

# Granddaddy...continued from page 1

nership with Georgia Distilling Company, Inc. of Milledgeville, to recreate and market his grandfather's original moonshine recipes 'legally for the first time.'

Dubbed 'Granddaddy Mimm's Authentic Corn Whiskey,' it is produced in stills designed by McClure, and built in Georgia using his secret family recipe.

The stills were handcrafted by a metal fabricator in Macon, according to Townsend.

"Right now it's only available in Georgia, but we're hoping to expand to stores all over the Southeast. We are talking with the right folks in North Carolina and hope to have it there real soon," said Townsend.

"The closest place for locals in Towns and Union to buy it by the bottle is Ellijay and Helen. It's also available in various bars and restaurants and is great for mixing in your

favorite mixed drink," said Townsend.

Townsend emphasized that "it's all over Georgia, including Calhoun, Cartersville, Dalton, Dawsonville, Alpharetta, Rome, and Cedartown."

"It will also be available in the Dominican Republic sometime within the next few months. We are working on ironing out those details now" said a proud Townsend.

"I'm out on the roads all over Georgia with United Distributors promoting Granddaddy Mimm's at liquor stores, bars and restaurants. In the near future, I will be playing some shows in the area promoting the brand," said Townsend.

Townsend invites you to go out and pick you up a bottle or two and reminds you, as does the label, "Please drink responsibly and tithe on Sunday."

# TOTY...continued from page 1

"We are very fortunate to have such wonderfully talented and dedicated professionals working in our schools.

"Participating in the this program is an opportunity for our system and community to recognize and celebrate true educational craftsmanship," she said. "It is my honor and pleasure to present these awards to our faculty."

The other two nominees from their respective schools were Lisa Penland, Towns County Elementary School and Ken Hamilton, Towns County Middle School.

Dr. Sandra Page, Principal of Towns County Elementary School said Penland was a special educator.

"I am tickled Lisa is our Teacher of the Year," Dr. Page said. "She was also nominated as Teacher of the Year in White County and that should tell you all you need to know about the kind of teacher she is.

"She treats all her students and colleagues with respect," Dr. Page said. "We are very glad to have her back in the Towns County School System."

Penland, a veteran teacher of 27 years, said, teaching is a calling.

"I knew from a very young age that was what I wanted to do," Penland said. "I feel blessed to be back home and teaching at the elementary school."

Dr. Darren Berrong, Principal at Towns County Middle School, said Coach Hamilton won the middle school award by an overwhelming response by the faculty.

"He is a hard working and dedicated teacher," Dr. Berrong said. "He has grown professionally every year he's been at the middle school. He coaches Cross Country at the middle school and he also

coaches the boys' basketball team at Towns County High School.

"Coach Hamilton has worked hard over the past years to improve his teaching practices," Dr. Berrong said. "His students' math scores were second in the district in Middle School Math and 11th in the state of Georgia out of 194 districts.

"I am honored to have him on my faculty," said Berrong.

A humble Coach Hamilton felt blessed by the honor.

"I would like to thank Dr. Berrong and my fellow middle school teachers for their faith in me," Coach Hamilton said. "This is a great honor."

Williams explained the TOTY process as a peer vote among each school's faculty.

"Each school has its faculty vote on their Teacher of the Year," she said. "The three school's selected teachers are then asked to complete the State Teacher of the Year application packet.

"The completed packets are mailed out to three independent readers, usually administrators in other systems, who rate each applicant's packet," she said. "The total scores from each of the readers are combined to determine the teacher with the highest points. That person is the system Teacher of the Year."

Each nominee received a plaque recognizing their achievement and a check for \$250. As the TOTY, Moss also received a very nice plaque designating him as Towns County top educator, an engraved watch from Herff Jones, as well as an additional \$250.

Moss' application and information will be submitted to the state BOE and he will be in the running for the 2012 Georgia Teacher of the Year.

# Garrett...continued from page 1

tricity. Highway 75 was just a dirt road, said Garrett.

Garrett said that he lived where the old YMCA camp was. This was his grandparents' property.

"The Atlanta YMCA bought it from my grandfather in 1946," he said. "They were going to build a lake up there. I don't know why they decided not to build the lake.

"The government bought all the property except what my great-grandfather owned," Garrett said. "He wouldn't sell it. That's why that island's up there in the middle of the forest."

"I started school in 1943. I would leave from home walking from Soapstone Road to Mt. Zion Church to catch the bus," said Garrett. "This was about a 5 mile walk each way. We carried a lantern because it was dark when we left home.

"We hid it and picked it up again when we headed back home," said Garrett.

"We went to school even in bad weather. Unless there was more than about 6 inches of snow on the ground, we went to school," said Garrett.

Garret reminisced about his childhood and how hard times were.

"I don't recall eating a possum, but that's the only kind of meat we didn't eat," he said. "I remember mom would wring a chicken's neck for Sunday supper.

"We didn't go to town but maybe every month or so, and that was to pick up sugar and salt. We grew everything we ate and needed," said Garrett.

"You could get a nickel a piece for an egg back then and chickens went for a dollar a piece. That was pretty good money back then," Garrett said.

"There wasn't but two businesses in the county back then, the timber business and the moonshine business," said Garrett.

Garrett's dad, Watson Garrett, was away from home a lot as "he stayed in the tower on Brasstown Bald."

"He stayed up there until the 1960s when he retired," Dub Garrett said. "He joked that the Forestry Service had inherited him."

Garrett told a very interesting story regarding the state Prison Camp in the Soapstone area. He said that convicts built the road going up to the Brasstown Bald Tower.

The prison was moved to Lagrange in 1942.

Garrett also talked about the Soapstone Civilian Conservation Corps or C.C.C Camp which was part of President Roosevelt's New Deal to relieve unemployment during the Great Depression.

It was opened in 1933 to hire unemployed young men for public conservation work.

"It was for men between the ages of 18 and 25. You got a job and a place to sleep. They paid \$30. You got \$5 and they sent the other \$25 to your family," said Garrett.

These men planted trees, built Unicoi State Park, Vogel State Park, and the Old Rock Jail in Hiwassee. The C.C.C. was abolished by Congress in 1942.

# ISO Rating...continued from page 1

Other rural counties, with a volunteer fire department, have reached this level of ISO rating, Commissioner Kendall said.

Kendall said any weakness pointed out in the

evaluation will be used to upgrade each department.

Improving ISO ratings has been a priority of the county since before the SPLOST vote by county voters.

# EMC...continued from page 1

toni Construction has been responsible for all the site preparation and should be wrapping up their work in the next couple of weeks," he said.

"The Phase II general contractor, Evergreen Construction has been responsible for the construction of the buildings and should be completed early next month," said Akins.

Akins told the curious group, "as soon as we get settled in, we hope to have an open house and invite the membership to come by and see your new headquarters facility."

As to the need for the facility, Akins explained that they had simply outgrown the current facility.

"Our main administration building was originally constructed in 1955 when we had 7,800 members and only 32 employees. Today we have more than 43,600 members and 193 employees."

He told members that office staff are having to share offices and cubicles designed for only one employee. He also shared that they have "exceeded our capacity to securely store equipment, inventory, and customer files," as well as having inadequate parking for employees and visitors.

Akins also explained to members that the new facility provided job opportunities for local members during the construction phase.

Contractors bought materials and supplies locally and construction personnel ate and shopped locally.

The project was divided into 3 separate smaller contracts "in an effort to promote

local participation," said Akins. "Language was included in the contracts to encourage the bidders to use local subcontractors, laborers, and suppliers," emphasized Akins, adding, "I am very proud of the amount of local participation we had on this project."

Akins announced that they had been able to lock in at a fixed rate of only 2.5 percent from the Rural Utilities Service (formerly REA), a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "This allows us to spread the cost of the project out over the next 30 years and minimize the impact on today's rate payers," said Akins.

The EMC has also completed replacing electric meters with new electronic meters which according to Akins will communicate via power lines back to their substations and meter readings are sent back to the main office via fiber optic lines.

Akins stressed that this will result in "substantial savings" by eliminating the expense of sending meter readers out each month to collect meter readings.

"The new meters will also allow us to provide new services to our members, such as a pre-payment option, remote connect and disconnect, daily usage info, and the capability of time of use rate options in the future," said Akins.

"Our commitment to your cooperative remains the same, to provide safe, reliable, affordable electricity and services to our members as efficiently as possible," said Akins.

"I want to thank each of you, the members, for supporting



Above, Matthew Akins presents \$100 checks to Lowell Nicholson, Karen Woodard, and Glen Woodson. Below, Chris Adams prepares the Towns County Chorus for entertainment. Photos/Libby Shook

your Cooperative," he said.

There were many vendors at the meeting giving out freebies, passing out brochures, and promoting their products.

They drew quite a crowd as folks walked around and made inquiries of services offered.

Refreshments were available as well as some excellent entertainment provided by the Towns County High School Chorus and the Murphy High School Show Choir.

The meeting wrapped up with a drawing for many wonderful prizes, gift certificates, gift cards, and the part that folks had been eagerly awaiting, the drawing for the grand prize.

The three winners of the grand prize were Lowell Nicholson, Karen Woodard, and Glen Woodson. They each received a check for \$100.

This was quite an end to a very informative and eventful morning.

# Fairgrounds honors its Mountain Fair volunteers

By Libby Shook  
Towns County Herald  
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Tuesday evening, Sept. 11th, the Georgia Mountain Fair held an appreciation picnic for Lions Club members and volunteers who worked during the Georgia Mountain Fair.

With more than 150 people in attendance, the crowds lined up in Anderson Music Hall to enjoy grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, cole slaw, baked beans, and all the trimmings.

The tables were set up with white tablecloths and it gave the feel of an expensive night out on the town.

This was a chance for everybody to get together and talk about their shared experiences during the Fair.

There were 400 plus volunteers working during the Fair, according to Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason.

"Thank you for all your hard work during the fair. We couldn't do this without you and this is just our way of saying thank you and letting you know how much we appreciate all you did to help make the Georgia Mountain Fair a success," said Thomason. "We hope you enjoy the food and the entertainment."

Georgia Mountain Fair President Myers Banister said it was a pleasure to honor the volunteers.

"We are pleased to have you here with us tonight," he said. "We appreciate all your hard work during the Fair. We hope you'll come back and help us during the Fall Festival."



A good time was had by all at the Georgia Mountain Fair picnic to honor volunteers. Photo/Libby Shook.

Guests also had the opportunity to enjoy the Country/Bluegrass sounds of Bluegrass Alliance with Barry Palmer. Palmer, a pharmacist in Hayesville, NC, is no stranger to the Fairgrounds.

"Barry Palmer has been with the Georgia Mountain Fair Band since he was 14 years old and is still playing," said

Thomason.

"Barry and his band have been playing together for many years," said Thomason.

"We are really glad they agreed to perform for us. Barry is very talented and helped us out a lot during the fair," said Thomason.

Palmer, a high energy entertainer, served as Emcee

for the daily performances held during the Georgia Mountain Fair.

He also is the Emcee for the annual Georgia Mountain Fiddlers Convention.

Everyone seemed to have a great evening socializing, eating, and enjoying the unique style of Bluegrass Alliance.

# Upcoming events at John Campbell Folk School

On Thursday, September 20, 2012, John Campbell Folk School and N.C. Writers Network West are sponsoring a reading of poetry to be held at John Campbell Folk School in Keith House at 7 PM. The reading is free of charge and open to the public. Poet/writer Bob Grove and poet Carole Thompson will be the featured readers.

Mountain dulcimer virtuoso, Janita Baker will be featured in a free concert in the Community Room of the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC, on Friday, September 21, at 7 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome.

Upcoming concert performers at the Folk School include The Lone Mountain Band (September 28) and The Blind Pig Gang (October 5). The Friday night concert schedule is available on the world wide web at: www.folkschool.org. For more information, call the Folk School at 828-837-2775 or 1-800-FOLK-SCH.

Cooler fall weather will soon bring a national festival with a local flavor. American Craft Week, set for October 5th through 14th, celebrates the many ways American-made crafts enrich our homes, workplaces, and daily lives. Now in its third year, this rapidly growing festival spotlights the artists, galleries, museums, craft schools, and festivals that show us "It's cool to buy



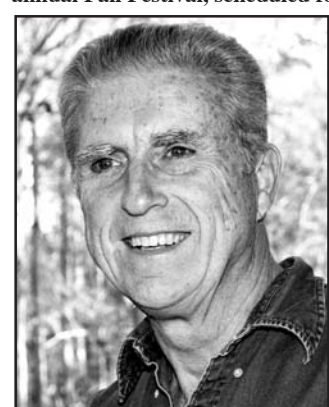
Janita Baker  
American again."

Our western North Carolina/northern Georgia region offers a variety of crafts-focused events. The John C. Campbell Folk School, American Craft Week's lead sponsor, showcases its enthusiasm for handmade American crafts during its popular Fall Festival. Scheduled for October 6th and 7th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Fall Festival combines a scenic Brasstown, NC mountain setting with a kaleidoscope of fine crafts and artwork from over 200 regional exhibitors. The Fall Festival features 40 artist demonstrations, kids' activities, live music, and scrumptious food: www.folkschool.org/fallfestival.

Just a stone's throw from the John C. Campbell Folk School, the Murphy, NC Art Walk keeps the town's streets humming with art and crafts-focused activities. Visitors are invited to mingle with two dozen local artists on the



A blacksmithing demonstration draws a crowd at the Folk School's annual Fall Festival, scheduled for Oct. 6 & 7, 2012.



Bob Grove

evening of Friday October 5th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. While artists demonstrate and sell their work at participating businesses and restaurants, live music will add to the evening's ambience and showcase local performing artists. Visitors can enjoy the Murphy Art Walks on the first Friday of



Carole Thompson

each month from May through November: www.valleyriverarts.com/artwalk/.

A listing of all events can be found at www.americancraftweek.com/participants as well as a listing of all events in the western North Carolina region at www.americancraftweek.com/wnc.