

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Heroes, victims honored in annual 9/11 tribute

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

The morning of Sept. 11, 2024, was crisp and clear in Hiwassee, much like the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, when 19 radical Islamic extremists hijacked four commercial airplanes and used them to commit mass murder, terror and destruction on American soil.

And while the weather was lovely last Wednesday, the occasion was bittersweet as more than 100 residents – many of them veterans and first responders – attended the local Patriot Day observance to honor the sacrifices and memories of the 2,977 people killed in 9/11.

Sole Commissioner

Cliff Bradshaw welcomed people to the Hiwassee Town Square promptly at 9:45 a.m.

By that time of the morning exactly 23 years ago, the Twin Towers in New York City had been hit by airplanes loaded with innocent travelers, as had the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia; evacuations had begun in Washington, D.C.

Not long after, at 10:03 a.m., brave passengers and crew members of United Airlines Flight 93 broke into their cockpit to stop four hijackers, forcing a crash in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, that undoubtedly spared many more innocent victims in the nation's capital.

It was an unthinkable tragedy that left grievous wounds in the American

See 9/11 Tribute, Page 7



Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw was proud to pose with the local firefighters who completed the 9/11 Memorial Walk last Wednesday. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

TCSO, YHC Police place murder suspect in custody

News Special

The Towns County Sheriff's Office and the Young Harris College Police Department worked together last week to locate a 16-year-old male sought in connection with an alleged carjacking involving homicide in DeKalb County.

According to the Sheriff's Office, the search began after authorities received a call on Tuesday, Sept. 10, about a vehicle abandoned in a wooded area off Thomas Town Road near the college campus.

After connecting the abandoned vehicle to the homicide in DeKalb County, the Sheriff's Office provided a description of the wanted young man and warned the public to be on the lookout for a murder suspect who was being considered as armed and dangerous.

Members of the public were informed to call 911 if they spotted him, and the Sheriff's Office and YHC Police patrolled the area heavily in search of the suspect, including through the night.

While the whereabouts of the subject remained unknown, "classes were canceled and students encouraged to stay in their residence halls,



Young Harris was abuzz last week with news of an alleged murder suspect being sought near the college campus. Photo/Facebook

out of an abundance of caution," according to the college.

At approximately 10:15 a.m. the next day, on Wednesday, Sept. 11, the Sheriff's Office received a call in reference to the wanted individual in the Enotah Hall dorm on campus after he apparently knocked on a door to charge his phone.

Deputies and college police responded, and the subject – a juvenile – was taken into custody without incident. No weapons were located, and he

was subsequently turned over to the DeKalb County Police Department.

"The College wants to thank YHC Police, Towns County Sheriffs, and the observant students whose reports made this capture possible," the college posted to Facebook on Sept. 11.

It remained unclear at press time as to why the suspect drove two hours north to end up on foot at the Young Harris College campus.

Page offers insight into Project Chimps sanctuary

By Brittany Holbrooks
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Project Chimps Outreach Coordinator Nancy Page didn't monkey around while captivating the Mountain Movers & Shakers Sept. 13 with stories about chimpanzees rescued from laboratories and sharing information on the nonprofit sanctuary that takes them in.

Despite common misconceptions, chimps are not actually monkeys, belonging instead to the great ape family. Apes are distinguishable from monkeys due to their lack of tails, and most of them – except for humans and orangutans – are confined in the wild to the rainforests of Africa.

Due to the fact that they share more than 95% of their DNA with humans, chimps were used in laboratory settings until 2015, when the U.S. banned their use as test subjects.

In 2016, Project Chimps opened its doors to provide some of these former experimentation victims their "happily ever after" in a facility



Nancy Page of Project Chimps was excited to speak with the Mountain Movers & Shakers civic group last Friday. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

described by Page as a "chimpanzee retirement home."

"If we took our chimps and tossed them out in Africa, they would be killed," Page said about why the primates can't be released into the wild. While certainly not considered domesticated, lab-born chimps don't have the learned knowledge it takes to survive on their own.

Currently, the 236-acre facility houses 95 chimps

that originated from the New Iberian Research Facility in Louisiana. The apes arrive 10 at a time on a brightly painted trailer, complete with windows. To reduce stress, there are no overnight stops at hotels, and after a 14-hour ride, they make it to their new home.

"It's their time to live," Page said, sharing the organization's motto that encapsulates the goal of

See Project Chimps, Page 5

City Council makes budget amendments, talks water

By Brittany Holbrooks
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Young Harris City Council members revealed at their Sept. 10 regular meeting that they would help fund a new project for the Art Department at Young Harris College.

The new "art pavilion" will look much like the one installed out front of the Young Harris Wing House and will serve as a place for students to enjoy working outside while being protected from the elements.

In other news, Mayor Andrea Gibby said that, pertaining to 2024 budget adjustments accepted by the council that evening, "we already know that insurance went up, so you'll see that across the board."

The amended budget also reflects a new maintenance truck being paid for in full rather than financed, as well as engineering costs related to the water and wastewater treatment.

Council members held a second reading and enactment of the Zoning Cleanup



Mayor Andrea Gibby, City Attorney Marvin Harkins and Finance Officer Ana Hess in the September meeting of the Young Harris City Council. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

Ordinance. The document makes 14 changes to the current ordinance, primarily related to building types, lot size, Planned Unit Development construction, and correcting text errors and misnumbering.

Systemwide water meter installation is nearly done; according to Public Works Director Dean Stanley, contractors are returning on Oct. 10 to finish setting up the remaining handful of meters.

On another water note, the Georgia Department of Transportation is having the city reroute its waterlines due to the Georgia 515 expansion

and relocation project, but in the process, two lines have been damaged.

Two companies moving the lines have been found at fault for damaging two different line sections, and the city has sent invoices to both.

That said, one new water main section has been completed and tested negative for bacteria, so Young Harris has the green light to switch over. The city will be turning water off on Sept. 18 starting at 7 a.m. to connect the new lines.

Water should be boiled for up to 24 hours after the

See City Council, Page 6

Dr. Wiles thanked for 45 years of area patient care

By Brittany Holbrooks
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

BLAIRSVILLE – Dr. Mary Beth Wiles is a humble soul, so when presented with her very own plaque honoring 45 years of practicing internal medicine in Union County last week, she was shocked to tears – and incredibly grateful.

The presentation was made by CEO Kevin Bierschenk of Union General Health System and Dr. T. Michele Bradford of High Mountain Healthcare on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

Wiles wasn't expecting the recognition, but her daughter who followed in her footsteps, Dr. Elizabeth Wiles, wanted her mother's contribution to the community to be known. It's not often, after all, that a provider stays in one system for nearly half a century.

Wiles was actually born in Germany and placed in an orphanage, but E.H. and Earlyne Miller, an Army couple from Georgia, adopted her and brought her home with them to Atlanta.

She attended Headland High School in East Point, graduated from Georgia State University, earned her Medical Degree at the Medical College of Georgia, then completed her



Dr. Elizabeth Wiles and her mother Dr. Mary Beth Wiles run Blairsville Internal Medicine. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

residency at Emory University.

As for what started her on a medical career path, Wiles said she was "born wanting to do medicine." She watched her father struggle with illness when she was a child and was drawn

to reading medical books, so it was a natural choice.

"It was the only thing I thought I could do. It just made sense," Wiles said. "I went to college with that idea."

See Dr. Wiles Honored, Page 6

12 Pages

Vol. 94 No. 47

Lake Levels

Towns Co. High Student of the Week See Page 3



Arrests - 2 Opinions - 4
Chamber - 5 Legals - 11
Church - 8 Obits - 9
Classifieds - 11 Sports - 10

Blue Ridge 1,676.94
Chatuge 1,920.89
Nottely 1,767.64

Brayden Shiflett Fundraiser 9/28 See Page 6

2024 Porchfest Young Harris 9/29 See Page 6



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Chamber Chronicles

The official source of Towns County Chamber News

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Chamber Events & Programs

Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening: Saturday, September 7- Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce welcomed new member High Country Small Engine Services with a Ribbon Cutting during their grand opening. Welcome to the Lake Chatuge Chamber & Good Luck!!



Holiday Bazaar 2024- Save the Date: November 2 & 3- 10am-4pm daily- join us at our annual Holiday Bazaar held on November 2 & 3, 2024 from 10am-4pm daily at the Towns County Recreation & Conference Center-Foster Park, Young Harris, GA. Vendor applications are available now at the Lake Chatuge Chamber office or online at www.golakechatuge.com

Welcome to our Newest Members!

Tara Gillam, Agent- Century 21 Black Bear Realty-3680 US Hwy 76, Young Harris, GA Phone:706-994-6415; Email: tara@c21blackbear.com; Licensed in Georgia & North Carolina

Shores & Moor- William Mainer, Owner- 935 Murphy Hwy, Blairsville, GA Phone:706-400-0629

www.shoresandmoor.com Facebook: Shores & Moor – We offer aluminum dock construction and accessories- boat lifts, jet ski ports, dock boxes and more! Touchless Cover and ML Docks dealer on Lakes Chatuge, Nottely and Blue Ridge.

Southern Roots Beauty Salon- Crissy Figg, Owner- 1390 US 76 East, Unit C, Hiawassee Phone:706-970-0366; Facebook: Southern Roots Hia- Southern Roots Beauty Salon offers hair and nail services; including haircuts, hair color, manicures and pedicures. Call 706-970-0366 or message us on Facebook to book your appointment.

High Country Small Engine Services- Matthew Figg, Owner – 1390 US 76 East, Unit D, Hiawassee Phone:706-514-8145; www.highcountryryses.com; Email:matt@highcountryryses.com Facebook: High Country SES- We are here to provide you with outdoor equipment repairs and maintenance. We offer EGO, Husqvarna and Yakta sales and equipment parts.

Check out our calendar at www.golakechatuge.com for all our member sponsored and community events.

Follow us: Facebook & Instagram: Visit Lake Chatuge

Thanks to all our members for their continued support!

Additionally, we'd like to thank these Platinum and Gold Members:

PLATINUM MEMBERS: Blue Ridge Mountain EMC; Century 21 Black Bear Realty; Hiawassee KOA Holiday, Lake Chatuge Lodge; Majestic Mountain Getaways, Inc.; Mountain Realty; Peach State Federal Credit Union; South State Bank; The Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuge; United Community Bank; Veteran Contracting LLC; Windstream Communications.

GOLD MEMBERS: Bennett Equipment; Blairsville Printing; Brasstown Manor; Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa; Brother's Restaurant at Willow Ranch; Chatuge Regional Hospital; Chick-fil-A of Blairsville; Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital; Hiawassee Package Store; Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Hiawassee; Homestead Hospice; Hughes Accounting; K. Boyer Photography; Little Bear Rentals & Property Management; Men on The Move; NeuroSport Physical Therapy LLC; Regency SouthernCare Hospice; Ridgeline Exteriors & Roofing; ServiceMaster Restoration; Tri-County Office Supply, and Young Harris College.

For information on becoming a member of the Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce, visit www.golakechatuge.com or call Mary Ann at (706) 896-4966 or email her at LCChamber2021@gmail.com.

Project Chimps...from Page 1

giving the chimps a life of freedom after years of enduring experimentation.

The highly social animals live in family groups led by a single dominant male, but every chimp has access to a 6-acre outdoor playground in addition to their indoor villa housing at Project Chimps.

Some of them struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, like human survivors of trauma, and because they were previously kept in solitary cages in the labs, they must learn to interact in groups.

"They support each other, they love each other, and they fight each other – that's what chimps do ... That's the reality of how they live," Page said. "They're a lot like us; we fight, too. But it's very interesting to see how they make up."

Page offered information about a few of the chimps in the facility. Alpha male Kareem, for example, is a quiet leader who settles disputes among his group calmly. After five years of recovery, Gracie faced her fears and braved the outdoors, discovered she liked the playground, and now goes out every day.

And just like individual people, all the chimps have their own personalities. Many have a favorite toy they prefer to go to bed with each night or carry around from day to day. Certainly, all of them have a favorite food – if they don't

enjoy food in general like Ray.

In the wild, chimpanzees are omnivorous, meaning they consume both plants and other animals, and up to 70% of their diet is from foraging. Project Chimps provides a largely vegetarian diet of all different kinds of fruits and veggies, supplemented by the occasional dab of peanut butter, protein shakes, Cheerios and any insects they find outside.

As one can imagine, it takes a lot of time, money, and poundage to feed 95 chimps. A full kitchen staffed with volunteers prepares three meals a day and provides plenty of snacks in-between. The cost to feed a single chimp is \$7 daily, and while that may not seem like much, it adds up quickly with nearly 100 hungry mouths.

Sometimes, that food is presented in enrichment items to keep the chimpanzees' brains stimulated. Raisin boxes, as demonstrated by Page, require a small stick or some other tool capable of removing the fruit from tiny holes punched through the toy. Dog treat balls containing peanut butter can also be rolled around for a bit of a challenge.

It's for this reason that Project Chimps seeks donations of common household items that normally get thrown out. Cereal and cracker boxes, water bottles, paper towel tubes and empty tissue boxes can all be put to good use.

Monetary donations are

helpful as well, especially since there are still chimps waiting at the New Iberian Research Facility to be taken to their forever home.

That's where tours and events come in, with tickets available for purchase by individuals or groups. It's also a good chance to meet the chimps; to give them privacy, the facility is not often open to the public.

One upcoming opportunity is "Chimp or Treat," set to kick off the weekend before Halloween. Kids can enter for \$10 on Oct. 26 and 27 between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. for a chance to enjoy some spooky, chimp-themed fun.

Not only will they receive a guided walking tour, but they will be able to see the chimps in their habitat from the safety of a viewing window.

"We encourage the kids to wear costumes, so the chimps are like, 'What are you?' And it's so funny," remarked Page, encouraging Movers & Shakers to bring grandkids and support the cause.

The Project Chimps sanctuary is located at 2031 Lowery Road in Morganton. For more information, visit <https://projectchimps.org/>.

Members of the Mountain Movers & Shakers meet every Friday at 8 a.m. inside Sundance Grill in Hiawassee, usually featuring a guest speaker from the area.

The Appalachian Saint Andrew's Pipes & Drums of Blairsville, GA 2024 celebrates 20th Anniversary

The Appalachian Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums, of Blairsville, GA, is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year, having been formed in 2004, sponsored by the Appalachian Saint Andrew's Society. The band's name at that time was Appalachian Saint Andrew's Society Pipe and Drum Corps. The first Pipe Major was Roy McKee, who came to the band with more than 16 years of experience, having previously played with the Mizapah Shrine Pipes and Drums in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He retired to Blairsville and found that there were many in the community who played bagpipes and pursued their Scottish heritage.

The band quickly attracted a number of experienced pipers and drummers who had moved to the North Georgia Mountains, as well as a number of piping and drumming students of all ages. The band's goals were to build a membership dedicated to Scottish Piping and Drumming, to become more proficient in the playing of Scottish pipes and drums, to improve performance standards as individuals and as a band, and to promote interest in Scottish music and culture in the Southern Appalachian region. Through the membership's dedication, determination, and hard work, the band shortly became the premier pipe and drum band in the North Georgia Mountains, and remains the only Scottish pipe band in the mountains of North Georgia and Western North Carolina.

The band has entertained audiences throughout the Southern Appalachian region, performing the timeless music of the Scottish bagpipes and drums. Over the years, the band has performed annually for festivals, parades, ceremonies, churches, schools, veterans' groups, community events, civic organizations, and public and private events around the North Georgia and Western North Carolina areas. The Band is especially proud of its close affiliation with veterans' groups and the Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games.

According to Band President William Lombardo, "Appalachian Saint Andrew's ongoing objective is to perform the timeless music of the Scottish pipes and drums whenever and wherever the occasion arises. In doing so, the Band honors its part in continuing centuries-long traditions."

Members of the Band are from Blairsville, Blue Ridge, Morganton, Ellijay, Cherry Log, Mineral Bluff, Hiawassee, Young Harris, and Dahlonega in Georgia, and from Brasstown and Murphy in North Carolina, and from Nokomis, Florida.

In 2018, the Band was incorporated as a Georgia non-profit corporation, and was IRS certified as a 501 (c) (3) organization. Since the Appalachian St. Andrew's Society was no longer active, "Society" was dropped from the name, and the official incorporated name was Appalachian Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums, Inc.

In recognition of the 20th Anniversary of the Band, Pipe Major Richard Smith designed a tartan named for the Band, and the Scottish Register of Tartans, an agency of the Scottish government, approved and registered the tartan.

The colors in the tartan reflect the heritage and geologic formation of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. In accordance with the Tartan Act of 2008, a registered tartan design has to be unique from any of the thousands of tartans in the Registry. A sample of the tartan will be placed in the National Archives of Scotland. ASAPD is perhaps the only pipe band in the world to have a registered tartan named for a pipe band. Now that the tartan has been registered, the Band is raising the funds necessary to have the tartan material milled by a woolen mill in Scotland, and kilts made to outfit the Band. A Go-Fund-Me! Link has been created on the Bands website, www.ASAPDBand.com.

According to Band President William Lombardo,



The Band is currently under the musical leadership of Pipe Major Richard Smith, with over 34 years of piping experience, having been a longtime member and Pipe Major of John Mohr Mackintosh Pipes and Drums of Atlanta, GA,

until retiring to Blairsville in 2011. He joined ASAPD in 2012, and became Pipe Major in 2014. Pipe Sergeant Ron McInnis was a 16-year member of the Lee County Pipes and Drums of Ft. Myers, FL, and Pipe Sergeant of the band for 8 years, before retiring to Morganton in 2019. He joined ASAPD in 2021, and became Pipe Sergeant in 2023. Pipe Corporal and Band President William Lombardo was an 8-year member of the Lee County Pipes and Drums of Ft. Myers, FL, starting on the bass drum, then the snare drum, and then bagpipes. He was a founding member of Guns N Hoses Pipes N Drums, of firefighters and law enforcement, a philanthropic band that played primarily for non-profit organizations. He retired to Blairsville in 2020, joined ASAPD as a piper, and became Pipe Corporal in 2023. He has also served as President of ASAPD since 2021. The drum corps is under the leadership of Drum Sergeant Brian Gatti of Murphy, NC, with many years of percussion experience, and joined ASAPD in 2021. He became Drum Sergeant in 2024, upon the retirement of Russell Stockton, who was a founding member of the band. Brian also serves as the Band's Webmaster.

The Band's 20th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at Vincent's Coppertop Restaurant in Blairsville, from 5-7 PM. The event will be held in Vincent's patio area, with performances by the Band and individual pipers and drummers. The Band's tartan and registration certificate will be on display. The public is invited to come out and help the Band celebrate this milestone.

For detailed information about the Band, its activities, event schedule, and an extensive photo gallery, please visit the Band's website at www.ASAPDBand.com; <<http://www.ASAPDBand.com>>; also, visit our Facebook page.

ARFS: Give Your Pain Purpose

If you have lost a dearly loved pet and your heart is grieving, why not "give your pain purpose" by making a donation to Animal Rescue Financial Support (ARFS) in honor of your cherished fur friend.

ARFS will use your donation to provide medical care for an animal that is suffering and has an owner who cannot afford veterinary expenses. Memorials can be

made to ARFS, P.O. Box 972, Hiawassee, GA 30546 or on ARFS website (www.arfs-inc.org) by clicking the DONATE button.

Please indicate that your donation is a memorial and provide the name of your pet. Memorials will be posted on ARFS's website, unless you request otherwise.

Let's not forget that precious pet that gave you so much joy. Let's give your pain purpose!

Feline Feeder

An "early riser" is needed for one morning a week to feed homeless cats in Towns Countt. These friendly felines are in six cat colonies, all off a 2-mile stretch of Route 76. The colonies are easy to get to, and feeding takes about 35-45 minutes. Training is provided, but feeding is not difficult. Feline Feeders is an activity of ARFS, Animal Rescue Financial Support, Inc.

If you have a heart for disadvantaged cats and would like to join our team of dedicated volunteers, please contact Sheila at mcdevitt@sheilamcdevitt.com. TS(Sep18,A1)JH

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ARFS Offers Help to Stop Cycle of Abandoned Kittens at Red House

The red house in Hiawassee has become a hotspot for dropping abandoned kittens, and ARFS is hoping to put an end to the cycle of

emergency kitten situations. If you are the person responsible for leaving kittens at the red house, ARFS would like to offer its assistance in trapping and fixing the cats to prevent further unwanted litters.

By spaying and neutering the cats, it will help decrease the number of kittens in need of rescue and fostering.

If you are the individual leaving the kittens or know who is, please call 1-762-294-9467 to arrange for someone to help trap the cats.

Let's work together to ensure the well-being of these animals and prevent further over population issues in our community.

BINGO

Pat Haralson
Civic Center
165 Wellborn Street
Blairsville, GA
Doors Open - 6 PM
Games Start - 7 PM

Benefits
Castoff Pet Rescue



Rambo is just getting up from a nap. He is four months old and has all his shots and was neutered. Come to Castoff Thrift Store to see some sweet kittens and then come to bingo to help support Castoff rescuing more cats and dogs. Every Wednesday at 7 sharp.

DAR at Work: An Introduction to DAR Seminar at Union County Public Library



Daughters of the American Revolution

Hard hats were fashionable when Daughters of the American Revolution welcomed area women to learn about "DAR at Work: An Introduction to DAR", Saturday, September 7th at the Union County Public Library. Amid crime scene tape and traffic cones, Regent Barbara Weaver, Chapter Regent

of Murphy, welcomed new and prospective members. Attendees were presented with "Why DAR?", the "History of DAR", the Society's presence in Washington, DC, and a lot of information about Old Unicoi Trail's many activities in our communities the areas of Historic Preservation, Education and Patriotism.

Those attending also learned about DAR's Genealogical Research System from Chapter Registrar Linda Carr of Blairsville.

Historic preservation activities were presented by Cynthia Rafter, Chapter Historian of Blairsville. Pam Hodges Greene, Past Regent and Education Chair of Hiwassee presented education activities. Pam Matthews of Blue Ridge, a Past Regent and Recording Secretary talked patriotism with attendees. Annette Hopgood, Membership Co-Chair moderated the session.

The DAR promotes historic preservation, education, and patriotism and represents over one million Daughters. A woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible to join. Email oldunicoitrail@gmail.com to attend a meeting and learn more about membership.

City Council...from Page 1

switch and run until clear. The warning applies to School Street and Willow Springs; US 76 to the Art Annex; Walker Street; Sycamore Street; Brasstown Shadow and Mineral Springs, including the strip mall.

Gibby revealed that one of the Main Street crosswalk lights had been hit and is due to be replaced. She urged motorists to practice caution around the college in the meantime and watch the roads carefully for students, teachers and other civilians using the crosswalk.

As suggested by Councilman Matt Miller, there may soon be a new speedbump installed on Dean Street. Miller

expressed concern for a family living near the road, as there are four young children who often play in the yard. Gibby and the rest of the council agreed to consider it.

Regarding the long-running Timberline booster pump fix, Councilman Steve Clark explained that project delays had to do with waiting on parts, and a needed piece of installation equipment had been damaged. He noted that waiting is still preferable to the heavy cost of alternative plans.

Unless otherwise posted, the Young Harris City Council meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. inside City Hall at 50 Irene Berry Drive.

Porchfest 2024 to be held in Young Harris Sept. 29



Mark your calendar now for Sunday, September 29, 2024, for Porchfest 2024. The event will be held in downtown Young Harris from 1-5 PM, with live music at Cable's Gallery, Young Harris Wing House, UG Clinic parking lot, and The Fix.

Vendors and food trucks will be present, and music will range from bluegrass to rock and roll. Venues include the vacant lot next to Cable's Gallery, with YHC student organizations, Cable's Gallery, Young Harris Wing House, UG Clinic parking lot, and The Fix.

Wear your walking shoes and bring a chair to sit and enjoy the sounds, rain or



shine. Last year Porchfest had 700 visitors, and we hope to see you there!

Thank you to our sponsors: Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Peach State Federal Credit Union, Jo Ellen Thornton of Century 21, Black Bear Realty, Enotah Environmental, Fine Line Builders, CGH Ventures, The Fix, the Young Harris Wing House, City of Young Harris.



BENEFIT FOR BRAYDEN SHIFLETT

September 28th @ 2 pm
Brasstown Community Center

Brayden is a nine-year old boy who has been battling with his health since birth. He has lots of health issues, some being Tetralogy of Fallot (a heart condition), severe spine problems, Lung issues, as well as others that require treatment and numerous surgeries. Brayden spends more time in the hospital than at home. This benefit is to help with medical expenses that have been accumulated. Brayden is awaiting surgeries for his heart. He has treatments all the way into next year already scheduled. You can follow Brayden on his facebook page below: <https://www.facebook.com/braydensstory>
Mothers email: Mshiflett420@gmail.com

Dr. Wiles Honored...from Page 1

Regarding how the Wiles Family ended up in Blairsville, where Mary Beth would spend decades treating countless patients from around the area, daughter Elizabeth said that her dad "really wanted to come to the mountains and be kind of outside of the city."

"He was a police officer," explained Elizabeth, who was about 5 months old when the family relocated to Union County in 1979. "Obviously, the (Atlanta) area was changing a lot, and so it was becoming pretty dangerous."

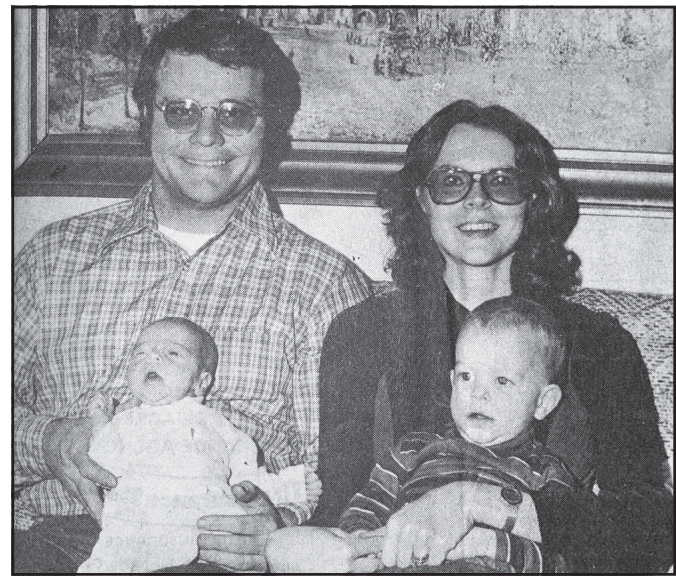
At the time, Wiles was one of only two doctors in Blairsville. She practiced internal and hospital medicine while Dr. George Gowder handled family medicine. Wiles was also on call at the Union County Nursing Home for a time, then went back to working nights in the Emergency Room.

To this day, Wiles specializes in internal medicine, though she doesn't handle procedures like she used to. Elizabeth, who acts as a partner to her mother at Blairsville Internal Medicine, handles that while Wiles tackles office duties.

Internal medicine, as described by both Wiles women, can be compared to general care for adults. Types of cases can involve infectious diseases, neurology, nephrology, oncology, gastrointestinal issues, cardiology, endocrinology, rheumatology, hematology and more.

Compared to the world of yesteryear, Wiles said practicing medicine is not easier but is in fact harder for doctors today due to the bureaucracies surrounding even the simplest things. That said, she understands why such rules are in place and "hopes (they work)."

On the plus side,



Originally printed in the March 1, 1979, edition of the North Georgia News, this photo depicts the Wiles Family after they moved to Blairsville: James W. Wiles, Dr. Mary Beth Wiles, daughter Elizabeth and son Benjamin.

growth has brought quality of life improvements to the area, including in health care, with more people and paved roads making it easier for an abundance of helping hands compared to a time when isolated physicians wore many more hats.

"We had to take care of everything; we didn't have a choice," Wiles said.

For Wiles, the North Georgia Mountains just seemed to be the right "fit" — not just for her vocation, but her life. She fell in love with the area, and as the whole family shared an interest in the outdoors, being close to nature was just one of many bonuses.

She grew fond of the people here, too, for their easygoing, welcoming nature. In fact, Wiles said people are her favorite part of the job.

"I like talking to patients," Wiles said. "Those are people who've been my patients for 40 years, and I know their families

and I know their dog and cat, and we talk about everything."

"If I'd stayed behind in academic medicine, I could have never had the relationships with people that I have here."

Wiles has stayed overnight at hospitals for the wellness of her patients, braved inclement weather that caused snowed-in facilities, and patiently listened to those in her care when they brought not just their physical ailments to her office but their emotional struggles as well.

"They come with issues with their family members, emotional issues, aging and living in our current world," explained Wiles, who said that building a rapport with her patients is what has made her career so very worth it.

The North Georgia News and Towns County Herald thank Dr. Mary Beth Wiles for her tireless dedication to patient care over the past 45 years in the mountains.

Appalachian Shrine Club Blairsville, Georgia

2024

30 GUNS 30 DAYS

Drawing when all tickets are sold

\$30 per Ticket gives you THIRTY Chances to Win!!

Only 1,200 Tickets will be sold!!

DAY 1 Glock Pistol G19 9MM	DAY 2 Browning X Bolt 7 PRC	DAY 3 North American Arms 22 WMR
DAY 4 Remington .243 700 ADL	DAY 5 Colt Python .357 Revolver	DAY 6 Rossi R92 Lever Action - 357Mag / 38Spl
DAY 7 Ruger .380 Max Champion	DAY 8 Benelli Nova Shotgun	DAY 9 Kimber 38 Special Revolver
DAY 10 Stoeger Uplander Field 410 Side-by-Side	DAY 11 Taurus .357 Revolver 6" Barrel	DAY 12 Winchester XPR Strata Rifle 6.8 Western
DAY 13 S&W M&P 9MM Pistol	DAY 14 Bergara Rifle HMR Wide 6.5PRC	DAY 15 Charter Arms Off Duty Carry .38 Special
DAY 16 Ruger .22 LR 10/22 Rifle 28 Gauge	DAY 17 S&W Crimson Trace .38 Special Revolver	DAY 18 Browning BPS Field Shotgun
DAY 19 S&W M&P 22 WMR Pistol	DAY 20 Rossi RS22 .22 WMR Semi-Automatic Rifle, Black	DAY 21 Glock G43 9MM Pistol
DAY 22 Henry Lever Action 22 WMR	DAY 23 Taurus Revolver Judge Public Defender 45	DAY 24 Ruger .300 BK American Rifle Predator
DAY 25 Stoeger 9MM Pistol	DAY 26 Ruger American Rifle Predator .308	DAY 27 S&W M&P 22 WMR Pistol
DAY 28 Henry Shotgun 410/20/2.5	DAY 29 Springfield Armory 9MM Pistol	DAY 30 Diamondback Firearms .556 Rifle

Tickets are available from any Shriner or at Alexander's Store. This is not a hospital charity fund raiser. Donations are not tax-deductible.

Guns are to be picked up from our generous sponsor within 30 days of draw date

ALEXANDER'S STORE
4482 Town Creek School Road, Blairsville, GA 30512
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Dr. Mary Beth Wiles was pleasantly surprised to receive an appreciation plaque last week, pictured here embracing Dr. T. Michele Bradford. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

9/11 Tribute...from Page 1

psyche and shook the whole world.

The monstrous acts committed on 9/11 demonstrated such treacherous evil that patriots everywhere declared they could never be allowed to forget, both to preserve the memory of the fallen and to prevent a similar occurrence.

Hence the local remembrance.

Opening the program on the square last week was the Appalachian St. Andrew's Pipes & Drums band with patriotic bagpipe music, followed by a presentation of the colors by the North Georgia Honor Guard.

Patriotic community member Becky Jake performed a moving rendition of the National Anthem, and Commissioner Bradshaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Macedonia Baptist Church Senior Pastor Dr. Wade Lott offered the invocation for the event, thanking God for the opportunity to gather and praying "for the families that are once again grieving and mourning the loss of their loved ones."

Bradshaw briefly recounted the origins of the local remembrance, relating how his office helped start the annual event years ago to make sure that residents received the chance to regularly reflect on that which must never be forgotten.

"Towns County will keep this event going because we will not forget," Bradshaw said, noting the importance of honoring the sacrifices, including by firefighters and other first responders, and conveying messages to future generations about safeguarding freedom against evil.

"Most of all, we cannot forget but remember to thank God every day for this wonderful and beautiful country that we live in where we have the freedoms that we have," Bradshaw continued. "It didn't happen by accident; we are truly blessed, and we give all that to God."

Veterans of Foreign Wars Garrett-Owenby Post 7807 Chaplain Dwight Moss served as keynote speaker, drawing parallels between the lack of care he experienced from government officials in Vietnam, and politicians likewise ignoring the safety and wellbeing of Americans today.

"I did serve in Vietnam, and I bagged a lot of bodies, and I've seen a lot of stuff going on," Moss said. "And today, 9/11, if we're going to do justice to those men and women who gave their lives, we must remember."

"It was written shortly after 9/11 that 9/11 would forever change our immigration policies. Well, my friends, forever has passed us by. We do not have an immigration policy today. This country is not protected as it should be. This country does not have the leadership that it deserves."

Added Moss, "Our Founding Fathers left us ... the greatest gift, the greatest inheritance that we could ever have, and that's the Declaration of Independence. All men, all women are created equal under God with inalienable rights to life, freedom and the pursuit of happiness."

"We are endowed - it belongs to you. This Constitution was set up that the people may rule. It has been taken away from us by politicians who tell us lie after lie. I'm not talking about all of them; we've got some good ones. But we've



Local VFW Chaplain Dwight Moss offered keynote remarks at the 2024 Patriot Day observance. Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Fire Chief Harold Copeland observed a 9/11 bell-ringing tradition during Patriot Day, with the Towns County ladder truck flying Old Glory in the background. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

got a lot of people that don't stand up for this country."

Moss urged people to vote in the upcoming presidential election to hamper the efforts of "warmongers" who are bankrupting the nation and do not understand the "terror" inflicted on families that lose sons and daughters in times of international conflict.

He did not tell people how to vote but asked that they elect "peaceful leaders," citing the current federal government as "an offense to the American people" given its attitude toward conflict as well as immigration, despite the full knowledge of what can happen - 9/11, preventable murders, child trafficking, the fentanyl crisis, etc. - when criminals are allowed to simply waltz into the country.

Fire Chief Harold Copeland performed a ceremonial bellringing in honor of the 343 firefighters who died bravely and selflessly while trying to save others in New York City on Sept. 11, 2021.

Appalachian St. Andrews played "Amazing Grace" - always a crowd-pleaser on the bagpipes - and Hiwassee Acting Mayor Jay Chastain Jr. humbly announced the latest batch of Hometown Heroes to get banners honoring their military service on the square over the next year:

Andrew Edwards, Navy; Johnny Lee Morris, Navy; Ben Sutton, Navy; John Bassett, Army; Dennis Marlin, Army; Kirk Rogers, Navy; Lance Templeton, Air Force; Joseph Basco, Army; Charley Andrews, Navy; Doc Coleman, Marines; Eric Divona, Army; and Joshua Divona, Air Force.

Hiwassee Police Chief Jeremy Parker presented the retiring slate of Hometown Hero banners to their respective veterans who were in attendance to receive them.

Earlier that morning, Parker, also a volunteer firefighter, conducted his annual 9/11 Memorial Walk with fellow firemen Capt. Royce Nicholson, Lt. Rick Stamper,

Firefighter Cameron Lively, Lt. Ryan Green, Firefighter Jordan Burkes and City of Helen Firefighter Tyler Keyes.

The walk was 9.11 miles in total, with the firefighters donning their turnout gear for the final 2.11 miles from the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds to Downtown Hiwassee to simulate the distance of the 110 flights of stairs New York firefighters would have climbed on 9/11.

"(We completed this walk) in remembrance and reflection of those first responders who began their morning serving their community and never knowing the pain and suffering they would endure, and ultimately the loss of their lives that day," Parker said afterward.

"We never know which day may be our September 11th, when we are called to serve and protect, knowing we may never make it back home," he concluded.

Bradshaw delivered final remarks to wrap up the ceremony, calling for unity among Americans regardless of personal disagreements, and he thanked the heads and staffs of local first responder agencies.

He left people with a Bible verse, Galatians 5:13-14: "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge in sinful nature. Rather, serve one another in love. For the entire law is summed up in a single command: love your neighbor as yourself."

"Do we do that?" Bradshaw asked. "That's my question I leave you with. I will tell you, the public safety people and the everyday ordinary American citizens showed that type of love on 9/11, and I pray that we do, too."

In closing, Bradshaw tasked the North Georgia Honor Guard with retrieving the colors - those being the U.S. and Georgia flags - before Appalachian St. Andrews played a final medley of patriotic songs.

And for another year running, everybody remembered.



Over a hundred local patriots attended the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on the Hiwassee Town Square this year. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Towns County Lions Club welcomes New Member



During the September 10 meeting at the Georgia Mountain Fair Anderson Music Hall, the Towns County Lions welcomed retired educator Shandra Claxton into the club.

Newest Lion Shandra's sponsor is Sybil Davis who's quickly moving up in the ranks of front running new member finders. Welcome Shandra and thank you, Sybil!

Club President Danny Meeks encouraged members' attendance at the upcoming board meeting October 1, and the next regular meeting October 8.

Thursday night Georgia Mountain Fair Acoustic Sunset performances continue until October 3.

All Towns County residents are invited to the next annual Georgia Mountain Fair SHRED Day at the fairgrounds Saturday, October 5,



Newest Lion Shandra Clayton (R) with her sponsor Sybil Davis (L)

10 AM to noon. Please bring all paper items you wish to have shredded for no charge. Donations are welcome!

Please check the Fair website for upcoming autumn concerts and events as Fair Manager Hilda Thomason

has scheduled one of the best entertainment lineups we've ever had to wrap up this 2024 season.

The Towns County Lions Club and the Georgia Mountain Fair wish everyone a Happy Fall, y'all!