

Campbell...from Page 1A



Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw giving Nora Ferguson an emotional embrace at her late father's bridge dedication last week. Photo by Chad Stack

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YOUNG HARRIS — Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw and State Sen. John Wilkinson, along with several members of the Campbell family, gathered in remembrance of Dick Campbell on Wednesday, Oct. 23.

With the Georgia Department of Transportation's construction of the new bridge in Young Harris on Georgia 66 near the old Campbell flour mill and grocery store, the county wanted to dedicate the bridge to Dick Campbell, who passed

away in 1979.

Shortly after Campbell and his family settled in Towns County, he quickly became a fixture in the community. He was known for his kindness, generosity and understanding.

For years, Campbell put the needs of others before his own, always giving back and making sure families in need had food to eat and other necessities.

When Campbell moved here in 1936, the U.S. was recovering from the Great Depression, and many Americans struggled with finding jobs and being able to provide for their families.

He purchased the Alexander Grist Mill that

provided flour and cornmeal to the area, later opening a store selling clothing, groceries and other goods.

Campbell did many great things for his community when times were tougher for most people — not to say some families don't go hungry today, but that it was a more frequent occurrence then, Bradshaw said.

The county has so many great people in the community who are willing to help, Bradshaw said, that it's important for people like Campbell to always be remembered, since he did so much to help the people of Young Harris.

Campbell's daughter, Nora Ferguson, personally thanked Bradshaw, Wilkinson, and several members of her family who came from all over to celebrate her father's life that day.

"This is a great honor for my kids, grandkids and great-grandkids to have something to remember him by, knowing that he was we loved," Ferguson said.

In reply, Bradshaw said that the historic mill and newly dedicated bridge would "be here forever for your great-grandchildren and family to see. Senator Wilkinson made this happen with the DOT and we're thankful."

After reading a resolution he introduced in the Georgia General Assembly, Sen. Wilkinson presented Ferguson with a copy along with several Dick Campbell bridge signs for her and her family.

Ferguson and family pulled the ropes on the sign at the bridge to unveil the sign dedicating the bridge to her father, Dick Campbell.

"My daddy was a great father, a great grandfather — he was great to everybody," said Ferguson, who still lives on the family property just before the entrance to the bridge.

And though Campbell passed away 40 years ago, in 1979, he will always be remembered and celebrated by the many people in the community who knew him and his family, Bradshaw and Wilkinson agreed.

The "Dick Campbell Memorial Bridge" is located on Highway 66 just south of the North Carolina state line.

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L-R: First Runner-Up senior Sophia Shook, Miss TCHS senior Kenlee Shook and Second Runner-Up junior Summer Rahn in senior Jamison Wood's inaugural Miss TCHS Pageant on Saturday. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

conceived of the idea after competing in the Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Pageant, Wood will use funds raised for her pageant to give a scholarship to one of her fellow Class of 2020 students in May, and the pageant itself featured prize money for contestants.

Eighteen high school girls supported Wood on Saturday night by participating in the inaugural Miss TCHS Pageant. The show started with the girls coming in from the back wearing blue jeans and white T-shirts.

Following their grand entrance, the girls walked to the front of the stage in pairs, and each pair performed a celebratory handshake showing off plenty of school spirit before separating again to return backstage for a wardrobe change.

Whitt next introduced each of the girls, who were escorted back to the stage by a partner of their choice wearing their "Sunday Best," after which they modeled formalwear.

During the formalwear

portion of the pageant, Whitt asked each of the girls questions, the answers to which they were judged by special guests that evening.

The judges Saturday night were United Community Bank Branch Manager Cheryl Barrett, Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby and Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw.

Pageant contestants were judged not only on their outfits but also on how they presented themselves on stage and their response to the questions they were asked.

While the judges took time to deliberate, Wood thanked all the local business sponsors who donated over \$2,200 for the event, and she thanked the community for coming out.

The judges deliberated for a long time, allowing True Youngblood to entertain the crowd with two songs he performed while playing keyboard.

Second Runner-Up for Miss TCHS was junior Summer

Rahn, taking home \$50, and Miss TCHS Runner-Up was senior Sophia Shook, who won \$100.

Senior Kenlee Shook was crowned as the first-ever Miss TCHS, taking home the top prize of \$150 and the inaugural title of Miss TCHS.

And none of the contestants went home empty-handed that evening, as Wood said she was able to give each of the girls a gift bag with goodies donated from several local businesses.

"I was blown away by the amount of people that came out tonight," Wood said. "I am also incredibly proud of all the girls. Their support, along with the community and schools, means everything to me."

"Everyone I spoke to after the event said they were extremely impressed with how the pageant went and said they hope it continues in the future. Overall, I was blown away and felt extremely blessed after the night was over. It couldn't have gone better."

Halloween...from Page 1A

moving the event away from the square and busy Main Street, aka US 76, to the Towns County Courthouse.

Moving the event also freed up the parking spaces around the square, which were not available in previous years due to the event being hosted on the square.

After taking the event to the courthouse, Ordiales said she received a lot of positive feedback from the community.

"Many of us just felt it was not safe having the kids standing on the sidewalk of Main Street," Ordiales said. "It was a great success last year, the kids loved it, and everyone was able to enjoy the evening safely."

Plus, with the Civic Center steps away from the courthouse, Ordiales said the Halloween celebration can continue even if it rains, as folks can simply use the Civic Center on Oct. 31.

Local businesses looking to participate in the Halloween festivities by providing candy for local children will set up stations around the courthouse after 4 p.m. on Halloween, with candy collections set to begin at 5:30 p.m.

Returning from last year, the North Georgia Dance Arts will perform in front of the courthouse entrance as the party starts.

The Towns County Historical Society is bringing back their popular "Haunted Jail" attraction for the second year in a row at the Old Rock Jail next to the courthouse.

2018 was the first time for the Haunted Jail, which Society President Sandra Green said was a learning experience, adding that she is confident the haunted jail will be much improved in 2019.

Historical Society officers Tyler Osborn and Mary Ann Miller, along with David Weber from the Young Harris College Theater Department, are in charge of this year's Haunted Jail.

Osborn, Miller and Weber have been working with students from the high school and college in creating the Haunted Jail, and Osborn said the jail will definitely be much improved, as they are planning to use the entire jail this year.

The Haunted Jail is free to the public and will kick off at 6 p.m. and last until 9 p.m.

Towns County High School senior Shane Sparks' much-anticipated Powderpuff flag football game was supposed to take place Halloween night, but it has been rescheduled to the spring due to expected inclement weather, upcoming sports and the winter season.

The fundraiser game, which will double as Sparks' senior project, will feature several high school girls facing off in a competitive flag football