

Training...continued from page 1A

deputies both in-house at the Sheriff's Office and at various locations throughout the state. "Most classes can be taught by the TCSO current

staff who have received extensive training in the areas of Firearms, Use of Force, and General Instruction," Sheriff Clinton said Thursday..



Towns County sheriff's deputies Tony Elliot, Richard Morgan, White County sheriff's Sgt. James Harper, and Sgt. Tim Couch of the Hall County Sheriff's Office.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office sponsored a FiFa class Friday, June 22nd at the Towns County Courthouse.

Hall County Sheriff's Sgt. Tim Couch was the instructor.

A "writ of Fieri Facias" (FiFa) is a court order commanding the sheriff to collect a judgment by either getting the money or to levy and sell

sufficient property to satisfy the judgment.

Attendees included Towns County Sheriff's Office court services deputies Tony Elliot and Richard Morgan, Sgt. Couch and White County Sheriff's Sgt. James Harper. As requested by other courts, the TCSO plans to offer additional classes for deputy sheriffs and court personnel.

Fireworks...continued from page 1A

friends made the treacherous drive up Bell.

"I'm not doing that again," she said. "Especially if it rains tonight. I'm not getting stuck up there again."

Finally, the main event of the evening opened with a thunderous boom and children gasped and quickly found their seats.

"Every time one of those fireworks goes off it gives me chills bumps," said Kyla Meigs, of Blairsville, as she sat with family and friends.

As the festivities drew to a close, some scrambled for their cars in an attempt to beat the crowd. Others stayed behind and visited with their family and friends before it was time to go home.

"It was a truly enchanting evening out by the lake," said Janet Miller as she gathered her grandkids and lawn chairs. "Is that why they call this the enchanted valley?" she asked.

About 30 minutes later, the storm clouds rolled through the valley and dumped a substantial amount of rain on Towns and Clay County, NC.

No one was going to pray for no showers, after all, the region can always use the rain.

Nevertheless, Mother Nature was respectful by keeping the clouds away until Towns County finished celebrating all the freedoms offered in this great nation, before blessing us with a much needed shower.

Campbell... continued from page 1A

During Campbell's 54 years in the entertainment industry, he's been the lead singer for the Beach Boys, had an incredible solo career, starred in motion pictures and even had his own television show on CBS.

Bottom line, Campbell puts a face on a disease that has crushed countless families around the world.

And instead of just being heartbroken, Campbell's fans

walk away determined to press for more research and funding into this horrific malady that affects so many people worldwide.

If you've ever had a family member or a friend suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, you'll be proud to say that you were there at Anderson Music Hall when Glenn Campbell told the entertainment world "good-bye."

Connection...continued from page 1A

Young Harris Development Center which offers enrichment activities in Young Harris to serve students in the Young Harris area," Rosser said. "They provide homework assistance, structured games and activities, meals and free counseling services.

"The City of Young Harris also is a partner in this effort and allows us to utilize the Mayor's Park for events, as well as 'A Mile with the Mayor' once a month," Rosser said.

"Young Harris College has been instrumental on many levels, including the Mentor Program, Young Harris Family Development Center, NIYEO, which is an outdoor therapeutic program, the 21st Century After School Program, and volunteering in many of our other events and activities," Rosser said.

"I really would like for them all to know that we appreciate their efforts and thank them for their support of our program."

Renowned artist and poet to speak at Writers Night Out



Artist and poet John Morse

John Morse, who has lived in Barcelona, New York and Atlanta will present a program at Writers' Night Out on July 13 at 7 p.m. He is a renowned artist and poet with a long list of accomplishments. This is a free event at Brother's Willow Ranch Restaurant in Young Harris, GA.

An open microphone for local authors follows his presentation. For many years Morris served on the board of directors of Socrates Sculpture Park as it was transformed from a trash-strewn landfill on the banks of New York's East River into an international sculpture center dedicated to the exhibition of monumental work. Morris's collages, sculptures, installations, watercolors and drawings have also been exhibited at the Kentler International Drawing Space, Brooklyn, Islip Art Museum, the DUMBO Art Center, the San Francisco Contract Design Center and galleries across the United States. In

2010 he continued his tradition of refashioning common communication devices when he wrote ten different haiku and disguised them as small commercial "bandit" signs, posting 500 signed, numbered editions around the streets of Atlanta in a guerilla installation sponsored by Flux Projects entitled Roadside Haiku. That was followed by the 2011 launch of Curbside Haiku in New York City, a year-long installation of 12 different haiku and images designed as traffic signs and focused on safety posted in 144 locations, a commission from the New York Department of Transportation. The two installations have received major news coverage around the globe. In March 2012, Curbside Haiku won the New York Municipal Art Society's Brendan Gill Prize, given annually "to the creator of a work of art made during the previous year that captures the energy and spirit of New York City."

Writers' Night Out takes place on the second Friday of each month and is open to the public. Each open microphone reader can sign up at the door and has two-and-a-half minutes to read. Brother's Willow Ranch Restaurant is located at 6223 Hwy 76 West across from Brasstown Valley Resort, phone 706-379-1272. The event takes place in the upstairs room, which is accessible via stairs inside the restaurant or the ramp (no stairs) from the upper parking lot. Food and beverages will be available for purchase; please come early to order. For more information, please contact Karen Holmes at (404) 316-8466 or kpaulholmes@gmail.com.

Boats...continued from page 1A

generations will forget the price of freedom and the memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice," members of the DeGroot family said. The family tries to come to Towns

County every year to participate in the Patriotic event.

The mood of the event was festive and the people involved were celebrating, but let us not forget to pass on the

true meaning of why we as Americans celebrate the Fourth of July.

The Towns County Tourism Association, Towns County Chamber of Com-

merce, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and the Towns County Sheriff's Office would like to remind everyone that the price of freedom is never free.



Almost There Ministries is on a mission

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

A group of visionaries filled the home of Cy and Malinda Gray in Towns County to talk about a vision that has been haunting the hearts of Elaine McKeever and Gray for a very long time.

They are hoping to put legs to their vision and watch it become a reality.

The ministry is about providing housing and a safe haven for women who are just coming out of jail or prison and have no place to go and are in need of a support system.

"I first heard about this endeavor when I received a call from Malinda Gray in 2010, asking if I could help in forming a non-profit organization, Almost There Ministries, Inc.," said Attorney Ken Ott.

"On June 7, 2010, this organization was recognized by the state as a non-profit, 501 (C)(3) corporation," he said. "This means that it has a right to a tax deduction due to its non-profit status," Ott said.

This endeavor is endorsed by Sheriff Chris Clinton who also serves on the Executive Board.

Clinton was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

The ministry would pro-



vide housing and a safe haven for women who are just coming out of jail or prison and have no place to go and are in need of a support system.

Rayette Ross, McKeever, and Gray are currently actively involved in the Women's Prison Ministry in the Towns and Union Jails.

"In 1996, I felt that God asked me to go to the jails and talk to the women there and tell them that He loved them and had not forgotten about them," said Gray.

In most jails and prisons throughout the country, there is a large problem with recidivism among the female inmate population.

Women who have been visibly changed in behavior, attitude, and resolve, leave jail or prison only to return weeks or months later.

Almost There Ministries, Inc. was established to address this problem.

They have a vision of the community coming together to provide a safe environment in which these women can become acclimated to life outside prison walls, strengthened, empowered, and ready to stand on their own as self-sufficient and productive members of society.

They are currently seeking a facility large enough to meet the needs of a growing

number of women seeking refuge after their release from jail or prison.

The ministry statement is simple; it explains what this ministry is all about.

It is to provide a safe, stable environment for formerly incarcerated women, and to lend spiritual, educational, and practical support, as they prepare for reconciliation with their families, and for lasting freedom in today's culture.

"I have never seen the tenacity that is exhibited by Elaine and Malinda. I have great respect in their diligence and know that we have the most qualified people involved in this ministry," said Ott.

Truman Barrett knows Towns County

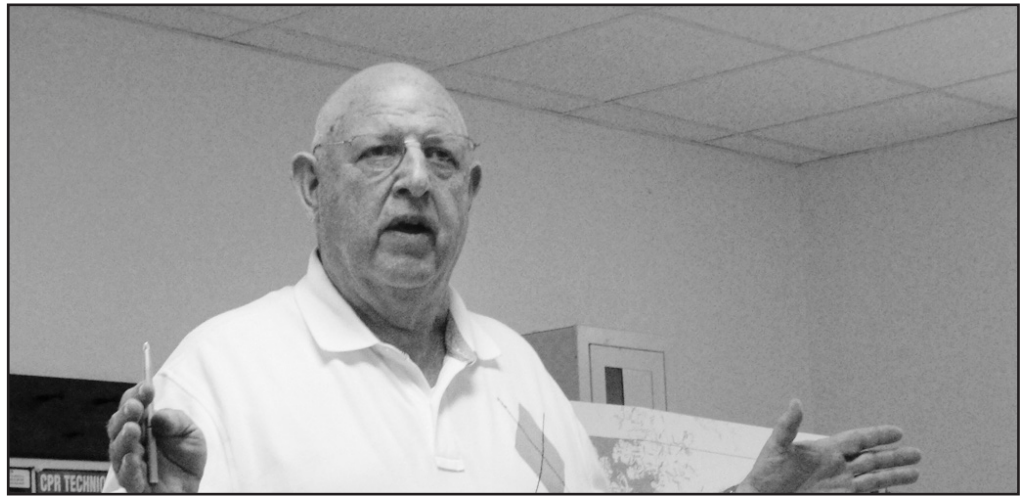
By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

Truman Barrett, native of Towns County and Hog Creek, was the guest speaker for the June meeting at the Towns County Historical Society.

Barrett, a veteran with two tours of duty (one with the U.S. Army and one with the U.S. Air Force), a former Towns County Probate Judge, and Towns County Ordinary (1983-84).

Barrett was instrumental in getting the title of Ordinary changed, and therefore became Towns County's first Sole Commissioner in 1985.

"I was Commissioner when we named all the roads in the county back in 1985 and 1986" said Barrett. Barrett presented an informative and witty history of Hog Creek off Highway 288 (Sunnyside) in Towns County. Barrett recalled his days as a young boy growing up in Hog Creek. "There was lots of deep caves there. I remember standing out in my yard looking out at the mountains. It looked like ghosts in the distance," said Barrett. He was referring to all the chestnut trees in the



area that had died. "When the chestnuts died, it became harder and harder to make a living." According to Barrett, those chestnut trees were good grazing to all the animals that roamed free and fed off the fallen chestnuts, hogs in particular, but there were cattle and sheep that passed through looking for a meal as well. As everyone that's ever been involved in farming knows, hogs are famous for rooting and tunneling the ground in search of food. This created a serious erosion issue according to Barrett. "The erosion was extensive and the land was ruined. It would not sustain farming at all," said Barrett. Barrett moved away from

Towns County for several years, returning in 1974. He spoke very earnestly as he recalled how badly he missed his beloved Hog Creek and how he couldn't wait to go back to visit every chance he got. "When the weekend rolled around, I headed home to Hog Creek," said Barrett. "Some of you may remember back in 1945-46 seeing people running around putting holes in the ground and running wire. The TVA has always been my favorite governmental agency. They have done more for this area than all other government agencies. The TVA changed the economy of the entire Tennes-

see Valley area. If you lived on Hog Creek, you could really appreciate what it was like when the power came on," said Barrett. He displayed early pictures of Union Hill Methodist Church (what folks from Hog Creek refer to as Hog Creek Church), the Blue Jay Lunsford Store, and the old Hog Creek School. He also gave everyone 2 maps of the Hog Creek Community, one from the TVA and one he had drawn. "My permanent address has always been Hog Creek in Hiawassee, Georgia and I hope I get to stay there until God beams me up and takes me home," concluded Barrett.

Local artist featured at McNabb Properties

Local watercolor artist Penny Johnson will be featured at McNabb Properties, 75 Tennessee St., downtown Murphy now through August 3. Penny is an award winning painter and collected throughout the USA and Europe. She specializes in smoky mountain landscapes including the mountains, rivers, lakes as well as pet portraits and other figurative works. You can see Penny painting live at this location during the August 3 First Friday Art Walk. Many of

her original works and prints will be displayed. See more works at www.Brushstrokes-ByPenny.com. NT(Jul11,C)ac

Veterans and Seniors

Could you use a sturdy walking stick to help get around easier? Call 706-745-6912 to give the size needed and to find out where to pick up. (Senior Citizen Center in Blairsville, GA) No charge for walking sticks. NT(July11,Z)JCA

Netwest events for July

Prose Workshop meets at Tri-County College: The Prose Workshop with Critique Session sponsored by North Carolina Writers' Network West will meet Thursday, July 12th, 7 - 9 p.m. at Tri-County Community College, McSwain Building, Murphy NC. Contact Bob Groves, 828-837-3233; email bob@grove-ent.com for more information. Visitors are invited to come and observe.

Coffee With the Poets: Maren Mitchell will be the featured reader at Coffee With the Poets on Wednesday, July 11th at 10:30 AM at Café Touche in Hayesville. Visitors are welcome.

Poets and Writers Reading at John Campbell Folk School: There will be no poetry reading at John Campbell this month usually held on the third Thursday evening. NT(Jul11,M)SSH