

# Johnson...from Page 1A

that's what we are about. "That's what the world doesn't understand today, that we are about America. I love you all, and God Bless America. Keep up the good work, because He is the answer,

and I gave my life to him when I was 17 and I went into the Navy in 1939. And he has really blessed me over the years." Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales made an appearance at the event to thank Johnson

for his service and to honor his achievements. "You are all great veterans, and Bud Johnson is so deserving of this honor," Ordiales said. Johnson stressed that people need to be more united and help each other more often

to make the world a better place. He also made it a point to other veterans that people are out there who want to care for and support them, especially during difficult times. "No veteran gets left behind," Johnson said. "If you're a veteran or you have

family that is a veteran, or if you know a family that is in need, then you call any one of us, and we are there for you. "If we're not, let us know, and we will take care of it. We don't have all the answers, but we know where to look for them." Johnson served in the

Navy for 36 years before retiring, and all the veterans at the dedication had a cumulative of 269 years of total service to their country. Following the event, Johnson and attendees told stories of their time in the military and other life events.



**Johnson, Towns County's oldest living veteran, was honored Friday with a flag raising at the Hiawassee Campground's new flagpole.**  
Photo by Jarrett Whitener

# Art...from Page 1A



**Gabriel Moody won an art award in the GOP Art Contest on Thursday, Sept. 19.**  
Photo by Chad Stack

Place. For the second youth division, Syler Church finished Third Place for his welded steel artwork. The Second-Place winner was Sara Parish, and the First-Place winner for the second division was Morgan Pierson.

Joe Davis finished in Third Place for the adult division, and the Second-Place award went to Wendy Luca.

Margaret Windham's painting titled "Old Glory Reigns Forever" received the First-Place award for the Freedom Art Contest on Thursday night.

Following the contest awards presentation, meeting host Samantha Church displayed three pieces of her own artwork to put on display for the art show.

Church presented a 9/11 poster that she created, a picture that she drew for her grandparents' wedding anniversary, and a drawing of



**Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw presenting local student Syler Church a prize for his art submission to the Towns GOP Art Contest.**  
Photo by Chad Stack

a baby for her friend. "My art is very personal to me and it is an expression of myself to a large degree," Church said in a speech she

delivered after the show, adding that she's thankful to live in a country where she can fully express her beliefs without persecution.



**Commissioner Bradshaw and John Alger of the Towns County Republican Party congratulating Margaret Windham, center, for her award-winning artwork.**  
Photo by Chad Stack

# Investigation...from Page 1A

arrest, the Hiawassee Police Department seized the 2009 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, approximately \$8,000 in cash, and a firearm recovered at the time of the stop.

Later that Friday, a joint team of investigators and officers from the Towns County Sheriff's Office, Hiawassee PD, Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office and Union County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at Marcus' shop in Young Harris.

There, investigators seized and recovered a quantity of methamphetamine with a street value of \$11,200, as well as an amount of cash totaling approximately \$32,000 and 29 firearms from the shop.

Upon completion of the search, Marcus incurred additional charges of trafficking methamphetamine, possession



**Drugs, guns and cash seized by local law enforcement officials after executing a Sept. 13 search warrant at the Young Harris shop of Lonnie Max Marcus.**

of a firearm during the commission of a crime, theft by receiving stolen property, and possession of a sawed-off shotgun.

Marcus had no bond as of press time, and more charges will be forthcoming, according

to the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

The case will be forwarded to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.