

Brown...from Page 1A

would be next to the window, and the first band I ever heard was the black church across the tracks, which was only about 100 yards away. So, that's the first band I ever heard."

Brown also listened to a radio station out of Cordele as a child, another rock in the foundation of his love of music and entertaining.

"I had a transistor radio, and I listened to that during the daytime," said Brown. "And they played a little bit of everything. They didn't have a specific format. They might play Wilson Pickett, then play Johnny Cash and the Stones. They were all over the place."

"At night, I would listen to WLAC out of Nashville, and it was an all-Soul station. I guess R&B was my favorite stuff growing up. Of course, Otis Redding was from Macon, and that was just right up the road."

Brown moved back to Athens in his youth and at-

tended high school there, and eventually the University of Georgia. He formed multiple bands and played the music scene for several years, performing Beach Music, Country Music and Soul Music, until he moved to Nashville in 1982, where he gained popularity for his work in radio and TV advertising jingles and Country Music.

"I moved to Nashville, therefore I was Country," said Brown. "We cut our first album, and they released it to Country radio, and that's where we had all of our hits. I did a bunch of jingles—I probably did as many jingles as anybody ever. I did every car and truck and beer and soft drink and fast food."

The list of companies that have enlisted Brown's voice over the years is exhaustive, featuring work with Coca-Cola, Taco Bell, Ford Trucks, Almond Joy, Disneyland and many more.

Brown's Country hits in-

clude plenty of Top 10 singles, such as *I Tell It Like It Used To Be*, *I Wish That I Could Hurt That Way Again*, *Hell and High Water* and *Don't Go to Strangers*.

Most recently, Brown put out the 2015 Grammy-nominated Gospel album *Forever Changed*, and has been working with International Cooperating Ministries and traveling internationally to raise awareness and help build churches in poverty-stricken areas of the globe.

And Monday, Brown promises to put on a stellar show, featuring classic hits as well as his newer material.

"I'll do a lot of the hits that people expect to hear," said Brown. "I can't do all the hits, but I'll hit the high points. I'll do a couple of Gospel songs to make people feel good. I've got the greatest job in the world—my job is to make people happy, and it's a great job."

Young Harris...from Page 1A

this a much better project in the outcome. So far I haven't heard any other complaints about anything out there related to the project. I think it's turned out pretty good."

Mayor Andrea Gibby, not present at the meeting, has said previously that she would like to get the Enotah Garden Club involved in planning for foliage for the island between the roadway and the playground area. No other drastic changes will be needed near the project area, with the exception of a rainwater runoff problem that needs to be corrected.

Further, Dyer has re-

viewed the submittal plans for a temporary road on the Mount Zion Church of God property. That project is beginning to progress.

"They still need to provide to us approval for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the stream crossing of this temporary road. Everything else they have," said Dyer.

The city moved on to matters of policy.

City Attorney Cary Cox explained that a purchasing card policy is required by the state of Georgia because some

public employees have been using city credit cards for personal use.

Cox indicated that the new policy would make it much harder for city employees to get away with fraud.

"This actually says that they agree, so it's much easier to prosecute them, fire them, and the like for using it," he said.

He also said that the council needed to set a limit on how much an employee can charge to a city card. Councilman Miller suggested that \$2,500 be the limit.

Hiawassee...from Page 1A

ads in," she explained to the council.

Magazines included the official yearbook of the Atlanta Braves, Blue Ridge Country Magazine, Georgia Magazine, and others.

"I want you to know what you've done," Lee told the council. "They don't have the copies of the ads in here, but these magazines have advertisements from your hotel/motel tax collection. Some of these have more than one ad. This is the accumulation of all the magazines we have advertised in using your tax dollars."

"We've also got a service that's distributing the generic brochures for Hiawassee and

Young Harris all around South Carolina," she went on. "In order to get our information into the state of South Carolina, we have to pay someone to do that."

Shortly after, Lee introduced the Chamber of Commerce's newest staff member, Katie Blutworth.

"Katie is now the events coordinator for the Towns County Chamber of Commerce, which means she will not only coordinate our events in the Chamber but also hopefully coordinate events around the county. She's already jumped in with both feet," Lee said.

"We will be adding new events," she added. "We can help you with anything event

wise in the city and I hope we'll be bringing more to the Downtown Square."

The second major item of business was the City Manager's Report on the new nutrient reduction and UV project in the Hiawassee sewer plant.

"This is the authorization to go ahead and order the UV unit and to contract to have it installed, and I spoke with the engineer last week and he'll be getting a proposal from the two companies and hopefully we can go ahead and execute that this week and start a time table for when the equipment will be installed," said Stancil.

Brewer...from Page 1A

for some time. His first experience with the extension service was in North Fulton County, but he came to Towns County in 1989.

"It's been just a wonderful experience and this has become home," he said. "I intend to stay right here, working with the people of Towns County."

Brewer is an educator, but he considers himself a privileged educator, because he's been able to do educational programs for both youth and adults over the years. The extension office handles agriculture, 4H Club—the youth component of the outreach program—and also family and consumer science.

"It's just a very fulfilling job," Brewer said. "You never knew what to expect. The variety of it, the nice people that you met. And the kind of things that we dealt with from an agricultural, horticultural standpoint, really keeps your brain stimulated. Because over a period of time, the simpler things you learn. It's there. It

was a learning process for me and hopefully the people that I work with."

As an extension agent, Brewer had to be able to do "a little bit of everything," from helping somebody with a diseased rose bush to making recommendations concerning the health of bloated cattle.

"We're sort of generalists, from an agricultural standpoint," he said. "As an extension agent, you never know what's going to be on the other end of the phone call."

Sometimes, his work consisted of recommending a veterinarian. Mostly, however, he spent his time trying to help people from an agricultural standpoint.

"With the welfare of animals, a lot of times the best you can do is to recommend they call a vet in, and I certainly am not one of those," he laughed. "But most of what we do with livestock involves the pastures and the hay and things like that more than anything else, trying to help people produce a good

crop."

"It's a very unusual thing to be able to say that you worked in a job for 30 years and to count on one hand the number of days that you actually dread coming to work. That's just the kind of job it is," he said.

Although Brewer has retired, the Towns County Extension Office will be perfectly functional, with agents working in both Hiawassee and Blairsville.

Brewer is still adjusting to life in retirement, but he's already picked up a couple of things to keep busy.

"I play bass in a Bluegrass band called Brush Fire. We play a good bit, hopefully a little bit more now that I'm retired. As far as anything else job-wise, I'm just playing it day by day now. If something comes along that I feel like I would really enjoy doing, I may take a part-time job, but I can't see myself working full-time again," he said.

History...from Page 1A

Towns County came to be," he said. "So we always like to have something around July 11. It's right after the Fourth, and it's right before the Georgia Mountain Fair starts, so it's right here in the gap. It's something important for the community and we like to try to catch folks in between celebrating the fourth with their families and everybody going to the fair."

"Next year, 2016, will be the 160 year anniversary for Towns County, so we will probably be planning a bunch of stuff for that next year," he added.

The Historical Society's purpose is to preserve and promote the history of Towns County.

"Some of the history is really enjoyable," said Wood. "And then some of the stuff is kind of serious and kind of hard to touch on. There's a lot of disruption in the country now over what's going on with the Confederate flag. Well, from a historical standpoint, it's just as important as the



United States flag. At that time in America, this part of the world is under that flag. That's what we strive to do, is

promote our history, and we strive to do the best we can in educating people."

Fair...from Page 1A

of Atlanta-based Eagle 106.7 fame, and the Mountain Grand Marshal, consisting of youth from McConnell Memorial Baptist Church.

Sunday, July 19, will feature the annual Gospel Music Show, which starts with Interfaith Worship by Jerry Goff, and culminates in several hours of Gospel Music with the McKameys, Primitives, and Archie Watkins and the Smoky Mountain Reunion.

T. Graham Brown will headline Anderson Music Hall on Monday, July 20, with two performances, preceded by Leon Jacobs, and Fair patrons won't want to miss out on the Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Pageant, to be held at 8 p.m. that

same night.

There will be a photography contest and exhibit opening Tuesday, July 21, and Neal McCoy and Soco Creek will be the main musical acts for the day.

Also on Tuesday will be the Georgia Mountain Fair Sixth Annual Cooking Contest, featuring savory and sweet entries, and on Wednesday, July 22, Confederate Railroad and the Country River Band are set to entertain the masses with authentic Country fare.

With plenty of entertainment to go around, including the unique Pioneer Village with its authentic demonstrations of the "forgotten arts" of Moonshine Stillin', Board Splittin',

Black Smithin' and more, the Fair is sure to be a big hit all throughout, lasting until its final day on Saturday, July 25.

"The very next weekend after the Fair is the Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In and Ray Stevens," said Thomas. "The tickets are going on sale July the 10th for The Oak Ridge Boys, which is Aug. 21."

"And then on July the 17th, which is the first day of the Fair, the tickets are going on sale for David Allan Coe, which is Sept. the 4th. We've got the Taste of Home Cooking Show, that's going to be on Sept. 19, so we're going to be putting those tickets on sale right away, too."

Heritage...from Page 1A

was getting back where it needed to be.

In more recent history, moonshining became a popular pastime and way to make money in the mountains, and when Towns County hit the map for being an Appalachian Trail community, hikers began visiting and spending money in the county.

Electricity helped to further shape the county, as the New Deal brought power in the form of the Rural Electrification Administration, when Hiawassee was able to get power directly from Murphy, North Carolina.

Then arrived the wider availability of electricity through the Tennessee Valley Authority and the installation of Lake Chatuge, and medical care improved in the mountains as clinics and hospitals sprang up in the area. Towns Countians diversified industry even more, becoming a chicken-farming powerhouse in the 1950s.

Ultimately, tourism has become the current future of Towns County as a destination place, along with all the new technology that comes with continued progress.

"So, there you go," said Taylor. "You've come around the Unicoi Turnpike through Towns County's history, beginning before we were Towns County in the 1830s, coming in as illegal aliens—some of us really came as legal aliens, though—and into the land of the future with cellphones and computers."

Following Taylor was Jason Edwards, who spoke on



his and Taylor's discovery of around 50 Civil War letters written by a trio of brothers to their father, John Russell, who lived in the Cedar Cliff area of the county.

From Paulding County, Edwards has extensive ancestry in Towns County. He recently moved to the county to attend Young Harris College for a degree in history.

Edwards and Taylor discovered the letters after following up on a Facebook post by a woman who said she was related to a man posted in a Civil War-era photograph.

As it would turn out, Edwards and the woman were related through the man, and after meeting, the woman handed over a stack of correspondence that was nothing less than historical gold.

The letters highlighted the miserable conditions facing Southern troops and the broth-

ers during the war, and served as reflections on missed home life and concerns of affairs back home.

Of equal importance to the historical record, the letters give clues to modern day Towns County residents as to the language patterns of the day, and Edwards passed a copy of one letter around.

"How do you think they spelled the word 'it,'" asked Edwards of those gathered. "H-I-T—you can see it on that letter. What about hospital? Horspittal," added Edwards, pronouncing the word "horse piddle," drawing laughs from the audience.

"That is the most amazing thing about these letters, whatever it is, about being dead yet speaking," said Edwards. "So, it's that sort of thing—you can read it, and if you read it out loud, you can sort of tell what they sounded like."



Speech contest preliminaries underway

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Mountain Movers and Shakers have started public speaking training for their Third Annual Speech Contest. On Monday, July 6, they held the first of four in the old senior center. Thirty-three kids in high school and middle school showed up to participate.

"They absolutely are the cream of the crop of Towns County students," said Movers and Shakers co-founder Sam Fullerton. "They're on their way to moving forward and having a very successful life. They're going to make an impact in Towns County."

Two public speaking students who have already begun to make names for themselves in the world of public speaking are C.J. Owens and Adam Penland, but they will not be speaking this year.

"They are instructors," Fullerton clarified. "They're two of the best high school speakers we've ever seen. Each one of them has won the Towns County championship. They're kind of the in-between from the students. If the students have problems with something, they talk to them about it."

The annual speech contest helps the Mountain Movers & Shakers get back to their roots, so to speak, by reaching out to



Sam Fullerton

the students in the county.

"The Movers and Shakers, the foundation of what we stand for, is education, which doesn't just include students, because we have a different speaker every week and we educate the public on all kinds of things," said Fullerton. "But when we started, it was to help the high school students."

The Movers and Shakers are advocates of public speaking in order to improve professional performance.

"It doesn't make any difference which field you go into, public speaking will be an asset to you," Fullerton explained. "All the people in leadership in our country have been involved in public speaking. It's something that even if

you graduate from school and have your own business, if you have 25-30 employees, you have to stand up and direct the meeting and look them eyeball to eyeball and work things out. So we feel like we want to give the kids of Towns County the ability to start speaking at a young age."

"It's now a requirement in all colleges that in the first year of college you have to take a course in public speaking," he went on. "Why not know something about it and be good at it before you get there? Plus, if you go into business for yourself, you could be a lawyer, a doctor, a schoolteacher, own your own business, whatever. You're going to do better if you can talk."

Before the classes began, Fullerton got up to address the students.

"We're mighty glad to have you here tonight. We're excited about it. We've spent several weeks in preparation for this training session. Each one of you will be winners, and you are winners for coming aboard with this process. You realize that we've got \$1,500 for this contest. But the main thing is that you do the best that you can do," he said.

The contest will be held in the new Towns County Conference and Recreation Center. The winner of the speech contest will receive \$600.