each year.

The state representative referenced a couple of bills that demonstrated the chaotic nature of Sine Die, explaining first the process that bills must take before they receive a vote on the last day.

"If (bills are) sitting in a committee and have never been voted on, they're dead (on Sine Die) – can't do anything with those," Gunter said. "But if they're out of committee or got a vote in committee, even if it was voted down, they are still

live bills."

Gunter said that when the House votes to advance a bill during the session, it goes over to the Senate for consideration, and vice versa.

"If a House Bill is in the Senate and they make a slight change to it, it comes back to the House," Gunter said. "We either agree or disagree. If we disagree and the Senate insists on their position, then it goes to a Conference Committee – three senators and three members of the House – and they have to work out that bill."

When it comes to the last day of the session, this Conference Committee process "is a real pressure cooker," Gunter said.

"Late in the evening, (a bill that the Georgia Municipal Association was watching), they worked out a compromise at the last minute," Gunter said.

"But the compromise didn't make it all into the bill that was presented to the House and Senate as the compromise.

"So, it then goes to the governor, and he signs it, so it becomes law. That's how fast and how much pressure there is on this kind of stuff."

He mentioned another bill that passed without what he considered to be due diligence, Senate Bill 115, which, according to Gov. Brian Kemp's office, "allows for the public to hunt, fish, and transit the navigable waters of this state."

The bill was sitting in the Rules Committee and "not going anywhere" when, suddenly, the entire text of the bill was replaced around 10 p.m. on Sine Die, after which it passed both chambers without Gunter's support due to his concerns over potential property rights issues.



Movers & Shakers Leader William "Scotty" Scott was pleased to welcome State Rep. Stan Gunter to Friday's meeting. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

"I'm a little concerned about that bill, but there is a Study Committee over the same subject matter that I think is going to flesh out that bill," Gunter said. "The problem with the bill being stripped out like that in coming out of the Rules Committee is that it's not been See *Legislative Overview*, Page 8A

## Made in Georgia Festival to return June 24-25



Lake Chatuge Chamber President Julie Payne and Chamber Membership Coordinator Mary Ann Miller are excited about the upcoming Made in Georgia Festival. Photo/Submitted

News Special

Towns County Herald

**YOUNG HARRIS** – The popular Made in Georgia Festival organized by the Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce is returning for its fifth anniversary event on June 24 and 25, to feature over 90 vendors from across the state touting carefully handmade wares and all manner of delectable

goodies.

Jellies and jams, honey, soaps, candles, pottery, wood carvings, ceramics, clothing, jewelry, knives and much more are the kinds of things guests can expect to find at the Peach State-exclusive festival this month.

Held at the Towns County Recreation & Conference Center at 150 Foster Park Road

in Young Harris, the event will start on Saturday, June 24, at 10 a.m. and resume on Sunday, June 25, at 11 a.m. Things will shut down around 5 p.m. on Saturday and 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Adult admission is \$5, while children under 14 are free to enter, and everyone should keep in mind that See *Made in Georgia*, Page 8A

## Gutensteins honored for years of community involvement



Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales, center, presented Gerry and Diana Gutenstein with a proclamation last week honoring their longtime commitment to the community. Photo/Submitted

By Brittany Holbrooks  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Longtime Hiawassee resident Gerry Gutenstein moved to Florida last week with his wife Diana to be closer to family, and while he couldn't attend, he was nonetheless hon-

ored for his contributions to the community during the May 30 meeting of the Lake Chatuge Rotary Club.

As the club's Fundraising Chair and a Trustee of the Georgia Rotary Student Program, Gutenstein meant as much to the organization as it

did to him.

Throughout the meeting, Rotarians shared their fondest memories of Gutenstein and discussed his many accomplishments. Above all, he was an important asset to the community at large. In the words See *Gutensteins*, Page 7A

## Patriots remember cost of freedom on Memorial Day

By Brittany Holbrooks  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The fallen heroes of Towns County and those across the country were honored in May 29's Memorial Day Ceremony, which opened with all in attendance singing the National Anthem and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance inside Veterans Memorial Park.

Special guests that morning included Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw, Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales, Sheriff Ken Henderson and Fire Chief Harold Copeland.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7807 Cmdr. John Harkins introduced Keynote Speaker Dwight Moss, who serves as chaplain for Post 7807.

"I want us to remember today, and I'm also going to be speaking words about where we are today and the things that are going on in this country," Moss said. "I want to talk about where we have been and what's been handed to us. I want to talk about the families that suffer loss.

"So today, let us remember the fallen and let us pay tribute to the fallen by hon-



Local VFW 7807 Chaplain Dwight Moss served as the keynote speaker for the 2023 Memorial Day Ceremony at Towns County Veterans Memorial Park. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

oring them, by honoring our Constitution, our Declaration of Independence and our Bill of Rights, and having a strong respect for our flag.

"Let us honor them by what we do in our lives and by observing what has been handed to us on a platter."

Moss began by encouraging observers to remain ever vigilant against threats to

their freedom. In this day and age, Moss believes that means closely monitoring the Chinese Communist Party and other organizations that may seek to weaken America and "pounce" while the country is "weakened" by drugs and other dividing factors in an increasingly polarized political era.

Quoting Patrick Henry's See *Memorial Day*, Page 8A

## Burglary suspect held at gunpoint until deputies arrive

News Special  
Towns County Herald

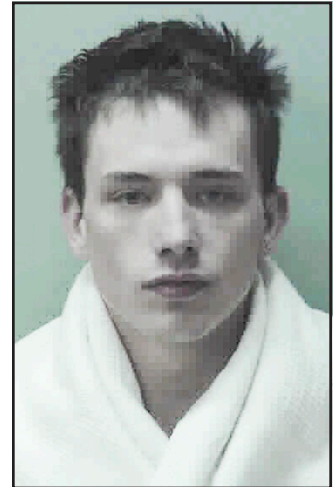
On Saturday, May 20, the Towns County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence on Gumlog Road regarding someone rummaging through vehicles.

Deputies arrived, and two suspects were quickly identified as Hunter Adams and Travis Foskey. Investigators at the scene found other vehicles in the area had been entered.

A short time later, the Sheriff's Office received a call in the same area of Gumlog Road. A homeowner was holding a suspect at gunpoint.

The victim, upon returning home, was met at the front door by the suspect wearing her husband's clothing. Further investigation revealed there had been forced entry into the residence.

When deputies arrived on the scene, the suspect attempted to run and was tackled by deputies and placed under arrest. The suspect was identified as Hunter Chase Adams,



Travis Richard Foskey

18, of Young Harris.

Adams was arrested and charged with felony burglary and 20 counts of felony entering an automobile.

Investigators identified the second suspect and obtained warrants for his arrest. Travis Richard Foskey, 21, of Young Harris, was located and arrested the following morning. He is charged with felony burglary and 20 counts of felony entering an automobile.



Hunter Chase Adams

Sheriff Ken Henderson commends the homeowner for her quick action and holding the suspect until deputies arrived, and the deputies and investigators for the quick arrest of these suspects.

"This type of criminal activity is not an everyday occurrence in Towns County," Sheriff Henderson noted.

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

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# Scottish Fest & Highland Games return to Meeks

By Brittany Holbrooks  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

As the Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games return for the 18th year this weekend, guests can expect old favorites and new attractions alike, ensuring that there's a wee bit of everything to see and do.

The Festival and Games will take place at Meeks Park on Saturday, June 10, and Sunday, June 11. Festivities begin at 9 a.m. on both days, to include a Sunday worship service. Things will wind down at 5 p.m. on Saturday, and the 2023 festival will wrap up at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Once again, kids ages 5-12 will have a chance to participate in their own athletic competition in the Children's Area near the playground, and parents must register before 1:30 and remain close by until the games begin at 2 p.m., with

instruction starting at 10 a.m.

Also this year, little lads and lasses will get to meet Princess Merida from Disney's "Brave" on Sunday from 1-3 p.m. in the Children's Area.

The Passport of the Clans will again be available, allowing each child to take a "passport" and go from clan to clan, learning the history of each and receiving a special stamp or marker. Once a child fills out the passport, he or she can return to the Children's Area for a prize.

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Atlanta Chapter, along with the Smoky Mountain Highland Dancers, will be present with musicians Celtic Conundrum, Colin Grant Adams, Tracie Brown and Wild Blue Yonder.

"For the first time, there is going to be a sanctioned pipe and drum competition," Festival Public Relations Chair Pam Fink said, adding

that since 2023 is the contest's first year, only about five or six groups are taking part.

That said, the event will hopefully grow as the years go on and more folks "prove themselves" as capable performers.

Clan MacLaren – known in Scottish Gaelic as Cinnheadh MacLabhrainn – won the place of 2023's Honored Clan. Their tartan colors are green, navy, red and black, and their clan badge is a laurel branch. The slogan on their crest is "Creag An Tuirc," translating from Gaelic to "The Boar's Rock."

MacLaren history is intriguing, considering Donald MacLaren of Inverentie served as a Captain in the Appin Regiment during the Jacobite uprising of 1745. The ill-fated movement saw most of the Highland army slaughtered at the Battle of Culloden, but MacLaren survived and was taken prisoner on charges of



The Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games will bring thousands of people to the North Georgia Mountains this weekend.  
Photo by Lowell Nicholson/2018

## Woman arrested after hiding fentanyl 'within her genitalia'

News Special  
Towns County Herald

HAYESVILLE, N.C. – On the evening of Thursday, May 25, a deputy with the Clay County Sheriff's Office observed a yellow 2002 Ford Ranger truck traveling east on US Highway 64 in North Carolina.

The deputy, Investigative Sgt. Tyler Faggard, knew the owner of the truck to be Duane Alan Stamps, 27, of Hiwassee, Georgia. Clay County Inv. Nick Queen advised Sgt. Faggard that Stamps had active warrants for his arrest out of Union County in Georgia.

Inv. Queen initiated a traffic stop on the truck on US Highway 64 near Settawig Road, but it did not pull over, according to a Clay County Sheriff's Office Facebook post last week.

In Sgt. Faggard's training and experience, occupants of vehicles will delay pulling over in attempts to hide illegal drugs. The vehicle finally came

to a stop just past Hills Store near Fires Creek on Highway 64, per the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

Queen identified the driver as Stamps and the passenger as Angelica Jordan Anderson, 27, of Hayesville, North Carolina.

Also assisting in the vehicle stop were Clay County Sheriff's Officers Aly Daniel, Kyle Lickeig and Steven Smith.

Deputy Smith's K-9 Luca gave a positive alert on the vehicle. As a result of a subsequent search process, Anderson voluntarily produced for officers a quantity of fentanyl that had been hidden within her genitalia, per the Facebook post.

Anderson was arrested for felony possession of fentanyl and possession with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver fentanyl. She was given a \$30,000 secured bond.

Stamps was arrested for his outstanding warrants out of



Angelica Jordan Anderson

Union County and was booked into the Union County Jail for felony probation violation on Saturday, May 27, where he remained without bond at press time.

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

## Gutensteins...from Page 1A

of one Rotarian, if a project needed a volunteer, Gerry was usually the first to step up.

Over the years, Gutenstein wasn't just a member of the Rotary Club but a prominent presence in the Lions Club as well, and he helped extensively with the projects of the Mountain Beautification Restoration effort.

He also heavily supported Young Harris College, whether by attending events or donating time and money for the good of future generations.

"What I especially liked is we knew everybody, just about," Gutenstein said of his time here while speaking with the Herald by phone last week. "That's kind of special. Diana and myself, we're from the big city in New York (where that's just not possible)."

Hiwassee was a hidden gem for the Gutensteins when they first came down to visit a friend way back in 1999. That weekend, they bought a house, and within a month's time had moved in. In Gutenstein's own words, the couple "never looked back."

And while it's rare to even meet one's neighbors in the bustle of New York City, the Gutensteins made an effort to meet everyone in Hiwassee. They built relationships with everyone from bank presidents to organization managers, from politicians to waitresses.

"I love that community; it was hard for us to leave," Gutenstein said. "It's been 23 years, and we made a lot of friends – I've enjoyed being a part of that."

Regarding their move to Florida, the Gutensteins' eldest daughter lives in the Tampa area and had been "after them for a long time" to move down there, he said.

"At this stage of our life, we need to be closer to family," Gutenstein said. "We both turned 80, and if something happens to either one of us, it's important that we're close to our daughter. We loved the community and everybody, and it's just one of those things that we needed to do."

Of course, Diana was also honored in the meeting.

"Diana, for me, really typified the Jewish word 'hesed,' which means 'loving kindness,'" said Rotary President David Tinsley. "She was one of the most sweetest, loving people I've ever met."

Turning to Gerry, Tinsley related a story from a board meeting about a year ago that

typified the kind of person his friend is.

"We were discussing club donations, and Gerry referred to our club donations as obligations," Tinsley said. "And I responded to him, 'They're not obligations. I mean, we don't have to do it. It's something we choose to do, we decide to do.'"

"Now, not long ago, I came across a word in the Jewish faith tradition, a Hebrew word, 'tzedakah.' And now I know what he was saying. In the Jewish tradition, those to whom much is given, much is expected ... It's not just something you choose to do, but it's your role in society to do that."

In other words, Tinsley recalls Gutenstein being led to help his community not just by his compassion, but by his faith.

In fact, faith meant a lot to Gutenstein. He helped set up the Daffodil Project at Lloyd's Landing in Hiwassee, a garden meant to honor the lives of the 1.5 million children murdered in the Holocaust. Gutenstein's own grandfather was a casualty of Kristallnacht.

Tinsley revealed that the Rotarian of the Year Award would be renamed the Gerry Gutenstein Rotarian of the Year Award, considering Gutenstein was an exemplary Rotarian who maximally represented the club motto "service above self."

Lake Chatuge's Rotarians will also be making several individual donations to the Georgia Rotary Student Program in Gutenstein's name, which will be added up into one massive check to the organization.

"What he wound up doing (for that program) is taking our Rotary students to all the events they had to go to in Georgia," Tinsley said. "He would drive all over the state to take these students to these events in which all the Rotary students came together to experience."

"I don't know how many thousands of miles he put on his car and how much money he gave as well, but it was something he really, really was interested in."

Finally, a Peace Pole will be erected in honor of Gerry and Diana. The poles, which are "now the most recognized monument dedicated to peace on earth," according to the Peace Pole Project's website, are decorated in the word for "peace" in several different languages. Shalom,

the Hebrew word for peace, is included on the pole.

The Peace Pole will be placed in the Daffodil Memorial at Lloyd's Landing sometime in October, and the Gutensteins will return to Hiwassee to attend the ceremony and see the physical representation of all the love they poured into their community.

Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales attended the Rotary meeting to present an official proclamation recognizing Gutenstein's service, which he would go on to say "blew (him) apart" because he "didn't expect anything like that."

Ordiales moved to the front of the room to share the document with the rest of the Rotarians.

"Whereas Gerry has worked constantly for the betterment of the city of Hiwassee, Young Harris and Towns County," Ordiales said, voice constricting with emotion. "Whereas the city of Hiwassee wishes to express sincere appreciation to Gerry for his dedication and outstanding performance in all his endeavors."

The mayor humorously referred to Gutenstein's infamous shirt often worn to City Council work sessions, saying that he would "always be SBG – 'the Sexy Bald Guy,'" and she fought back tears when saying she did "hereby present this proclamation to Gerry Gutenstein as a testimonial to the faithful and dedicated services he has performed the last 23 years."

Applause filled the room in agreement, and though Gutenstein may not have been there to hear it, Ordiales reassured those gathered that she had personally delivered a copy of the proclamation to him while the Gutensteins were closing on their house earlier that day.

To conclude the bittersweet occasion, Rotary President-Elect Debra Lowe agreed to look into nominating Gutenstein for the Rich Panyik Leadership Award to ensure Gutenstein's recognition as an outstanding Rotarian on a national level as well as local.

"Overall, I just love Hiwassee and the area, and it was good to me for 23 years – we're going to miss it," Gutenstein told the Herald. He also said that he vows to "do something" to get involved in his new community, even if that's just continuing his work as a Rotarian.

treason against England.

Legend says that while MacLaren was being transported to trial, he was either freed or escaped on his own terms, throwing himself off a cliff known as the Devil's Beef Tub. Dodging fire from the King's dragoon, MacLaren used the misty surroundings to his advantage and went into hiding until 1757's amnesty.

It's possible for people to learn about their own family heroes by visiting the festival genealogy tent to peruse collections of surnames and their variations. Some are listed on posters outside of certain clan tents; for example, the Mason family is historically a part of Clan Sinclair.

Family names found with the genealogists include lineages not just from Scotland, but from England, Ireland, Wales and other countries, so it's worth checking out even if one's ancestors never roamed the Highlands.

That said, family and tradition is what makes the Scottish Festival so important

to Blairsville. Fink said that when Scottish immigrants sailed to America, they found Appalachia to be most like the homes they left behind.

"They moved here deliberately 200 years ago because it reminded them of the mountains that they came from, much like the Highlands," explained Fink, adding that much of the area north of Stone Mountain into North Georgia and the Carolinas was an especially popular location for Scottish families to settle.

"It's designed more than anything else to be an educational festival where you can learn about your heritage, you can learn about your tartan, you can learn about other peoples," Fink said. "There's all kinds of things. It's entertaining, but it's educational."

Be sure to head on over to the Scottish Festival this weekend for all manner of delicious food options, handmade wares, demonstrations, Scot-themed products and more.

People won't want to

miss the Opening Day Ceremony set for noon on June 10 at the Main Field in Meeks Park, to feature the popular Parade of Tartans, Clan Roll Call, Massed Bands, and a performance of "Amazing Grace" in memory of Scottish Festival Past Chair Joe Satterfield.

Of course, the Heavy Athletics portion of the Highland Games kick off at 9 a.m. on both days of the festival, with three athletic divisions giving people all the stone throwing and hammer/caber/sheaf tossing they can handle.

Festival organizers are still looking for volunteers, so to play an active part in helping to promote an event that is great for the local economy, visit <https://blairsvillescottishfestival.com/volunteers-needed/> to sign up.

For additional information, including a full list of vendors, sponsors – RRG Roofing is this year's Chief Sponsor – site map, and a complete scheduling breakdown, visit <https://blairsvillescottishfestival.com/>.

## Brasstown Community Center Summer Concert Series presents The Barkers Brothers Band June 10

The Barkers Brothers Band is next in the Brasstown Community Center Summer Concert Series on Saturday June 10, 2023.

Delivering music that is "born out of the mountains," the Barker Brothers draw from the depths of five generations of acoustic traditions, to bring a touch of their past to the present. Foot stomping and heartwarming, the Barkers honor an authentic Appalachian heritage of old-time and gospel music combined with a riveting mix of high energy bluegrass and back road Americana designed to keep you on the edge of your seat while taking you back to a simpler time in life.

Jeremy Barker minored in Appalachian studies at East TN State University and has gained regional recognition for his extraordinary vocal prowess and seasoned command of the flattop guitar. Scott Barker effectively draws mellow harmonics from the mandolin and adds to the powerful harmony that resounds throughout their performance. Angie Barker energetically enhances the rhythm on the upright bass.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the music starts at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10, children under 12 are free. Hot dog plates, including a drink, homemade cobbler, ice cream and root beer floats will be available for purchase.

Fundraiser concerts are held May through August on the second and fourth Saturdays – except in July 2023 when dates had to be shifted. The center is a non-profit, and all proceeds from the concerts and facility rentals are for maintenance and upkeep of the building. Call 828-361-3040 or go to [www.brasstowncommunitycenter.org](http://www.brasstowncommunitycenter.org).



(L-R): Scott, Jeremy, and Angie Barker

# Night Market continues with second successful outing

By Brittany Holbrooks  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The second Hiwassee Night Market of the 2023 season was a major success on Friday, June 2, with plenty of people coming out to enjoy the festivities and soak in everything the evening outing had to offer on the Town Square.

This marks the fourth year of the event, and in that time, the First Friday Market has become a bona fide summer tradition. And each year brings something new. For example, guests could check out the new food trucks to try a bite of wild-caught seafood or traditional Caribbean meals.

"Today is wonderful," Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordielles said. "We've got a great turnout - 23 vendors, four food trucks (with hamburgers, hot dogs and) ice cream ... It's just great to bring the community together and have everybody have a good time. That's what we're here for."

Despite a brief rain shower, the sun quickly dried up the area beside the stage enough for folks to set out lawn chairs and listen to a

medley of blues and classic rock courtesy of the Whiskey Mountain Band; in the words of one couple, the venue offered "good food and good music."

Faith Lanphar had a fun outing with her friend Michelle Morrow and greyhound Kermit. As it turned out, Lanphar is a regular visitor.

"I try to get up here almost every first Friday of the month," said Lanphar, adding that the social aspect of the market is what draws her back. "I always talk to everyone at every booth. I do buy, by the way - I buy so much - and the music has been outstanding this year, it really has."

Morrow agreed, saying that the Night Market actually played a role in Lanphar teaching her to "get out of (her) shell," although she has her own reasons for attending: "Seeing the different vendors and their talent is amazing."

Jason Reina was there to sell gorgeous paintings featuring dazzling depictions of the night sky above nature scenes and backroads. He views it as an extension of his passion for hiking, and he also finds work as a shuttle driver for fellow

adventurers.

"I lived in Florida for 30 years," Reina said, having moved to the mountain two years ago. The Night Market was the first festival he's sold his work at, and he's found it to be "so far so good."

As for Larry and Debbie Salsman, they believe the Night Market has been "a nice addition to Hiwassee" that gets "nicer every time." In the four years since its inception, the market has changed a lot, and they were pleased to have a front-row seat to its development - and the band.

Several other vendors lined the circular path along with tents representing local organizations, businesses and even projects. The gazebo once again had a poster detailing the progress of the upcoming Paris Business Center, and Economic Development Director Denise McKay was on hand to answer any questions.

Meanwhile, on the side of the square closest to Hiwassee City Hall, Katie Miller called her mother "the mastermind" behind Bonnie Glen Luxury Candles even though she was manning the booth for the first time in her stead.



The Hiwassee Night Market runs every first Friday of the month through October, from 5-9 p.m. on the Town Square.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

"She's off on vacation in Hawaii right now," Miller said, teasing that she was "jealous." In truth, despite how intimidated she initially felt, Miller was enjoying herself. And besides, it was good practice, considering how she plans on keeping the business going "as long as possible."

"It's so casual; I love the music, (and) this food is so

good," Miller said, referring specifically to the shrimp tacos she bought from The Ark food truck.

"Head on over," Miller invited. "It's got pretty much everything you could want for a nice night out - food, drinks, music, any kind of thing you could buy and lots of very cute dogs."

Hiwassee's Night Mar-

ket is available at the Town Square on the first Friday evening of every month beginning at 5 p.m. and running until 9 p.m. The season is from May through October, so come by to enjoy the summertime treat while it lasts.

For any questions, contact Denise McKay at 706-896-2202 or dmckay@hiwasseeega.gov.

## Memorial Day...from Page 1A



Always an important moment in the Memorial Day Ceremony, the local veteran service organizations assisted with the memorial wreath laying.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

infamous phrase, "Give me liberty or give me death," Moss added, "You might think this is a little bit out of place today, but it's certainly not with what's taking place. We are in a war in this country, whether we recognize it or not; the war is raging."

To remain dormant against threats to America's freedoms, Moss said, would be gravely disrespectful to those who fought and gave their lives for the good of their country.

His speech was made even more compelling by the surroundings, as one guest later noted that the surrounding photos added "a whole different level" to the stones placed around the park honoring Towns County soldiers through World War I and World War II.

"We must do our part to preserve what has been handed to us," Moss said. "Let us remember the shop boys and the farm boys who took over the rifle and faced elite soldiers, many of them dying."

"Let us remember our fallen soldiers and let us pay tribute by what we do today," Moss further implored, going back to the start of America's history to briefly acknowledge the outstanding odds over which the American Revolution triumphed - and the losses it took to achieve victory.

A veteran of Vietnam, Moss has firsthand experience with the horrors of war. As a Marine, he "encountered more death than one would see in a lifetime," and he grew emotional recalling what front-line soldiers witness and must endure.

"You know, a combat soldier can often enter the scene of something they see,"

Moss said, referring to the vivid memories he and other veterans live with daily, often in the form of post-traumatic stress disorder. "They can smell the death ... (like) men burning in crashed helicopters."

Quietly, Moss shared that "about 22" veterans take their own lives every day because they continue to "enter the scene."

During his own service, Moss faced down death three times. The third and final experience came when he stepped on a landmine. Grievously injured and barely clinging to life, it was decided that Moss' family should be informed of his assumed impending death.

"I visualize a mother goes to the door; there's a knock at an ungodly time," Moss said. "She doesn't know what terror lurks behind that door. She opens the door and she freezes. She turns pale. Her knees are weak; she can hardly stand, and she screams, like no scream you have ever heard. She's lost a child."

"It's the most horrible, horrific information that can be given to any parent that is a loving and caring parent. It's horror in the first degree. I've seen some horror, but there's nothing like the horror of knowing you've lost a child."

After his own brother described the scene directly following the grim message, it made Moss think. For every death, whether on the battlefield or in training accidents - all in the line of duty - there is that "knock of terror," where a parent must be notified of their child's death. In the crowd, many were wiping their eyes.

"Today, we are facing

enemies within our government and enemies from without. Both seek to destroy the way of life that we have known, because what we are experiencing today is not what we have known," Moss said, having relayed the steep price of that "way of life."

"(The fallen) have given us liberty. They have brought it to us. It's up to us to maintain that liberty."

The Laying of Wreaths followed, with a memorial for each branch of the military courtesy of VFW Post 7807 plus Auxiliary; American Legion Post 23 plus Auxiliary; Sons of the American Legion Squadron 23; Marine Corps League, Unicoi Detachment 783; American Legion Riders; and Club 66 and Associates.

The North Georgia Honor Guard carried out the rifle salute just before Chaplain Richard Hoibraten performed Taps. With nary a sound but the wind rustling through the trees, American Legion Chaplain Scott Drummond administered a closing prayer asking for God's blessing for the United States and for America's respect to the Lord in return.

Although a complimentary lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers followed at the VFW Post, many attendees took some time to circle the park, carefully reading each name quite literally set in stone. Two women marveled at the shadows cast by a bench reading "One nation under God." Elsewhere, a family posed in front of a monument.

America's fallen, on both the local and the national level, may be gone, but they are not forgotten.

## Legislative Overview...from Page 1A

vetted. "You don't really know the effect of it, and in my reading of it, it seems vague and ambiguous and could cause a lot of confusion out here for people trying to implement this."

Added Gunter, "The ones that are for (the bill) argue that it doesn't allow anybody to just walk on your property to hunt, that you still have a right to prevent them from doing that. But there's others that look at it, because of the language, it's not spelled out like it should be."

Still, he reiterated his belief that the aforementioned Study Committee will likely "flesh it out" to allow for legal fixes if needed in the future.

"That's the good thing about all this," Gunter said. "If you get these messes in there, we can fix it next year. I'm just concerned about what will happen between now and then."

Now in the first half of his second term, Gunter reminded people that he had been selected to chair the House Judiciary Committee in 2023,

an assignment that was based primarily on his extensive legal knowledge as a former Superior Court Judge and District Attorney.

On the Judiciary Committee, Gunter is responsible for overseeing "a wide variety of measures relating to law, courts and judges, and constitutional amendments." Further, any legislation "that carries a possibility for civil penalties can be referred to the Judiciary Committee."

Gunter answered multiple questions in the meeting, in the process discussing his trepidation with things that are coming down the pipeline. For instance, the Biden administration has proposed highly restrictive emissions standards via the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In April, the EPA announced rules designed to "accelerate the ongoing transition to a clean vehicles future and tackle the climate crisis," ramping up regulatory

tactics aimed at getting the automobile industry to eventually stop producing gas-powered cars.

Based on the newly proposed emissions standards for light-, medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, the EPA projects that electric vehicles "could account for 67% of new light-duty vehicle sales and 46% of new medium-duty vehicle sales in (model year) 2032."

Gunter noted that Gov. Kemp has been working hard to court EV and battery manufacturers to get ahead of the electric push, but several meeting guests expressed concern over the plausibility of such far-reaching goals as those being enacted by the Biden administration.

The Mountain Movers & Shakers meet every Friday at 8 a.m. in Hiwassee's Sundance Grill. Speaking this Friday will be local Emergency Management Agency & 911 Director Marty Roberts, as well as Emergency Medical Services Director Ken Nicholson.

## Made in Georgia...from Page 1A

there's more to see than just shopping.

Crafting classes will be available on both days along with demonstrations, and the Lake Chatuge Lodge and Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds have sponsored the return of Georgia Mountain Falconry's Buster Brown and his raptors.

Guests can also stop by food vendors and grab anything from hamburgers and hot dogs to ice cream, homemade baked goods and more.

"We have been planning for this year's Made in Georgia Festival since I started as pres-

ident on October 31, 2022," Chamber President Julie Payne said. "I am very pleased with the vendors we have signed up for this year and hope that you will come out and see for yourself all the wonderful things that are made in Georgia."

Event sponsors include the Georgia Heart Institute; Burch Insurance; Impactful Advertising; Young Harris College; Lake Chatuge Lodge; the Towns County Commissioner's Office; the Towns County Convention & Visitors Bureau; the City of Hiwassee

Downtown Development Authority; Leaf Filter; Mountain Quilts; Georgia Grown; and the Georgia Mountain Fair, Inc.

"I want to thank Mary Ann Miller, our membership coordinator, for designing the ads for various publications, working on the layout for the vendors, and all her hard work this year," added Payne. "Thank you to our Board of Directors, together with their spouses, our ambassadors and members who have volunteered their time getting ready for and working the festival."

All proceeds from this event will go toward the Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce, which will help in supporting the economic growth and community of Towns County.

Payne hopes that this year's festival "sets attendance records and brings visitors to our wonderful area" to support Georgia growers and crafters.

For more information, visit [www.golakechatuge.com](http://www.golakechatuge.com) or call 706-896-4966.