

# Boat Parade...from Page 1

The MaGahey family from Gainesville, Ga decorated their boat with the essential colors, sure, but they also constructed a handmade Statue of Liberty that stood well over 9 feet tall that was built for the Anderson Bridge in mind.

"She was way too tall to get through the bridge so it hinges in the middle," said Leckie MaGahey. "Just before we went under the bridge we unbolted her at the waist and leaned her forward until we got through. She was built in two pieces. We put her together at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds because she was in pieces, and when we got over to Nantahala Bay we got there early enough that we could put her together."

The statue was put together with odds and ends from thrift stores, garage parts and spare items around the house as an eight-inch ball covered in bubble wrap formed her head, the rest either framed with wood, PVC pipe, fishing wire, duct tape with a dash of faux Christmas snow and Liberty-green drapery.

Whether sitting in the grassy knoll or cruising on deck atop the Chatuge, onlookers took great notice of the parade as a whole. The winner of this year's award for Most Red, White and Blue went to the Baldwins, also having been a family affair, as it was for most in attendance.

Robert McCown, an Atlanta resident but Hiawassee inhabitant at heart, returned to the lake again this year with his family in tow as well.

"We've been coming up here about 20 years. I love the place, the mountains," said McCown, winner by default in the previous year's parade for being the only boat in attendance, still having showed up in lieu of last year's dreary 4th



Photos by Lowell Nicholson

weather. "It's wonderful, the mountains. We used to have a house up here. There's enough room for all the kids and their water sports this time of year. It's a great balance."

Independence Day would not be complete without a cookout or two, and The Ridges Resort catered just that to those willing to donate \$5 a plate for grilled hotdogs, chips and other concessions as they watched the dazzling boats anchor aweigh.

"Working with Anchor South, they've become a sponsor of melanoma research,"

said Belinda Byers, General Manager/Controller of The Ridges Resort and Marina.

"More information can be found at melanoma.org and we're going to continue to do melanoma fundraisers throughout the year at our different sites," she continued.

With a little help from The Ridges Resort and Marina, Hiawassee locals, mountain-hearted out-of-towners and Lady Liberty the spirit of Independence Day stayed afloat as it always has and always will.

# Fireworks...from Page 1

here since I was just a baby," said Tammy Cargill, who traveled from North Carolina to see the fireworks.

"I've been other places to see a light show, because you can just about look out your window and see fireworks, but I've met friends here that I now consider family. We bring our families and meet up together every so often. There's really only one true night we get to see fireworks so we make it count. Of course there's New Years, but we never had to fight for that. That just happens anyway."

While Independence Day can certainly be celebrated year-round, the days before and following always have an electricity in the air. One day before, Hiawassee had an energy to it throughout the town as a traveler, Walter "Chick" McGill, came through the city wanting to represent peace, love and independence as a whole, and July 5th still had a lingering buzz that stretched to Hiawassee Square as Music on the Square, an event which takes place every Saturday night, continued the celebration, accompanied by homemade bbq smoked right outside the pavilion.

Cody Savage and the Backwoods Band, who won North Georgia Technical College's version of American

Idol in 2012, gave a crowd of folks the gift of Johnny Cash's Folsom Prison Blues, and Hotrod Lincoln, a throwback from 1951's Arkie Shibley and his Mountain Dew Boys. The crowd enjoyed BBQ from Matt King's BBQ of Hayesville.

The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds will also be host-

ing the annual Georgia Mountain Fair, July 18-26 and The Moonshine Cruiz-In on August 7-9. For ticket information, call (706) 896-4191.

The days before, on and following Independence Day are always something special and for the City of Hiawassee, this year was no exception.



# Ralston...

from Page 1A

Court to serve as an independent investigator into the allegations against Speaker Ralston," Powell said. "Mark is well known for his honesty and integrity. He will not allow politics to cloud his judgment and objectivity."



# Council...from Page 1

Reading of a 2014 Ordinance regarding the Distribution of Printed Materials, as well as the Motion to approve Hotel and Motel Tax Funds Expenditure, \$500 to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds for 2014 Fireworks Sponsorship, which proved to be a very entertaining and worthy fund this past Independence Day at the Fairgrounds.

Upon Motion made by Councilman Jay Chastain, Jr. and seconded by Councilman Stephen Smith, the Council unanimously adopted the Regular June 3, 2014 Council Minutes, as well as the motion to adopt and approve the Minutes of the Executive Session of the City Council Meeting of May 6, 2014, however that motion

was held until next month's meeting.

The City Manager's report also addressed the Close Out of 2013 USDA Project, Mayor's Park, TVA Parcel 52 Status Report, Sign Enforcement Issues of Public Concern, Report on Public Hearing on Budget, Report on GEFA Phase II Funding (State Grant), and Report on City Surveys Needed -- TVA Parcels, Ace Hardware and Old City Hall.

Councilman Chastain was seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the 2014 Splost Priorities List, along with the motion to adopt \$36,538 to the Norton Agency for Insurance Coverage for FY

2014-1, which was also Motioned by Chastain and seconded by Councilman Smith.

A Motion was made by Councilman Chastain and seconded by Crothers in Public Session as the Council approved going into Executive Session to hear from the City Attorney and the Manager on the Settlement Authority in Hasler Lawsuit and the Settlement Approval in McFalls Threatened Litigation.

Upon the Motion made by Councilman Chastain and seconded by Councilman Smith, the Hiawassee Council voted in Closed or Executive Session to return to the Public Record before the Council unanimously adjourned.

# Baseball...from Page 1



## Special to Towns County Herald

The Towns County Recreation 10u boys baseball team was crowned champions of the Dist. 6 Dizzy Dean Tournament held at Union County's Meeks Park.

The Towns County youngsters had a perfect record by drawing a bye in the first round, then blasting Hall County 17 to 7 in the second round with the game being stopped by the mercy rule of a 10 run lead after 4 innings.

The Towns County boys defeated a strong Banks County 6 to 3 in the third round of tournament play and advanced to take on tournament undefeated Union County in the 4th round. The Towns County lads jumped on to a tough Union County team early by scoring six runs in the first inning and two in the 2nd inning. Strong pitching through the entire game by Collin Crowder and excellent fielding by the entire team held Union scoreless until they scored one run in the 5th inning making the score 9 to 1. The Towns boys added two more runs in the 5th Inning to make the score 11 to 1. The game was stopped by the mercy rule.

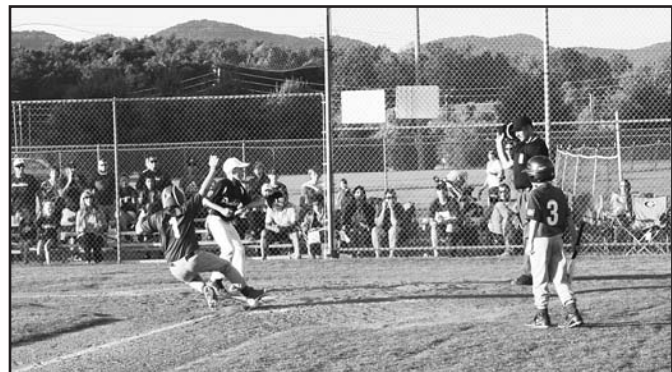
The tournament was double elimination; this loss put Union County in the loser bracket to play the winner of the Fannin and White County game. White County defeated Fannin County to set up a game between White County and Union County which Union won and advanced to play Towns County in the championship game.

With Towns being undefeated Union would have to defeat Towns two games to claim the championship.

Towns jumped out to a 6 run lead early in the 1st inning and added a run in the 2nd inning. Mica Gibson hit a sharp single driving in a run and scoring. Drew Sofield, with a strong at bat, worked the pitcher to a full count drawing a base on balls and scoring. Strong pitching by Caleb Berrong held Union scoreless the 1st and 2nd innings. Union scored two runs in the 3rd inning and went scoreless in the 4th.

Towns scored one run in the 4th putting Towns out front by a score of 8 to 2. The 5th inning saw Towns County boys defense make 5 miscues resulting in 5 unearned runs for Union County making the score Towns 8 Union 7. Zane Floyd came in relief pitching in the 5th inning. Towns County went scoreless in the 6th and Union came to bat behind 8 to 7 in the 6th and last inning and last chance to not be eliminated see Towns winning the championship.

The 1st batter reached base on an error by Towns County. The second batter struck out. The next Union batter grounded out to second base. Union was down to their last out. The next batter swung at a strike and Union was down to their last two strikes between them and a Towns County championship. Towns County made a throwing error



Photos by Lowell Nicholson



over the third baseman's head and the Union County base runner at 2nd base scored the tying run. The next Union batter flied out to left field, putting the game into extra innings.

Towns County lads could have folded under this pressure, with the momentum shifting to Union County - however, they came together like the champions they were destined to be.

Zane Floyd led off the 7th inning with a sharp single over the third baseman. Kyle Oaks followed with a strong FC bat. Collin Crowder blasted a hard hit ball down the left field line for a triple driving in Zane and Kyle with what would be the winning runs and championship. The Towns boys were far from being through by scoring four more runs in the inning, with Caleb Berrong hitting a hard FC grounder driving in Collin Crowder with his 4th run of the game. Brack Burrell followed with a base hit RBI and scoring the 5th run, Mathew Chastain came to bat with a base hit RBI and scored the 6th run of the inning followed

by strong at bats by Drew Sofield, Lane Penland, Grant Ingram and Cabe Poston.

Union County came to bat in the 7th with Towns leading 14 to 8. The 1st batter reached base on an error. The 2nd batter grounded out 4-3. The Towns boys were 2 outs away from an undefeated tournament championship and a trip to the State Tournament with a number one eede. Zane threw a fastball to Union County player Bret Ballew who hit a grounder to short stop Kyle Oaks, who made a great unassisted double play, stepping on second base for forced out No 2 and throwing to 1st baseman Caleb Berrong for the 3rd. out. The well deserved championship celebration began for the Towns County boys. Congratulations and many thanks go to head Coach Damon Crowder and his assistant coaches Patrick Oaks, Chris Gibson and Shannon Floyd for a job well done and for the time and dedication they voluntarily gave to these boys. The State tournament will be held in Canton, Ga. Brackets and time are to be set.

# Walk...from Page 1

whole town was bustling with traffic because of the events taking place on the 4th, and some were following where I was. Some people turn around after seeing me and stop and shake my hand. A lot of younger people are, and that's been a surprise for me. America's youth are seeing and feeling what positive energy toward a stranger can do, and that speaks volumes to me."

McGill can be seen at times donning an orange t-shirt and an American Flag, at certain stopping points giving ministries or finding people who inspire him because he's inspired them. Some offer him supplies, some offer money or a good pair of walking shoes.

"This whole thing has so many layers," he said. "If God has laid something on your heart, I'm not going to interfere. It's about the transfer of positive energy, not the money. They feel gratified to give to something they see as a worthy thing. It's very gratifying, this whole experience. I creak, I get sore, I'm an old man. My wife



Photos by Lowell Nicholson



has been right along with me in this thing, see the hardships, the good, the bad. But the positive energy is there and it's growing."

Chick and Barbara's ad-

ventures can be seen updated every day or so on their facebook page or by way of their website, <http://www.walking-coast2coast.com>.