

Coleman...from Page 1A

County High School. He became a volunteer firefighter with Towns County Fire & Rescue in 1988, and obtained training in 1989 to become a basic EMT, after which he worked for Towns County EMS. Around 1991, Coleman became assistant fire chief in Towns. Later in '91 and into 1992, he achieved his paramedic certification, and he remained in his Towns County positions until 1994. He married his wife Peggy in 1994 and moved from Hiawassee to work full-time for Habersham County EMS, helping them run their then one-of-a-kind critical transport truck, and he also worked part-time for Rabun County EMS. Then in 1998, Coleman returned with his family to Towns County, where he built a home on his family land, which has been in the Coleman name for more than 150 years. Upon his return he took on the duty of Towns County Fire Chief, which then was a part-time position, and he also worked as a full-time paramedic for the county EMS. Coleman transitioned

away from his career as a paramedic and fire chief at the end of 2000, and began Trooper School Feb. 18, 2001, where he continued his lifelong commitment to public service. "Before I got involved with the fire department, rescue, EMS or anything - my mom and dad, they live on Swallows Creek Road, and there was a bad accident right basically in front of our house, where a jeep had run off the road, off the bank, went into the creek, turned upside down, and there were four young people in it," said Coleman. The individuals involved in the accident were hurt pretty badly, and Coleman said he was down in the creek with them, trying to help them, but there wasn't much he could do. "I felt helpless," said Coleman. "I didn't know what to do. I took that and I said, I don't want to feel helpless anymore. Then I started seeking ways to get trained to help people." Many people helped and many years later, Coleman turned 50 this March. And though he still has plenty of career left and loves his

new position with the GSP, he said that one day, when he's finally ready to retire, he'll be thinking of Towns County. "I would love to come back home and just be totally retired, and enjoy sitting on my porch and looking at the mountain - being back at my grassroots of where I started," said Coleman, when asked about that future prospect. For now, Coleman will continue to do what he has always done, which is to serve the communities within which he works. After having moved his way up from volunteer firefighter to paramedic and fire chief, then from cadet to post commander in the state patrol, he has a simple message for any who would hear it and take it to heart. "The sky is the limit," said Coleman. "If you love to do something, there's no boundaries. You can advance - you can be the grunt one day, and then the next thing you know, you're a leader." Anthony and Peggy Coleman have two daughters, Alexandra and Angelina, and they keep their home in Hiawassee and a home in Cumming.

Pet...from Page 1A

today is raising awareness and encouraging people to see the pets and hopefully adopt. "There are some wonderful pets in there that need a good home. We've helped them in the past with their surgeries, and I really encourage this type of need." "Unfortunately, there are a lot of stray pets that need homes, and this is one way for those animals to be placed with a good family." Members of the Board of Directors for the Humane Society cooked up hotdogs and hamburgers for event participants, and Lacey from the K-9 Unit of the Union County Sheriff's Office paid a special visit to the shelter. "Rescued," a dog rescue program affiliated with the Georgia Department of Corrections, came out to

support the event as well, sharing information on their program and how it benefits both shelter dogs as well as offenders from the Colwell Probation Detention Center. Cornhole and face painting were both available for children, and one lucky kid, 10-year-old Kyra McKechnie, received a \$25 check for her winning essay in the Humane Society Mountain Shelter essay contest. Kidz Camp will also be offered this summer, beginning Saturday, June 18. The camp will run every Saturday until school starts back, aside from the weekend before July 4. "We're introducing the Kidz Camp, kindergarten through sixth grade," said McConnell. "We teach them humane education in a classroom setting. We teach

them how to approach dogs, about preventative care, about shots, what you don't do to animals and the importance of properly caring for an animal." The Kidz Camp is held in the shelter's Dawg House, a building dedicated to a wide variety of activities and learning opportunities that are open to the community. During the Kidz Camp, children are given a hands-on education with the help of certified therapy dog Cheree, and her owner Dena Randall. All in all, the day was a one of laughter and happiness, with smiles all around from everyone involved. Adoptions during Pet-a-Pet were discounted to half-off, and several pets went home to new families.

Market...from Page 1A

market, all one must do is show up at 8 a.m. on Saturday. The market officially opens at 9 a.m. but that doesn't stop the early bird customers from arriving around 8 a.m. "If you're interested in becoming a vendor, you definitely need to show up around 8 a.m.," Lee said. "Some people just pull in and open their trunks. It's that easy." Different vendors show up at different times of year, depending on what's in season. Sometimes people will show up with a truckload of corn. You never know what you're going to get and it's very nice

and peaceful out here alongside the lake," said market vendor Sheleila O'Neal. Located on Hwy. 76, the market is hard to miss if you don't know where it is, or simply aren't paying attention. Even during the Georgia Mountain Fair, attendance at the market can be hit or miss. A lot of people just drive by so fast that they don't even know we're here," O'Neal said. "The fair definitely pulls in more people but it can go either way. Sometimes people are so tired leaving the fair that they don't even bother with us, but then again, some

people do. But overall, there are more people in town during that time so we do better. "There will be a lot more produce later (in the summer). Squash will be here next week but the tomatoes aren't quite ripe yet, so as soon as people start seeing red as they drive by, we start getting more customers." Those thinking about picking up some homegrown squash next weekend will need to arrive early with some customers arriving before 9 a.m. Last weekend, the produce sold out by 9:30 a.m.

Historical Society enjoys an evening of stories

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer



Towns County Historical Society members listen to storytelling at the monthly meeting at the Old Recreation Center. Photo/Lily Avery

Storytelling has always been a favorite pastime of many generations and the people of Towns County are no exception. The Towns County Historical Society gathered together for a night of fellowship and ancestral tales at its monthly meeting at the Old Towns County Recreation Center on Monday, June 13. Historical Society Vice President Nancy Cody led this month's meeting with stories of her distant relatives, members of the Hall family, specifically those who wandered from the family's main stomping grounds, the "black sheep" of the family, as Cody referred to them. "It's these sorts of things in genealogy that make it interesting," said Cody. "It's not your everyday, run of the mill people that put the juice in it and makes things interesting." Cody presented a brief oral history of her background and where her family came from before delving into the spicy bits of gossip that has been floating around her family tree. Upon digging around in her family history, Cody found one particular ancestor who had gotten caught up in some rather interesting scandals, one such being a bigamy trial that involved two wives and 12 children, six from each marriage. Another such scandal that Cody found this same ancestor wrapped up in was declaring himself a physician, with the only formal training being his ability to pass the Tennessee test for physician. "So if you want to know where I get my intelligence,"

she said Cody as she continued to share the hilarious tales from ancestors long ago. Before Cody took the stage, word on the Presley Post Office was shared with the group, specifically the new location of the building. The Historical Society Executive Board decided that the best location would be at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in the Pioneer Village. When this will happen is still to be determined. Next month is the society's annual Heritage Day. This year's theme will be, "Honoring Our Veterans." The society hopes to display veteran memorabilia and photos of veterans around the meeting room to pay tribute to those who have served in the Armed Forces. "We're going to do a little bit different this year, we're going to focus on the veterans," said Historical Society President Sandra Green. "Anybody who has any ancestors from any war who has

memorabilia that they would like to share, which includes pictures, artifacts, medals and anything like that. "We're going to display them around the edges of the room. We also will have speakers lined up that we are hoping will draw a good crowd. "We really need people to help, to volunteer to help us. We're just trying to change things up for this year but we're open to suggestions on what we can contribute to this, we would really appreciate it." Heritage Day will take place on Saturday, July 9, at the Old Towns County Recreation Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is open to the public and the Historical Society would like to extend an invitation to everyone in the community to come out and enjoy the event. The Towns County Historical Society meets in the Old Towns County Recreation Center on the second Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Skynyrd...from Page 1A

help of all our Citizens Law Enforcement Academy folks, Department of Natural Resources and Appalachian Regional Drug Task Force, just to make sure that everyone has a good time and stays safe," said Towns County Sheriff Chief Chris Clinton, "This is the biggest show we've ever secured, by far. Growing up, I thought Lynyrd Skynyrd invented Rock n' Roll so this is a very big deal, at least to me." Skynyrd sent things out with a bang, playing one of their top hits, *Sweet Home Alabama*. And just when the crowd thought things could not get any better, an encore ensued and *Free Bird*, finished off the evening for a night no one would ever forget.



Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton gets a big hand from Lynyrd Skynyrd's Johnny Van Zant prior to Friday's Skynyrd concert in Hiawassee. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Flagpole...from Page 1A

story on how the idea came to fruition what was held inside of the ball at the top of the flag, and what the colors of the flag represent. In the ball is one round of ammunition that says, 'we will never run out of ammo' and one match is for the burning of the flag. The red on the flag is for valor, the white is for purity, and the blue is for justice. "It's an honor to do anything for the veterans because

without them we wouldn't even have a country," said Commissioner Kendall when asked to say a few words during the dedication. When the flag was raised upon the pole it was placed at half-staff in honor of the Orlando shooting victims. When placing a flag at half-staff, it is raised all of the way to the top, then back down to half-staff. "I want to thank first and foremost our commis-

sioner, Mr. Kendall because he'd made several things happen for us here with the flag pole, parking lot repair, and our building received a beautiful paint job this week," Assistant Manager Childers said. "I also want to say thank you and God Bless You to all of our veterans and to anybody who has served in anyway because if it weren't for them, we wouldn't have a need for this store or this organization."

BOE...from Page 1A

CTAE Director Melissa McConnell presented the board with the CTAE Budget for the upcoming year as well as the next list of classes that are going to be offered soon. "We have gone from having four pathways to five," said McConnell. "I think this is a pretty big accomplishment for our school system, especially for the amount of teachers we have to teach these pathways. "What's new is our Finance and Accounting in Business, we've added Sports Medicine for next year, which the students are very excited about. "We added Metal Fab-

rication this past year and we plan to add Electricity and Electrical Systems for this coming year. We've also added Forestry and Wildlife Management classes." Some of the CTAE classes that are already in place are available for simultaneous credits and a few of the new pathway classes will also be available for this accreditation. For example, the Forestry and Wildlife Management classes can be used as both a pathway requirement as well as a science credit. At the middle school, new "feeder" classes will be available for students who wish to pursue high school

credit while still in the eighth grade. One such class will be the Introduction to Business and Technology class, taught by Jason McClure. These classes are very important for students to get the full benefit of the pathway programs available at the high school. Also available at the middle school, along with math and science, language arts will now be offered for eighth graders to take to receive high school credit. The Board of Education will hold next month's work session on Tuesday, July 5 and the monthly meeting will be on Thursday, July 14.

Parade...from Page 1A

mountains, so it's got to be tourism. There's not a lot of industry." Thomason, a native of Towns County, remembers seeing the parade roll through town when she was a little girl. "It was very magical, because there wasn't anything else going on in Hiawassee," said Thomason. "The parade would come through Hiawassee, and the fair came to town - you'd get to go ride the rides. So it was a great event for Towns County, and it still

is a great event." In order to keep that wonder alive for the children of today, as well as to continue to promote tourism to help the county to thrive, Thomason is asking that the community embrace this timeless parade tradition, and gather together to build floats in a spirit of a communal activity. "We want the community and all of the businesses to get involved, and put a float or put something in the parade to make it a great parade," said Thomason. "We're trying

to get the community to come together, because it's important that we bring all these people to Towns County and promote tourism. "And we want the community to get behind this and get active, and try to do something in the parade to promote their business, and be a part of the parade and get the community involved." For an application to join the parade, or to volunteer for this year's Georgia Mountain Fair, call the Fairgrounds Office at (706) 896-4191.

YHC Odyssey of the Mind Wins Second Place at World Finals



YOUNG HARRIS - The Young Harris College Odyssey of the Mind team recently competed in the 37th annual World Finals tournament hosted by Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. The YHC team brought home second place for their division and received the highest score in the "Spontaneous" category. The team spent several months solving one of five long-term problems that were created by the international Odyssey of the Mind organization. "The competition highlights creativity and problem solving skills. There are a few different types of problems or prompts and each has a list of plot points, characters, and items that must be included in the solution - so it is actually quite difficult and requires a lot of planning," explained Emily Nix, a junior music education major from Winder. YHC competed along with 830 teams from across the globe. The tournament drew a crowd of nearly 20,000 people for the three-

day event. "It was amazing to see the different solutions teams came up with and how insanely creative children of all ages are," said Nix. Junior business and public policy major Thomas Johnson III, of Pine Mountain, the founder of the YHC team, became involved with Odyssey of the Mind in second grade. "When I found out YHC didn't have a team, I decided I wasn't ready to give up Odyssey of the Mind, and contacted Dr. Lawrence, who participated in the competition through college as well," said Johnson. Nix was also involved with Odyssey of the mind from a young age. Nix competed when she was in elementary school, but had to stop after her schools no longer offered the program. "When Thomas told me that he was starting a team at Young Harris, all I could think about was how much fun I had doing it in elementary school, and how much better I would be at it now," said Nix.

Solving the problem created by the international Odyssey of the Mind was not the only issue the team had to solve. Johnson explained that one of the biggest hurdles the team faced was finding a group that "blended" well, a process that took three years. In addition to Nix and Johnson, team members included freshman biology major Caroline Botta, of Marietta, freshman art major Peter Dalsemer, of Hayesville, N.C., freshman creative writing major Stendria Evans, of Griffin, recent interdisciplinary studies graduate Destin Leidner, of Atlanta, and senior music education major Sarah Stogsdill, of Shalimar, Fla. The team looks forward to competing again next year. "Given how talented every team member is, it did not surprise me that our team places so well in our first attempt," said Johnson. "If we are lucky enough to find as much talent as we had this year, I am confident we can bring back a first place trophy next year."