

Mock Trial...from Page 1A



earned many praises for their impressive District performance as well as several individual awards.

Awards for Outstanding Attorney went to Rachel Todd and Alice Francis (Francis won in both rounds).

Additionally, the following individuals won Outstanding Witness Awards: Corey Harris, Holden Helcher, and Matt Peney.

Each year the Georgia Mock Trial Competition's official case, made available to each team in October, rotates from civil to criminal proceedings.

Although the cases are entirely fictitious, the competitive nature of the activity helps students "gain an understanding of the legal system...where players assume attorney and witness roles."

The Georgia Mock Trial Competition Mission Statement also states "lawyers coach students in developing questioning, critical thinking and oral advocacy skills."

The 2014 criminal case involved the felony murder and aggravated assault of a loan shark on a cold and windy January night.

Teams battle in the courtroom to hash out their theories of mistaken identity or present their evidence claiming that the defendant indeed committed the malicious crime he or she stands accused of.

In this year's case of possibly shoddy detective work, class distinctions, organized crime under the guise of 'charity,' and witnesses with rap sheets that put their testimony into question, the truth behind who killed the loan shark is as questionable as his business dealings in the first place.

In the end, a jury of at-

torney evaluators assign points and scores to each team's prosecution and defense team performances, and then the scores are tallied to determine an overall round winner.

The attorney coaches for the team include the Honorable Judge Murphy Miller, Beth Martin, Daniel Davenport, and Andrea Conarro. Amy Payne and April Krieger serve as the team's teacher coaches.

"We are so proud of each of them, and again we thank everyone for the continued support throughout this season," Coach Payne said.

Airport...from Page 1A

A lot of people don't know about the runway expansion that's going to allow larger aircraft to come in here along with some commercial aircraft. A lot of people really aren't familiar with the new terminal that is going in. They see the gate on the other side of Georgia 515 across from Wal-Mart. There will also be some terminal services, like rental cars, aircraft repair, and that kind of thing. The important thing is to raise awareness on what is here and what is coming."

The event also provided an opportunity for the public to walk around and tour the airport and take a look at some planes and helicopters that were on display in the hangars.

On hand to speak about the benefits and the importance of the Blairsville Municipal Airport were Stephen Mullis of the University of Georgia's Extension Office, Union County Economic De-

velopment Director Mitch Griggs, House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison (R-Blairsville), Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley, aircraft enthusiast Tsali Bentley, Capt. Tom Moholski of the Civil Air Patrol, and Blairsville Municipal Airport Manager John Hamler.

The final speaker of the day, Sylvia Dyer Turnage, provided an interesting look into the rich aviation history of Union County.

Turnage, a descendant of legendary inventor and pilot Micajah Clark Dyer, told the story of Clark Dyer, who lived in Union's Choestoe community. In 1874, Clark Dyer patented his "Apparatus for Navigating the Air."

Eyewitnesses to his flight saw him take off from the side of Rattlesnake Mountain and clear two fields.

In 1875, two newspaper articles were published regarding his flight, and later, a segment of Georgia 180, between

U.S. 129 and Brasstown Bald was named after the pioneer aviator.

Leadership Union would like to thank the following businesses and individuals who sponsored Airport Awareness Day.

Silver Sponsors: Aviation Safety Products, Appalachian Kitchens, and Park Sterling Bank. Bronze Sponsors: United Community Bank. Patron Sponsors: Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris. In Kind Sponsors: Cott Beverages and Ingles Supermarket, Bi-Lo, and West Printing.

The 2014 Leadership Union Airport Team consists of Taylor, Mullis, Matthew Collins, Tony Dyer, and Erin Huffman.

"This is the first time we've held an Airport Awareness Day and we're hoping this can become an annual event," Taylor added.

Crashes...from Page 1A

"A northbound 2006 Lexus driven by N. Stanley Gunter, age 54, from Blairsville, was negotiating the curve to the left," Wright said.

The motorcycle entered the curve too fast, crossed over into the northbound lane

and hit the front of the Lexus, according to Wright.

Miranda was airlifted to Erlanger in Chattanooga, Tenn. for treatment. He was charged with too fast for conditions, driving on the wrong side of the roadway, and driv-

ing while unlicensed or expired license.

Miranda's condition was unavailable at press time.

Judge Gunter, and his wife, Rita Ann Gunter, were not injured in the crash, Wright said.

WWII...from Page 1A

interviews that were very interesting to me, and they mentioned that the interviews were courtesy of *Witness to War*."

Driven by a desire to support veterans, Gibson contacted *Witness to War* with a plan to feature veterans in the surrounding area.

"Although they were interested in veterans from all wars, I concentrated my search on World War II veterans, because their stories are leaving us so quickly," she said.

Although the search for veterans went slowly at first, Gibson soon found herself with 10 World War II combat veterans who were willing to be interviewed about their experiences.

Among them are, of course, Johnson and Kimsey, who served in the U.S. Navy in the Battle of Iwo Jima, and Gamache, a U.S. Marine who served at Iwo Jima.

In the course of her work, Gibson's gotten the opportunity to know them.

"Todd Kimsey turns out was my husband's high school science teacher," she said.

Kimsey, a member of the U.S. Navy during Iwo Jima, said he got his education in the Pacific.

"We live on memories. I wake up at night and sometimes those memories come back to me," he said. "You come to the realization that we all went through hell in that war."

Iwo Jima was a 35-day bloody battle, 6,821 Americans died, 19,217 were wounded, and one U.S. Destroyer Escort was sunk. Almost 19,000 Japanese soldiers died; only 216 were taken

prisoner.

Gibson was invited to a luncheon at Bear Meadows Grill in February that honored the Iwo Jima survivors on the 69th anniversary of the battle. The experience was emotional for her.

"It sure was devastating," she recalled. "I don't know how these people survived. So many didn't."

"What I'm doing has really put me in touch with not only combat veterans, but I'm getting calls from people who have inherited memorabilia from their relatives who are deceased," Gibson said. "And they tell me stories that touch me. Many's the night that I've hung up the phone and cried after hearing these stories."

One of her favorite stories illustrates the dual nature of soldiers and war.

One man called her to say that although he was 10 years old when the war broke out, he had a special encounter with the allied soldiers.

This man helped his grandfather pick and sell produce. On that particular day, they had nothing but watermelons left, which they were going to take to market. A troop train pulled in to a nearby station, so his grandfather decided to give the watermelons to the troops for free.

But before the train pulled out, the soldiers started throwing money out the window. When the farmers collected it, they had between \$18 to \$20.

Had they sold their watermelons at market, they would have made far less--about \$2.

"That's what these boys were like," said Gibson. "And then you go on to read how

they were killed and maimed and amputees and all and you can think is 'wow!'"