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Alex and Trevor Prince show off their top prizes and share a moment with Coach Kyle Langford. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

a total weight of 21.90 pounds and gave them claiming rights to the second place prize.

You might recognize them in that Brad fishes on the Young Harris College Bass masters team.

The third place prize for the weight of 21.03 pounds went to the team of Robby Graper and Mike Gibson who actually had a fish in the running for big fish with a weight of 5.49 pounds.

Fourth place went to the team of Matthew Phillips and Joe Martin with a weight of 19.98 pounds and they too had a fish in the biggest fish weigh-in and it came close at 6.80 pounds.

The final place of the event went to the team of Butch Hooper and Dwayne Davenport with a total weight of 15.48 pounds.

Their heavy fish was a nice size pan fryer with a weight of 3.93 pounds.

The contestants all said it was a good day on the lake and that it was very enjoyable.

Event coordinator Nathan Noblet said of the tournament was a great day to be

fishing.

"It was a great day to fish because the weather was near perfect and the fish were biting," Noblet said. "We had a good turnout and I just wanted, on behalf of the Touchdown Club, thank all the anglers and volunteers that came out and helped.

"I want to thank all the sponsors that helped make this possible especially those who donated the prizes," Noblet said. Thanks go out to C & J Outfitters, Holiday Inn, Dairy Queen, Noblet's 5 & 10 and The Grub Shak for the big fish prize.

"I want to thank the anglers again because without them we couldn't hold the tournament," he said. "We thank them for supporting the high school football program."

The Touchdown Club is a private group of local businessmen who work together to help support the high school football program.

They plan on having this event again next year, so make a note to sign up and fish for a good cause next year.

Band...continued from Page 1A

The students raised more than \$10,000 to cover the cost of the charter bus, trolley tours, meals, and hotel expenses," he said. "They spent many hours of their personal time selling Cokes and donuts to cover the cost of the trip. They also received many generous donations from the community as well."

According to parent chaperone/equipment hauler Melanie Hale Beighley, "We left Hiawassee early Friday morning, March 15th, on a chartered bus heading to Savannah with 36 students, 11 chaperones, Mr. McKinney, and the bus driver.

"Many parents, family members, and friends drove down to be a part of the festivities and to support the band," she said.

Upon arrival in Savannah, the group went on a historic trolley tour of old Savannah, had pizza in the park, and then took the "haunted trolley tour" that evening.

"The students also had the opportunity to spend some time on Tybee Island and "dip their toes in the water, walk along the beach, and eat at Savannah's famous Crab Shack which had the best seafood ever and I'm not even a seafood fan," said Beighley.



The TCHS Marching Indian Raider Band enjoyed the sights and sounds of Savannah.

Senior Brittany Boyer said, "I always knew Savannah was the first city in Georgia, but I never really thought that it was the "first" in everything.

"I had no idea how much history the area had. It was quite overwhelming," she said.

"Marching in the St. Patrick's Day parade was like nothing I had ever done before. I've been in several parades before, but this one takes the cake. I'd never seen so many variations of the color green in my life. "The people were so

happy to see us and hear what we had to play for them," said Boyer.

Congratulations TCHS Indian Raider Band on a job well done and for highlighting the great talent that Towns County has to offer.

FBLA...continued from Page 1A

FBLA Battle of the Chapters team placed in the Top 10 at Fall Conference which led them to compete in finals at the State Leadership Conference.

The team battled for three hours and to a victorious finish on stage at the conference, placing first in the state.

Members competing at the Conference were: Top 10 Winners: Alana Calhoun in Word Processing I (1st); Mckenzi Moss in Word Processing II (1st); the team of Kayla Taylor, Kara Harris, and Mia Manto in Emerging Business Issues (1st); Courtney Marshall in Spreadsheet Applications (2nd); the team of Irvin, Marshall, and Harrison Hobbs in Business Presentation (5th); Kayla Taylor in Business Law (6th); Stephanie Patton in FBLA Principles and Procedures (6th); MegAnn Bradley in Client Services (8th); Allison Page in Business Law; Katlyn Hallman in Business Law; Mia Manto in FBLA Principles and Procedures; Courtney Stevens in FBLA Principles and Procedures; Jessie Poole in FBLA

Principles and Procedures; Madison Johnson in FBLA Principles and Procedures; Ryan Tallent in Economics; Dillon Diehl in Sports Management; Kayleigh Casonguay in Business Communication; Elizabeth Turner and Allison Page in Desktop Publishing; Austin Wood and Luke Parker in Business Ethics, and Danielle Diehl, Amber Williams, and Alicia Williams in Community Service Project.

Towns County High School and Georgia will be represented favorably at the National level as six TCHS students prepare to compete this summer against other finalist from across the nation.

The following students will represent Georgia FBLA at the 2013 FBLA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA June 26 - July 1: Mckenzi Moss, Alana Calhoun, Courtney Marshall, Mia Manto, Kayla Taylor, and Kara Harris. Congratulation to Towns County FBLA and good luck at nationals.

BOE...continued from Page 1A

level," Superintendent Melissa Williams said. "They make the tough decisions every month. School board membership is one of the most personally demanding forms of public service.

"In fact, they never are completely 'off the job' as board members," she said.

The five Towns County Board members serving the Towns County School district include: Board Chair Michael Anderson, Post 1 Macedonia;



Melissa Williams Vice-Chair, Donna Hedden, Post 5 'At Large', and members, Emily Phillips, Post 2 Hiawassee; Bob Gibby, Post 4 'At Large', and Jerry Taylor, Post 3 Young Harris.

As constitutional officers of Georgia, school board members are responsible for setting educational policies, employing school personnel, providing buildings and equipment, operating a transportation system, and disbursing school funds.

As community leaders, school board members serve as advocates for the children in local public schools and must study, evaluate and decide what actions are in the best inter-

est of those students.

The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) sponsors this week of appreciation.

The mission of GSBA is to ensure excellence in the governance of local school systems by providing leadership, advocacy and services, and by representing the collective resolve of Georgia's 180 elected boards of education.

Please visit www.gsba.com for more details.

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said, "We are assembled here to offer our last tribute of respect and affection in memory of Bud's son Scott, one who served willingly when his country called.

"As the years roll by, we note with great sorrow and regret, that the ranks of our veterans continue to diminish," Barron said. "One by one our comrades leave us. One by one they pass into the great beyond to join the company of heroes, men and women, who have defended our country under arms.

"Their departure leaves our hearts heavy and although some of these men of the North Georgia Honor Guard may not have known Scott, he was a fellow veteran, a comrade," Barron said. "There exist among those who have served in the military of this great nation, a special comradeship that those who have never served will never fully understand; that common bond of service, loneliness,

hardship, and even the smell and fear of death, that binds us together.

"So we of the North Georgia Honor Guard deem it an honor, a privilege, and our solemn duty to render a final salute to one of our own," concluded Barron.

With great pride and tears streaming down his cheeks, Bud Johnson stood and saluted "Scotty" for the last time.

He remained standing as his son was honored with a 21-Gun Salute and the traditional playing of *Taps* as Bud Johnson continued to stand at attention.

Prior to the flag being folded and presented to Bud Johnson, Barron said, "This banner of love and devotion, about to be folded, is a living memorial of the courageous thoughts of our fallen comrade, the one we came here to honor this day."

Barron described the symbolism of the flag's colors. "The 'Blue Field' represents the sky that overlooked

our land and denotes the watchfulness of our God the Eternal. The 'Red Stripes' tell us of the blood, sweat, and tears that has been offered and conquered by our comrade's devotion to the responsible freedom of his country. The 'White Stripes' boldly proclaim the peace that he helped bring to our future generations," Barron said.

"This is 'His Flag', this is our spiritual heritage," said Barron as he continued with his explanation with each fold of the flag until it was completed in the traditional military-style triangle. "When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our National Motto, 'In God We Trust.'"

Barron addressed Bud Johnson with great respect and dignity as he said, "On behalf of a grateful nation and the President of the United States, we present this flag as a token of appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service. God Bless you and

your family and God bless America."

He concluded this very moving ceremony with a salute.

As Bud Johnson accepted the flag, he stood before the group and, in a compassionate, generous, and selfless fashion that came as no surprise to those who know and love this gentleman, announced that he was presenting this flag to the new Mountain Senior Center in memory and honor of his son and in his continued loyalty to his beloved Towns County, the place he proudly calls home.

Bud Johnson, a U.S. Navy veteran of Iwo Jima, said, "I want to make sure that people know 'it's all about family,' and that's what I want all of you to take away from here today, a sense of family.

I love each and every one of you, and you are my family," he said.

HOSA...continued from Page 1A

second place Personal Care; The team of Emma Jackson, Zach Pittman, and Stephany Hooper, second place Community Awareness; Savannah Crews, fifth place Clinical Specialty; Alex King eighth place Medical Math; The team of Zane Boyd, Reed Moss, and Lane Kimsey, eighth place Public Health; Towns County HOSA Chapter - HOSA Happenings Newsletter; Towns County Jr HOSA Chapter (Middle School Division) - National Service Project Award; Towns County HOSA Chapter (High School Division) - National Service Project Award; Reed Moss received the Barbara James Service Award for his work with Towns County Fire Department; Towns County High School HOSA Chapter - State Theme

for "HOSA - Putting the CARE back in HealthCARE."

"These students worked very hard on these academic competitions," Crews said. "These kinds of competitions are where Towns County can really shine. They were competing against extremely large schools and advanced magnet schools.

"As a community we need to rally our support around these students and root them on as they continue on to the national level," Crews said. "Thank you for your continued support of the Health Occupations and Emergency Services Program at Towns County High School. Together as a community we will be able to send these students out into the world prepared for good paying, rewarding careers."

Don Wells talks Native American culture

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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Jasper native Don Wells was the guest speaker for the March 11th meeting of the Towns County Historical Society.

Wells is the president of the Mountain Stewards, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the preservation of historic Native American culture.

Wells and his wife Diane have written a book entitled *Mystery of the Trees*. "This book covers six years of work in documenting a part of the cultural heritage of the American Indians that is rapidly disappearing," said Wells. "In the early 1900s, some information on the trees was published, but then it languished in archives.

"The subject remained below the radar for years and now, through interviews with tribal elders and excessive research, we are able to tell their story," Wells said.

The trees that Wells refers to are "bent trees" that many believe were used by Indians as "markers."

Wells described the trees as "guides" that Indians used as they traveled, often great distances, to hunt, trade, and gather medicinal plants. Wells, and others involved in this research, believe that the trees were used to communicate with other tribes as well. He indicated that these trees are disappearing at a rapid rate



Don Wells

and that is why the Mountain Stewards are so intent on following all "documented leads" in an effort to tell the story of the elders and tribes who were removed from their native lands and placed on reservations.

Wells told the group that these tribes had lost their voice and with few elders remaining, he fears the stories will not be told without their help and dedication.

"Exploring a story that has been hidden for many years, we endeavor to create an understanding and appreciation for people who hold a great reverence for the earth and nature," said Wells.

The Indian Trail tree project of the Mountain Stewards began in March 2007 when researchers from several states gathered at Hobbs State Park in Arkansas.

They agreed to work together to locate, document, and preserve those "living artifacts" that Wells described as a legacy of the Native American pres-

ence on the North American Continent.

Wells explained that these living artifacts have become known by many names: Indian Trail Trees, Marker Trees, Thong Trees, Signal Trees, Prayer Trees, and Culturally Modified Trees (CMT).

"In the past several years, bent trees have been documented as existing or as having previously existed in at least 40 states," said Wells.

"Using GPS and digital topographic technology, trees are correlated with known Indian trails and village sites," he said. "Plotting this information on topographic and 3-D maps graphically tells us more about the cultural history of the Native Americans."

Wells described the use of survey maps from the 1700s and 1800s to accurately identify old Indian trails and the trees associated with them.

Mystery of the Trees proposes answers to the question of why there is a mystery. According to Wells, native culture and history were passed orally at festivals, family gatherings, and individually regarding the historical and mythological stories of their respective tribes.

"The coming of Columbus and other Europeans greatly impacted Indian culture. With each genera-

tion, more knowledge was lost. By the time of the 'Indian Removal to Oklahoma,' life for the Indians had permanently changed," he said. "The elders, because of the way they were treated and their lack of trust of the white man, refused to talk about the 'old ways and customs' and the stories and historical information began to disappear," said Wells.

According to Wells, the removal period lasted from the 1790s through the 1870s.

"Every tribe had a removal period. Every tribe had a 'Trail of Tears.'"

"Indians described this time as "no past and no future."

"They referred to 'no past' because they had lost their elders and 'no future' because they had lost their children," Wells said.

Wells told the spell-bound audience, that over the past five years, many tribal elders were interviewed and were ready to talk after their trust had been gained; hence, the development of *Mystery of the Trees*.

"Those interviews not only resulted in a greater appreciation of the trees and of the other great losses of their culture, but also gave us a greater understanding and respect for the spirituality and wisdom of the Native Americans," said Wells as he concluded his presentation.

Susan Conger to perform at the Folk School March 29

Susan Conger will perform a free concert in the Community Room of the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC on Friday, March 29 at 7 p.m. Donations are welcome.

Susan Conger is a well known fiddler and composer in the vibrant New England contra dance scene. She grew up playing classical violin and was soon attracted to the music she heard while contra dancing. What began as a hobby soon evolved into a career which has included recording, teaching, editing and publishing music for dancing. Expect an evening of toe-tapping jigs and reels as well as beautiful waltzes and some Scandinavian tunes.



Susan Conger on the world wide web at <http://www.folkschool.org>. For further information call the Folk School at 828-837-2775 or 1-800-FOLK-SCH.