

Old Unicoi Trail DAR promotes Constitution Week



There are two documents of paramount importance to American history: The Declaration of Independence, which forged our national identity, and The United States Constitution, which set forth the framework for the federal government in use today. While Independence Day is a widely celebrated national holiday, few people know about Constitution Week, an annual commemoration of the living document that upholds and protects the freedoms central to our American way of life. The 2018 celebration is September 17-23.

"The framers created a Constitution that translated into law the ideals upon which our nation was built," said Old Unicoi Trail DAR Chapter Regent Annette Bomar Hopgood. "Their vision was so forward thinking that their words still guide us today. No American history education can be com-

plete without a thorough understanding of the impact the Constitution has had and will have on the lives of American citizens. By fostering knowledge of and appreciation for the Constitution and the inalienable rights it affords to all Americans, DAR strives to keep alive the memory of the men and women who secured our nation's independence, whose bravery and sacrifice made possible the liberties we enjoy today."

Beverly Shreeve and Shelli Kelly of Hiwassee, Wanda Gibson and Evelyn Lamar of Blairsville and Karen Alsop and Nancy Page of Blue Ridge and Morganton are local DAR members leading efforts in their respective communities. Fannin, Towns and Union Commissioners will have signed a proclamation calling upon citizens to read the Constitution and reaffirm their support for the ideals the Framers held in 1787. The proclamation additionally called for citizens to vigilantly protect the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties.

Activities will include displays at public libraries in Towns, Union and Fannin counties; pocket copies of the U.S. Constitution will be made available at libraries and to 10th graders in American History and U.S. Government classes; bookmarks with the Preamble will be provided 4th graders in all counties. Additional exhibit may be found at county offices.

Old Unicoi Trail Chapter meets the second Saturday September through December and February through April. Visit the Chapter's facebook page at www.facebook.com/OldUnicoiTrail3117GA/. If you are interested in attending an Old Unicoi Trail Chapter meeting as a guest or prospective member, contact oldunicoitrail@gmail.com.

The Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1890, promotes historic preservation, education and patriotism. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible to join. NT(Sep12,F5)SH

Pipeline...from Page 1A

the Sheriff's Office, ARDEO and multiple other law enforcement agencies swarmed on suspected methamphetamine traffickers in North Carolina and Georgia, executing numerous search warrants in Georgia and Clay County, North Carolina.

This unified law enforcement effort, dubbed "Operation Unicoi Pipeline," is the result of a 16-month investigation originating when Towns County Sheriff's Investigators began to compile criminal intelligence related to drug trafficking in North Georgia and North Carolina.

The investigation was a combined effort of the Sheriff's Office and ARDEO, with support from the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office.

Ultimately, the investigation revealed that Charles Michael Ledford and Bobby Roger Burch were responsible for the distribution of more than 150 kilograms of methamphetamine in North Georgia and Clay County, North Carolina, over the past



Michael Byers

two years.

Information was also developed indicating that Michael Byers was an instrumental part in the distribution of methamphetamine in Towns County and the surrounding area.

Authorities seized more than 15 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, stolen firearms, and currency derived from methamphetamine distribution.

The street value of the seized illegal narcotics is greater than \$725,000.

Byers, 46, of Young Harris, was arrested on Friday, Sept. 7, on a traffic stop by Towns County Sheriff's Deputies, pursuant to three warrants for Violation of Georgia Controlled Substance Act, distribution of methamphetamine.

At the time of the traffic stop, sheriff's investigators seized the BMW 325 Byers was driving.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton would like to express a special thanks to the Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office, as well as the Enotah District Attorney's Office, for all their assistance in this operation.

The sheriff would also like to extend his sincere appreciation to all the other law enforcement agencies in the other jurisdictions that helped in "Operation Unicoi Pipeline" to rid these communities of dangerous drugs for a job well done.



Dozens of guns were seized as part of "Operation Unicoi Pipeline."

Clark...from Page 1A

engineer, and infrastructure was what I did, so I kind of fit into the planning thing," said Clark. "They had an opening, and they asked me to do that then, so I took it."

Now, as a councilperson, Clark looks forward to applying his background and experience toward helping the city on the infrastructure side of things.

"Maybe I can help along the way," said Clark. "That's what I did for a living - I designed subdivisions, water systems, sewer systems, streets, all that sort of stuff."

Councilmembers Lynne Nation and John Kelley both spoke highly of Clark in the meeting.

"I've worked with him on the planning commission, and he's very knowledgeable," said Nation. "He would be a great asset for a lot of the things that I feel are over my head, to be honest."

Added Dr. Kelley: "My personal thoughts are that your experience is something that we could absolutely use during the next few years with the growth and the projects that we're going to be facing."

Clark retired and moved to the city in 2010, and many people know him as the owner/operator of Cupid Falls Farm, where he takes care of 23 alpacas.

The council will likely be swearing in another new member next month, as councilman Jared Champion has resigned his seat after finding a new job south of Atlanta.

Unfortunately, the city has struggled to keep six members on the council in recent years, which has proven troublesome, as it takes at least four members to make a quorum.

Moving forward, the council will be exploring the possibility of changing the charter to remove a council seat, making a five-person council instead of six.

This would enable the city to lower the council quorum to three members instead of four, which would make conducting city business easier when council members had to be absent.



Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby was happy to welcome a new councilperson on Sept. 4. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

In other council news, the city held two public hearings prior to the start of the Sept. 4 regular meeting.

The first hearing dealt with amending the city's master fee schedule to include a new water and sewer rate structure for a 4-inch residential meter.

Once adopted, the new structure will benefit the residents of Young Harris Apartments.

As previously reported, the apartment complex houses 14 families and operates on a single 4-inch water meter.

Back when the building was developed, the developer asked for the 4-inch water meter instead of the 2-inch water meter. In years past, the city didn't have a separate rate for 4-inch water meters, so the apartments enjoyed the 2-inch rate.

However, when the new water/sewer rate schedule went into effect last year, it incorporated a new rate for 4-inch meters, and the residents have struggled to afford the new rates.

The apartments are coded RD 515, for "affordable multifamily rental housing for very low, low, and moderate-income families, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities," per HUD.gov.

As it stands, residents are looking at water/sewer bills totaling more than \$100 a month, and the new rate will help Boyd

Management, which manages the apartments, to keep from losing the property.

The second public hearing conducted on Sept. 4 dealt with changes to the city's sign ordinance as recommended by City Attorney Marvin Harkins.

Changes to be made upon final adoption include the creation of a 45-day window in which to act on sign applications; removal of the requirement of a sign permit to fly a flag; and the limiting of banner signs to 32 square feet in size.

Subsequent to the start of the regular city meeting, the council held the first reading of the amendments discussed in the two public hearings, and the council is expected to hold a second reading and adoption of the amendments next month.

Also in the meeting, the council adopted the rollback millage rate of 2.89 mills.

The council will meet next on Sept. 18 for an administrative committee meeting to discuss both the 2018 amended budget and the 2019 budget. This meeting will take place at 6 p.m.

The city will also be holding a zoning ordinance public hearing on Oct. 2 at 6:50 p.m.

All city meetings will take place at Young Harris City Hall.

Queen...from Page 1A

of whom were selected by their peers to serve as Homecoming Royalty.

Escorting Bury that evening was her younger sister Anya, and Cornett was escorted by her father, Indian Football Head Coach John Cornett.

Homecoming King and Indian quarterback Trent

Bradshaw took some time away from the locker room at halftime to appear with Bury and Cornett for photos.

The Indian Raider Marching Band performed during the Homecoming ceremony, as the members of the 2018 Girls Homecoming Court were escorted down the

field by loved ones.

Making the evening even more special, the Indians defeated the Andrews, North Carolina, Wildcats 21-19 to win the 2018 Homecoming Game.

For more Homecoming coverage, check out this week's Sports Section inside.

Carter...from Page 1A

in Hiwassee, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Detectives determined that Carter left the Marathon station in a red Ford pickup belonging to her, according to

the Sheriff's Office.

Her truck was located at a residence in Clay County, North Carolina, on Sunday afternoon, and investigators believe Carter is somewhere in the area of

Hiwassee and Hayesville, North Carolina.

For further updates, please see www.townscountyherald.net.