

## Legion...from Page 1A

for the boys, and Statesboro's Georgia Southern University for the girls.

Kendall Floyd is the fifth male student and Summer Swanson is the fourth female student from Towns County to participate in the program, which usually takes place the first week in June each year.

The program is an exercise in self-government via a two-party system. Once the students are gathered, they are divided equally into two parties and tasked with forming the government of a mythical state at the local and state levels.

Committees are formed and bills are written and voted on, just like a real state government.

At the end of the week, the participants in each state

democratically elect two "senators" to attend Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., and the same process occurs during Girls State, resulting in Girls Nation.

The program is designed to be educational in a hands-on way so that students better understand how American government works and what part the U.S. Constitution plays in the American way of life.

Floyd said his group was divided at the start into Federalists and Nationalists, and he applied what he'd learned in a dual enrollment civics class at Young Harris College while still a junior in high school.

"I learned a lot about how Georgia's state government worked because we created

a mythical 51st state," said Floyd. "It was modeled after what Georgia does, so a lot of that was interesting learning about all the different positions.

"We even had a day reserved for the Georgia State Patrol, which came in and talked to us about a lot of what they did. That was really cool."

For her part, Swanson enjoyed the entire bill-making process, which reflected how elected politicians work together to pass laws in the state.

"At the beginning of the week, all the girls turned in the bills they wrote," said Swanson. "Then, at the House (of Representatives), we either passed them or didn't pass them, and we got into groups. You get to see what you don't see as a citizen when you're not in it."

Floyd, who also attended the Governor's Honors Program over the summer in the area of Social Studies, said the experience was one he will carry with him moving forward.

Swanson echoed Floyd's sentiment, adding that her biggest takeaway was that, in a representative democracy, "every vote counts, because we had very close calls with things that one person made a difference in."

Both Floyd and Swanson

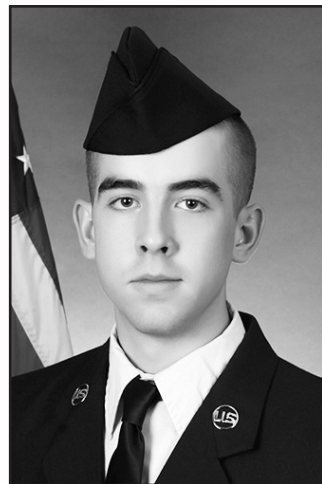
said that they will be promoting the benefits of Boys and Girls State with their fellow students, especially their junior year schoolmates.

Robin Halfon is the American Legion Auxiliary Post 23 member who headed up the local drive for participation in Girls State for Towns County in 2018.

Lloyd MacBride is the Senior Vice-Commander of American Legion Post 23, and he headed up the local drive for participation in Boys State for Towns County in 2018.

Halfon and MacBride both asked that the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, United Community Bank, Chatuge Custom Homes LLC, Mountain Realty, and Michelle's Hair Designs be recognized for their sponsorship.

## MacDougald graduates Basic



**Airman Stratton A. MacDougald**  
U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Stratton A. MacDougald graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, TX.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

MacDougald is the son of Guy W. Shook of Blairsville, GA. He is a 2014 graduate of Towns County High School, Hiwassee, GA.

## Career Coach visits Hiwassee

The WorkSource Georgia Mountains Career Coach will visit the Towns County Library on Tuesday, August 28 from 10 AM – 2 PM. The library is located at 99 South Berrong Street in Hiwassee.

We will help local residents search & apply for jobs, write resumes & cover letters, discern their career interests, and learn about WIOA funded training opportunities. This is a Public Event, and there is no charge for our services!

## Citizens Climate Lobby to meet

The next monthly Citizens Climate Lobby chapter meeting is Thursday, August 23, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Amy and Gil Nicolson. A potluck dish is encouraged. Please call to RSVP and for directions at 828-389-4204.

## Hope House

Hope House is a faith-based, non-profit benevolence center to help Union County residents and homeless in times of critical need. Hours of operation: Monday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & Thursday 1 p.m.-4 p.m., located at 178 Brackett's Way, Blairsville, (706)781-3090.

## Arrest and Fire Reports

Local law enforcement provides the following information for publication. Names are spelled as they were when received from the law enforcement agencies. It is important to remember that the following individuals have been charged only and are presumed innocent until such time as they are found guilty by a court or enter a guilty plea. Addresses of persons under arrest are no longer available from Sheriff's Office.



8/17/18	Chelsea Kay Alferink, age 21
	Hold for State
8/19/18	Michael Richard Collins, age 24
	Battery - family violence, Cruelty to persons 65 or older, Obstruction of an officer (4 counts)
8/13/18	Jessica Lynn Cox, age 32
	Probation violation
8/19/18	Cody Jo Crowley, age 40
	Discharging firearm while under influence of alcohol or drugs
8/17/18	Taylor Raye Lewis, age 23
	Failure to appear
8/19/18	Randall Leo McNabb, age 60
	Sentenced to Caldwell Det. Ctr.
8/17/18	Jeffery Dale Plott, age 47
	Marijuana - possess less than 1 oz.
8/16/18	Rachel Taylor Skipper, age 42
	Driving while license suspended or revoked, Knowingly driving vehicle on suspended, cancelled or revoked registration, Speeding, Willful obstruction of law enforcement officers
8/13/18	Kevin Shane Sutton, age 43
	Probation violation (2 counts)
8/14/18	Elijah Seth Thomason, age 28
	Burglary - 2nd degree, Criminal attempt to commit felony, Possession of firearm or knife during commission or attempt to commit
8/17/18	Dale Robert Carver, age 46
	Serve weekend
8/15/18	Paul Ray Chesser, age 59
	Serve 72 hours
8/18/18	Rita Booth Free, age 58
	Serve 24 hours
8/12/18	Larry Scott Johnson, age 48
	Brake lights & turn signals, Driving while license suspended or revoked, Failure to drive w/in single lane
8/17/18	Gerald Dean Littrell, age 59
	Serve weekend
8/18/18	Jason Aaron Medlin, age 23
	DUI, Failure to drive w/in single lane
8/18/18	Jacob Lea Rose, age 37
	Driving while license suspended or revoked, Possession & use of drug-related objects, Possession of methamphetamine

## Parent Night at Towns County Schools

The Towns County School System is excited to be implementing Living Tree. Living Tree is a communication tool that will increase engagement between the school and family. Towns County Schools recognize that families want to be actively engaged in their children's education during the critical K-12 years. Towns County Schools recognize parents will always be the first and most important educators in their children's lives. Often times, it is difficult for parents to keep up with all of their kids' daily lessons and life experiences at school. Every parent knows how hard it is to get an answer to the simple question "what did you do at school today?" There are also very limited opportunities for parents to actually see into the school. With today's technology, it doesn't have to be this way. Parents should have one place to look for everything they need to know about

their children's education, not five places to look for bits and pieces of information. LivingTree provides Towns County a solution that gives parents the equivalent of a front-row seat or a window into the school. LivingTree offers a web and mobile (iOS and Android) service that aims to make it easy for schools to communicate, schedule, and engage the families in a single, safe and integrated place.

Towns County Schools will present LivingTree to families of all three schools on Tuesday, August 28, at 6 PM in the Towns County Schools Auditorium. At this meeting parents will learn about what LivingTree can do to increase communication between home and school. Parents will also learn how to set up their LivingTree account and to use the features in Learning Tree. This informative meeting should last no more than one hour. We hope to see you there.