

Ledford...from Page 1A

list of the mascots (from our region)."

Ledford accepted the challenge, and after researching the schools involved, he got down to drawing.

The sophomore turned in his artwork a mere two days later, and the result surprised Stowers—Ledford had perfectly captured the spirit of the idea, focused around a triumphant Indian claiming dominion over his conquered rivals, like the Hayesville Yellow Jackets, the George Walton Bulldogs, the Lakeview Lions and others.

Overall, Ledford said that the experience of designing the school's spirit T-shirt has been a fun and rewarding experience, a sentiment echoed by Coach Stowers, who is excited to show off the young man's art to the schools and community.

In fact, Ledford has done such a tremendous job on his drawing that Coach Stowers has already asked him to design the 2018-2019 spirit T-shirt, which Ledford said he will happily undertake next year.

And though Ledford couldn't fit it into his schedule this year, he's looking forward to taking art next year as a junior.

He has an important message for other kids who may have a talent like he does.

"Stay creative and show off your work. Don't keep it to yourself," said Ledford, who plans to attend art school to pursue a career in animation after he graduates Towns County High in a few years.

As for Coach Stowers, he's seen his fair share of student talent over the years,



A close-up of the original Spirit Shirt design by Matthew Ledford.

and both he and the schools are working hard this year to make sure others see it, too.

"We have several kids that are phenomenal artists in the high school," said Stowers. "We haven't done a very good job of showcasing their talent as regularly as we should."

"This is just one way we plan on showcasing some of the kids that have some incredible talents here that

nobody really knows about."

Coach Stowers said the new spirit shirts should be available by the Indians' first away football game of the season against George Walton Academy on Friday, Sept. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

John Landress of Threadz Ink Printing helped to color Ledford's expertly penciled design.

Book Sale at Chatuge Hospital

The Chatuge Regional Hospital & Nursing Home Volunteers will host a book sale at the Chatuge Regional Hospital, Front Lobby, Sept. 25 - 27, 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be various gently used paperbacks, hardbacks, children's books and cookbooks.

If you have any unwanted books you would like to donate, you may bring them to the Information Desk at the hospital. Proceeds from this sale will benefit the Nursing Home and Hospital. The Auxiliary has books for sale at the hospital as an on-going project and donations are always appreciated. T(Aug30,F)JSH

Candidates...from Page 1A

currently serves as the Post 2 councilmember, qualified to retain his seat, though Patsy Owens qualified for Post 2 also, and she will be running against Chastain in November.

As for the Special Election for the remaining two years of the term vacated by Ordiales, three people have qualified for that post: Ann Wedgwood, Myron Ketter and

Nancy Noblet. The qualifying fee for the office of Hiwassee mayor was \$1,278.23, while qualifying for each council post was \$72.

Williams...from Page 1A

of 44 Top 10 singles, including a total of 10 No. 1 singles, during his career.

In 1982, he had nine albums simultaneously on the Billboard Top Country Albums chart, all of which were original works and not compilations. In 1987 and 1988, Williams was named Entertainer of the Year by the Country Music Association. In 1987, 1988, and 1989, he

won the same award from the Academy of Country Music.

Some of his legendary albums include "Family Tradition," "Whiskey Bent and Hell Bound," "Habits, Old and New," "Rowdy," "The Pressure Is On," "High Notes," "Strong Stuff," "Man of Steel," "Major Moves," "Five-O," and "Montana Café."

He is/was the voice of the Monday Night Football

song. He returns this fall to his old stomping grounds on ESPN's Monday Night Football.

The Monday Night Football song is based on Hank's 1984 hit "All My Rowdy Friends Are Coming Over Tonight."

For those lucky enough to have tickets, this could be the event of the year.

Shook...from Page 1A

fine on each count.

"In addition, he has what is referred to as sex offender conditions, and he'll be required to perform 300 hours of community service, he'll be under a Fourth Amendment waiver, which means he can be searched at any time by law enforcement. As a convicted felon, he will not be allowed to carry firearms for the remainder of his life."

Shook also will be required to submit a DNA sample to law enforcement, and he will be subject to a curfew, and, he will not be allowed to have contact with the victim or any of the witnesses of the case against him.

Shook was a fugitive from justice for three days until his capture in Clay County, North Carolina, almost a year ago, following a manhunt that ended across the state line, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Reggie Shook was arrested Sept. 3, 2016, in Clay County, North Carolina, after being wanted in Union County since Sept. 1, 2016, according to Union County Sheriff's Office reports.

Leading up to his arrest, Shook was wanted on two felony counts of rape, though he fled Union County before investigators could detain him, sheriff's reports show.

Once in custody, Shook confessed to his crimes, according to Union County Sheriff's Detective Lt. Daren Osborn.

A native of Towns County, Shook had been living in Union County for more than a decade, though he was hiding out at a relative's house in Clay County when he was taken into custody by UCSO Lt. Osborn, UCSO Detective Sgt. Tom Mangifesta and Clay County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Giles, sheriff's reports show.

Shook was extradited to Union County, and had been incarcerated since September 2016, prior to his plea agreement last week in Towns County Superior Court.

Perdue...from Page 1A

responsibility regarding the federal government.

"If you don't have it, don't spend it, just like you do in your life, just like you do in your business," said Sen. Perdue. "Unfortunately, the federal government, because we're the reserve currency of the world, has figured out how to go and print money, and we do it better than anybody in history"

The third principle, according to Sen. Perdue, is limited government, and he went on to say that every progressive attempt of Big Government to solve big societal problems over the last 100 years has failed.

In making his point, Perdue cited the so-called "war on poverty," the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Postal Service, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and other federal initiatives and institutions that are running out of money, like Social Security and Medicare.

"But there is good news coming, and I just want to make sure you understand how deep down this rathole we really are," said Sen. Perdue.

The U.S. National Debt is currently right around \$20 trillion dollars, and the federal government is borrowing more money every day to keep up with spending.

With a \$4 trillion annual federal budget that operates at a deficit close to \$500 billion a year, the only direction for the national debt to go is up in its current trajectory.

A practical approach to solving the debt crisis, according to Perdue, is to take advantage of every useful tool available — taxes, spending cuts, regulatory reform to spur economic growth, fixing the federal budget process and more.

"And it's got to be over a long period of time," said Sen. Perdue. "We've got to pick a point in the future, 20 or 30 years from now, and say that debt as a percentage of the GDP has got to be X, and here's the roadmap to get there, and these are the painful things that we have to do to get there."

Another topic touched on by Perdue was the current state of the U.S. health care system, which has become more and more destabilized in recent years, and last month failed to be overhauled in the U.S. Senate.

"I'm hopeful that when we go back up there, we'll be able to re-engage in that," said Sen. Perdue. "Lamar Alexander is leading the charge right now in the Health Committee, and I think that we'll really see some progress in a bipartisan way to get there."

Earlier this month, Sen. Perdue appeared alongside fellow Republican Sen. Tom Cotton and President Donald Trump in a nationally televised unveiling of the Reforming American Immigration for a Strong Economy Act, or RAISE Act.

The RAISE Act is a piece of legislation that aims to spur "economic growth and raise working Americans' wages by giving priority to the best-skilled immigrants from around the world and reducing overall immigration by half," according to a news release by Sen. Perdue.

Such dedicated support from the president is a clear sign that Perdue is working closely with the White House to pass initiatives that he believes will better America.

During the Power Lunch, Sen. Perdue spoke on the president's agenda, stating that Trump has been working toward "getting this economy

going again, creating jobs for your family and my family, re-engaging the rest of the world, and reinvesting in our military."

Above all, Sen. Perdue remained optimistic throughout his talk that the U.S. will continue to find its way through to brighter economic days.

"Consumer confidence is at a 16-year high, CEO confidence is at a 20-year high," said Perdue. "This economy wants to turn, it really does. This regulatory work that's already been done — this is the largest regulatory reform since Ronald Reagan got in office in 1980, and it's beginning to be appreciated by people around the world who see it."

After the senator spoke, Mike Beatty with Great Promise Partnership presented the Cornerstone Community Award to local stakeholders, thanking them for helping students to finish school while acquiring valuable real-world job experience.

The Union County Sheriff's Office and Blairsville Police Department provided security for the event.

Those in attendance for the Power Lunch, catered by Amazing Grace Catering & Events, included local and state officials, as well as business leaders from all over the county.

Chamber President Regina Allison welcomed everyone to the luncheon; UCSO Capt. Doug Loyd led the Pledge of Allegiance; Fellowship of the Hills Pastor Marty Duncan delivered the invocation; Director of Operations Eland Jones spoke on behalf of Windstream; and United Community Banks, Inc. Chairman and CEO Jimmy Tallent introduced Sen. Perdue.

Garrett...from Page 1A

man pounding his way through the cinderblock exterior of the mall and into a back wall, according to police.

Upon being discovered, the man packed up his tools and took off, after which a 911 call was made from the scene, according to police.

The call came in at 6:04 p.m., and two Hiwassee PD officers responded to the area within a minute of the call, at which point witnesses told the officers the man had fled on foot into the wooded area behind Fred's Super Dollar, according to police.

Local first responders, including firefighters, officers and deputies, helped to establish a perimeter around the search area, and the sheriff's Bloodhound K-9 Copper picked up the suspect's scent and led officers into the woods, according to police.

Not long after, authorities spotted the suspect, later identified as Garrett by authorities, fleeing across Bell Creek Road, where he ran behind the McDonald's restaurant, according to police.

Unfortunately for Garrett, more than a dozen sheriff's deputies responded to the 911 call, as they had just let out of a

previously scheduled pre-eclipse training session, according to police.

Finding himself with cops seemingly on every side, Garrett entered the water and began to swim out into Lake Chatuge, according to police.

"While he was swimming, we saw him go underwater a couple of times, and I think that's probably when he was taking his pants and shoes off," said Chief Smith. "That's when we got really concerned, thinking he was going to drown."

Towns County Fire responded with a rescue boat from Station 1, just in case Garrett needed to be saved or pulled from the water, according to the chief.

Garrett attempted to make

landfall via several docks, only to be met by authorities at each dock, according to police.

Exhausted from the pursuit, Garrett finally exited the lake near the Towns County Senior Center, where Chief Smith arrested him without further incident, according to police.

Garrett's vehicle was found at the scene, and is being held as part of the investigation, according to police.

Separately, Chief Smith said that the speed sign in town counted 40,000 passes the weekend of the eclipse, though those totals did not include eclipse day numbers.

The chief would like to thank Rental Source for lending the police department two gas-powered golf carts for policing duties during the eclipse, which Chief Smith said came in handy.