

# Towns County Herald

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## July Fourth fun, family and fireworks at the fairgrounds



Happy Birthday, America! From the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on July 4, 2018. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

By Mark Novak  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Patriotic spectators gathered inside the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Wednesday, July 4, to enjoy the festivities that led up to the grand finale of the annual Independence Day fireworks display.

For the fifth year in a row, members of the North Mt. Zion Church of God, along with Pastor Raburne Wilson and his son, Associate Pastor Ryan Wilson, set up numerous booths and activities for families to participate in while the Raven and Red Band provided live music.

During the family-friendly event, the younger Pastor Wilson recalled what the Fourth of July always means to him and why he comes out to celebrate with the community

on the nation's birthday.

"It's a time when we can all come together and celebrate our freedom, celebrate together and honor those that have given their lives so that we can have freedom," said Wilson. "It means so much to me from a Christian perspective because I can see how it relates to the freedom that Christ gave to all us when he died on the cross."

"This freedom explosion that we do out here on the Fourth of July is a way that our church is partner with the fairgrounds to allow us to love on our community and show people the love of Christ as we celebrate together our shared freedom."

Children and adults alike shared in the excitement of the Independence Day celebration by showing their patriotism with red, white and blue attire,

See *Fireworks*, Page 6A



The annual Independence Day fireworks at the fairgrounds is one of the most well-attended community events of the year. Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Winner of Most Creative Boat in the 2018 Fourth of July Lake Chatuge Boat Parade. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

## Fourth of July Boat Parade back by popular demand

By Mark Novak  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Twenty-eight boats dressed in patriotic red, white and blue colors joined the Lake Chatuge Boat Parade on Wednesday, July 4.

The boats carried passengers who were themselves dressed in red,

white and blue clothing, as the parade set out from the Ridges Marina in Hiwassee.

Many spectators gathered along the banks of Lake Chatuge to watch the parade pass by while people on the boats waved American flags and played patriotic music from their vessels.

Boaters Jim and Danielle

Payne from Franklin, North Carolina, brought their little Fire Rescue Boat to the parade, complete with a water cannon on the front that would normally be used to put out small fires.

"This is a lot of fun," said Payne. "This is actually the first time we were able to come out for the Fourth of July

See *Boat Parade*, Page 6A

## Sheriff Clinton, Gene Moss talk Fourth Amendment

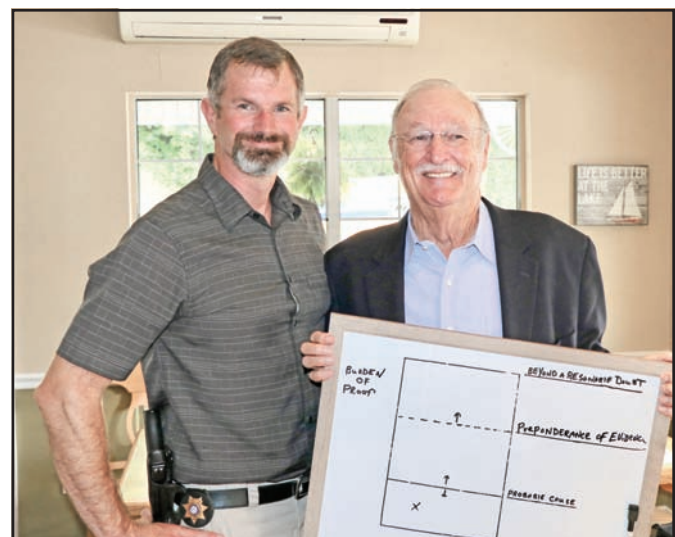
By Mark Smith  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton teamed up with retired lawman Gene Moss to discuss the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in a meeting of the Mountain Movers and Shakers on Friday, June 29.

The Fourth Amendment guarantees American citizens the right "to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures," and further states that no warrants shall be issued "but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

Moss, a retired lieutenant colonel with the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, described the Fourth Amendment in layman's terms as being "a basic expectation of privacy."

"That's what this is all about," said Moss, noting that, at the very least, there must be some form of probable cause to attempt for a judge to make the decision to issue a search warrant.



Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton with retired Lt. Col. Gene Moss at the June 29 meeting of the Mountain Movers and Shakers. Photo by Mark Smith

By the same token, he said, a law enforcement officer needs to have, at the very least, probable cause or consent to search a vehicle. Controversial searches are the most controversial of searches, he said.

The courts and law enforcement are less stringent about the requirements for vehicle searches, said Moss, because a vehicle is movable,

whereas a home, an office, a warehouse and the like are stationary.

Therefore, said Moss, if an officer of the law has probable cause, it is not necessary for him or her to get a search warrant. Probable cause is sufficient for law enforcement to conduct a vehicle search.

However, the officer must follow the policies of the

See *4th Amendment*, Page 6A

## Two World War II Vets presented Quilts of Valor



World War II Vets Shirley Goring and Susan Young wearing their newly bestowed Quilts of Valor on Thursday, July 5, inside Brasstown Manor Senior Living. Photo by Mark Novak

By Mark Novak  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Local World War II Veterans Shirley Goring and Frantz Goring each received a Quilt of Valor during an afternoon ceremony at Brasstown Manor Senior Living on Thursday, July 5.

Sonnenfeld was a member of the WAVES military unit of the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War II, and Goring served in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

Susan Young is the Quilts of Valor liaison for the local Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild, and she opened up the ceremony by giving a description of what the group does.

"We are thrilled to be here today," said Young. "Our mission is to honor our service members and veterans with a Quilt of Valor. We know that the debt we owe our veterans can never really truly be repaid."

"In our own way, as we make our quilts in red, white and blue and gold, we feel we are

doing something to honor our veterans."

Young went on to give a brief history of the two veterans being honored with quilts that Thursday.

"After enlisting in the Army Air Corps on Oct. 5, 1942, Frantz performed his basic training in Chicago, Illinois," said Young. "Frantz began working at the 2nd Air Force training command, instructing navigators and bombardiers with radar equipment and

See *Quilts of Valor*, Page 3A

## Authorities seeking help to locate missing teens

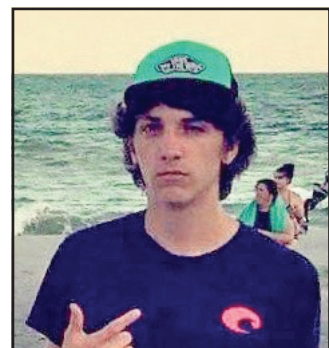
By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

BLAIRSVILLE – Two local teens allegedly took off together in the early morning hours of Wednesday, July 4, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

They had not been located as of press time Monday.

Kirstin Ledford, 16, is believed to have left town with her boyfriend, Cole Garrett, also 16.

Sheriff's investigators are asking the public to help them



Cole Garrett



Kirstin Ledford

find them and Garrett. "They are missing, unaccounted for and potentially

endangered," said UCSO Detective Marc Pilote. "There

See *Missing Teens*, Page 3A

## Three Towns County residents arrested in Blairsville



Robert Payne



Cassie Cooper



Curtis Cooper

according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

The sheriff's office received information that a fugitive named Robert Payne, 42, of Young Harris, was staying with a man named David Burrell, 33, of Blairsville.

Authorities executed a search warrant at the residence on Copperhead Road, and Burrell and the following individuals were arrested: Keith Thomas, 46, of Blairsville; Edward Houston, 54, of

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**N. Mt. Zion Food Distribution**  
July 19 10-Noon  
See page 6B

**Food Pantry Spaghetti Dinner**  
July 13th 5-8 PM  
Towns County Civic Center  
See page 6A

**GMREC Backyard Milk Goats Seminar**  
July 18 10 AM  
See page 9A

**FREE GED Summer Session Old Rec. Center**  
July 12th 4 PM  
See page 9A