

# Burch...continued from Page 1A

attention center for three years. She was a vital part of the detention staff, and also performed administrative duties whenever needed. Her demeanor and willingness to perform any task made her a favorite with her co-workers and supervisors.

Amy and her husband, Bruce, had a son, Cody, and a daughter, Michaela, and a granddaughter, McKenna.

Her interests included, "watching sports, reading, and playing the piano.

Amy was a beloved member of the Sheriff's Office staff who made everyone around her smile. She graduated from Union County High School, where she was a stand-out basketball player, went on to play for Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, and later earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education.

Amy was at her Towns County home when she suffered from apparent cardiac arrest. She was transported to Chatuge Regional Hospital and later to Northeast Georgia Medical Center's Ronnie Green Heart Center in Gainesville where she died.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, May 25, in the Mountain View Funeral Home Chapel in Blairsville with the Rev. Ken Nicholson, Rev. Anthony Dye and Rev. Clark Moss officiating.



**Officer Amy Burch**

Special music was presented by Freda Nicholson and the Hunter Sisters.

The following gentleman served as pallbearers, Scott Farist, Jeremy Parker, Richard Morgan, Marty White, James Baldwin and Shawn Crisp.

Serving as honorary pallbearers were members of the Towns County Sheriff's Office and the Towns County Detention Center. Graveside services followed in the Zebulon Baptist Church Cemetery.

The law enforcement and public safety community honored her with a final salute, a multi-car escort, and full honors including bagpipes and Taps at the graveside.

She was a trusted and beloved member of the Towns County Sheriff's Office team and will be missed by all, Sheriff Clinton said.

# Annual Boat Show at Ridges

By Libby Shook  
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Saturday, June 8th, the Ridges Resort and Marina celebrated Welcome to the Water on National Marina Day with the 26th Annual Antique Classic Boat Rendezvous hosted by the Blue Ridge Chapter Antique and Classic Boat Society.

The weather was perfect with blue skies and plentiful sunshine overhead.

They couldn't have asked for a better day to enjoy the beauty of Lake Chatuge and the camaraderie of fellow boat enthusiasts.

The Blue Ridge Chapter was formed on April 8, 1986 at Lake Lure, NC. Today they boast almost 300 members throughout the Southeast.

There were 40 antique wooden boats on site Saturday, each with a unique name and a unique story.

In fact, the name almost told the story. But, that didn't stop the proud owners from eagerly sharing their stories with the hundreds of guests who stopped in to look at the beautiful boats, snap a few pictures, and enjoy the stories of how the boats got their names.

Guests even had the chance to ride on a few of these rare collectibles.

There's nothing like the look of pride that you see on the face of a proud boat owner and Saturday was no exception.

The boats were all beautiful and well-maintained.

This was a family event and a family adventure.

John Walton of Blue Ridge has been a member of the Blue Ridge Chapter ACBS for the past 19 years, a hobbyist for 21 years, and owns six antique boats.

"It's just a whole lot of family fun. I enjoy participating and this is an excellent location and close to home. The lake is beautiful and it's a good and honest hobby and something the family can be a part of," said Walton.

Former Boat Show Chairman Randy Cunningham is credited as being the founder of the Lake Chatuge Classic Boat Rendezvous.

Cunningham is an avid boat collector and a long-time member of the Blue Ridge Chapter of the ACBS.

Jerri Nowlen of Ellijay, is the current chairperson having replaced the popular Cunningham this year.

The ACBS has been coming to Towns County since the opening of the Ridges (known at that time as The Fieldstone Inn) 26 years ago, said General Manager Chad Hooper.

"We are real excited to have them here with us as we celebrate National Marina Day here on beautiful Lake Chatuge," Hooper said. "They have been around as long as the Ridges has and it's an honor for me to be affiliated with them and to get to be a part of this continued tradition," said Hooper.



Above, one of the 40 beautiful antique boats at this year's event; below, a popular arts and crafts event also kept visitors busy. Photos/Libby Shook

# Rec Center...continued from Page 1A

"It's something we've been needing and it will provide a valuable service for the citizens of Towns County through the recreation department and the community center."

The building includes an area that will be used as two basketball courts and can be divided by a partition to separate events or games.

The partition can be removed and the same space can seat up to 1,000 people for large crowd events.

There are three community rooms that can be used for community meetings and gatherings or team functions.

Patrons are provided

locker rooms and a workout facility complete with fitness room and private or group workout rooms. There also is a walking track on the upper floor that is accessible from an elevator or by stairs so people can walk when it is cold or raining or just to be in safety.

There will be no county government offices located in the facility. Only the recreation staff will have offices on grounds, as their operations will move from the old facility as well, Kendall said.

The building is scheduled for completion near the end of October or the first of November if all goes well.

"We look to have things

open at the new facility around the end of October of this year, hopefully no later than the first half of November," Kendall said. "We would like to catch this year's basketball season and have the games there. If the weather holds and all goes well, we should make it by then.

"We look good on the funding so there are no problems financially. Money should not be an issue," he said.

The original cut in the initial grading is starting to settle and separate from its base and Kendall addressed that issue.

"We are going to finish that whole area on that end of the building and build the park-

ing area so any bad areas will be re-graded in the finish grade stage," he said. "It will look a lot better in the end."

Towns County residents are excited about their new recreation facility.

It is a valuable commodity that will improve the benefits of the county to its citizens.

The recreation department will now have better facilities to offer in their programs and can handle larger groups than ever before so that, in and of itself, helps the taxpayers of Towns County who enjoy the luxury of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax dollars picking up the tab on this wonderful new facility.

# Abuse...continued from Page 1A

lem in our society and if we don't step up and fight this thing it is going to get worse," Langley said. "Right now one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually assaulted by the time they reach 18 years of age. Over 90 percent of them will know their abuser and live in fear of telling anyone while 30 to 40 percent of these victims are abused by family.

"Something that amazes me is the fact that there is an estimated 39 million survivors of child abuse in America compared to 12 million cancer survivors," Langley said. "These are just some of the reasons why we are working

with this initiative. If we can educate the people out there in the community, then we can stop the abuse."

Training is now available to teach adults to recognize the signs of child sexual abuse and to respond to that child's needs promptly and correctly.

There are several trained adults available to hold the two and a half hour course, but all that is needed is the place and opportunity, Langley said.

"We can come to a place of business or to a private residence, it just doesn't matter," he said. "What is important is that people as a group step up and be willing to go through this train-

ing and then act on what they have learned.

"Just think of it this way; one of the next four little girls you meet is already or will be a victim of sexual abuse and one of the next six little boys you meet will be a victim of sexual abuse," Langley said. "It is something that hits close to home and people need to be aware of how much of a problem this really is."

If you would like to have an instructor come and talk to your group about this very important issue then please contact the Office of the District Attorney at (706) 439-6027.

The training is free as of

now and the benefits could be life saving.

Many of these abused children commit suicide, so your support and willingness to get involved could save the life of total stranger, a family member or the kid down the street.

It is up to us to wake up and try and stop this terrible transgression within our society before it destroys one more young life.

Volunteer now to host an educational seminar and let's all join the fight to help our little ones be more protected.

# Pancakes...continued from Page 1A

the Ladies Auxiliary's annual fundraiser to bring in money for local scholarships for a worthy student or students in the Towns County Schools System.

One or two high school juniors or seniors receive money for winning an essay contest this coming school year on a patriotic topic.

This scholarship money can be used for a college or technical school.

According to Ladies Auxiliary President Ann Griffin, the number of scholarships awarded in any given year depends on how much money is raised by the Ladies Auxiliary during



L to R, Ann Griffin, Linda Barbour, Brenda Hoyt, and Betty Deitz. These ladies out did themselves. Photo/Colleen Collins

the preceding year.

One hundred percent of the profits from the breakfast go toward the scholarship fund.

The Ladies Auxiliary was chartered five years ago.

As evidenced by this fundraising event, it is focused on doing good deeds in the community.

Five volunteers were committed to this breakfast, arriving be-

fore daylight to serve in the kitchen.

Griffin was quick to praise her four other volunteers, Linda Barbour, Betty Deitz, Robin Halfon, and Brenda Hoyt.

"These ladies arrived bright and early to get everything going in the kitchen," Griffin said, adding that she "couldn't have done it without them."

In addition, "the pancake mix, butter, syrup and orange juice were all donated by Ingles, for which we are very grateful," Griffin said.

Great food and good deeds. Now, that's a combination that's hard to beat.

# Grant...continued from Page 1A

the 600 letters of support from local residents that were delivered to his office, and to Sen. Wilkinson.

"John Wilkinson is the person you need to be thanking today," Allison said. "He is the person responsible for this grant."

Allison told the interested listeners that he had gone to Wilkinson and said, "The governor's taken library money out of the budget and we can't go back home without anything. I've tried all my connections in the House. Can you open a door in the Senate?"

"I got a call back after the Senate got the budget and John was able to get the money in there," Rep. Allison said.

"There were only three libraries that made it out of a list of 11," he said. "I think we owe a lot of that to John Wilkinson. His relationship with the Senate made that happen. When it came back to the House, I was able to get on it like a dog on a bone. I was proud to be involved and I just want to thank you for all your hard work."

Howell agreed with Allison regarding Wilkinson's role in the library funding.

She told the group that when she talked with the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee Sen. Jack Hill, he said, "You really need to thank John Wilkinson. He has been your champion and presented your project, supported your project, gave us all the documentation, and followed it all the way through. He truly was your champion."

Sen. Wilkinson made his way to the podium and after much ap-



State Rep. Stephen Allison

plause, he said, "I appreciate the opportunity to be here. You've been very kind; Rep. Allison has been very kind, but I will tell you this; nothing happens and you don't have this kind of success without a lot of support and a lot of work."

"I've not been in the General Assembly that long, but since I've been there, I can assure you that I've heard from the Friends of the Library staff here in Hiwassee," Wilkinson said. "You can just get a lot more done when you have a team that can work together and Rep. Allison and I did meet on several occasions and he was very modest, but he had a lot to do with this project and I know Commissioner Kendall worked hard on the county end to make it happen."

"We've all worked very hard and I just appreciate the opportunity to be a part of it. I feel really good about this," Sen. Wilkinson said. "This was the first session that I have had the opportunity to serve on the Appropriations Committee in the State Senate, and this was a priority because you can look around and see the need. I had visited the library and I know



These folks are really excited about a library. Photo/Libby Shook

how much we needed this project, but it took a lot of people - Senator Jack Hill, the Lt. Governor, and the Governor all worked to make this happen, and considering the number of requests that we had from around the state and that only three of them were funded is exciting for me.

"Congratulations. I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of it," said Sen. Wilkinson.

Commissioner Kendall took very little credit for the funding, but was quick to point out the hard work of the Friends of the Library, Howell, and local residents that supported the venture including Shirley Stallings, who was instrumental in getting folks fired up about the need for library renovations and getting the 600 letters of support written for submission to the General Assembly.

In her introduction of Kendall, Howell said, "for those of you who know Mr. Kendall, you know that he is very low key about things, but he gets a lot done."

"We wouldn't be here without him and we really appreciate him"

she said.

Kendall rose and said, "I want to thank Sen. Wilkinson and Rep. Allison for all their hard work and for being here with us today."

"This is an example of team work," Kendall said. "We've got the best library director in Georgia. Donna could have retired several years ago, but she agreed to stay on until we could get this funded and the renovations done."

"And then we've got a really strong group in the Friends of the Library," he said. "Again, just a real good example of everybody working together for the good of the community. I'm proud to be a part of it."

Kendall was the final speaker and when he had completed his brief speech, Howell announced, "let them eat cake."

Everyone had a good time socializing and enjoying not only the cake, but the other tasty treats that had been prepared for this time of festive celebration.

It was a time long coming and greatly appreciated by the library system, the Friends of the Library, and Towns County.