

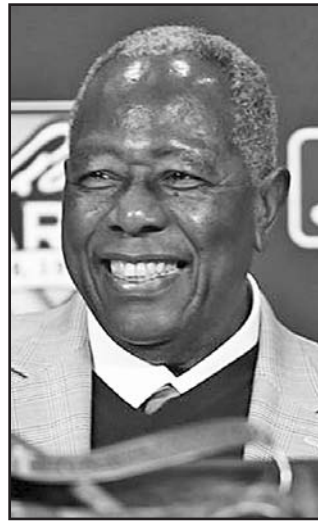
Hank Aaron to deliver Commencement Address at YHC

Major League Baseball legend Henry "Hank" Aaron will deliver the address at Young Harris College's Com-

mencement ceremony on Saturday, May 7, at 11 a.m. in the Recreation and Fitness Center on the YHC campus.

Henry Louis Aaron, nicknamed "Hammerin' Hank," is widely regarded as one of the greatest hitters in the history of baseball. He spent 21 years as an outfielder for the Milwaukee and Atlanta Braves and two final years as a designated hitter for the Milwaukee Brewers, setting several records and winning a number of honors along the way.

"We are thrilled to welcome Hank Aaron back to campus to deliver this year's Commencement address," said YHC President Cathy Cox. "His life and accomplishments serve as a testament to what hard work and



Major League Baseball legend Hank Aaron to deliver address at YHC Commencement ceremony

dedication can lead to, and I'm confident his address will

inspire the Class of 2016 as they make their way into the world."

Aaron continues to hold many of baseball's most distinguished records today, including runs batted, extra-base hits, total bases and most years with 30 or more home runs. He also ranks among the Top 5 in career hits and runs. For more than three decades, Aaron held the record for most career home runs with 755. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982 and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002.

Aaron has been a generous friend and advocate of YHC for many years, and served on the College's Board of Trustees from 2000 to 2008. He voted on the appointment of YHC President Cathy Cox and supported the College's historic decision to

become a four-year institution.

Aaron has a longstanding friendship with YHC alumnus former U.S. Senator and Georgia Governor Zell Miller, '51. When the College decided to construct a baseball stadium to be named in honor of Miller, who both played and coached baseball at YHC before entering public service, Aaron not only gave generously to the project, but also assisted with raising the funds. In 2014, Aaron received YHC's Nancy Louise Haynes Stephens Sanderson Robertson Outstanding Friend Award for his generous contributions and friendship to the College.

Approximately 187 students, the College's largest graduating class to date, are scheduled to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Moonshine...from Page 1A

Blairsville is home."

The Townsends have all of the necessary licenses for the moonshine venture, federal, state and local. The 'Back in Time' museum should be open in the summer, but it could be a bit sooner.



Granddaddy Mimm's original corn whiskey will be distilled at the location at Pappy's Plaza. The plan is part of the county's Agritourism venue.

"The way the laws in Georgia work, we can sell a tour of the museum and give a 750 ml bottle away," Christy Townsend said, referring to the 'Back in Time' Moonshine Museum. "We'll also have free tastings and patrons will be able to tour the facility.

"We're looking at charging \$30 to \$35, that's what everyone else is charging, and we're excited," she said. "We've lived here in Georgia for so long, this community has given to us, so we want to give back to this community.

"We don't want it to be just a place to tour, we want it to be an experience," she said.

"Agritourism is one of the fastest growing businesses in the South," Tommy Townsend said. "This is an opportunity to come back home, maybe create a few jobs, and give back to the place I grew up in.

"I've lived away from Blairsville, Georgia for a number of years, mainly because the Country Music business is in Nashville, Tenn.," he said. "This is an opportunity to make something happen here, and give back to my hometown.

"After all, this is where it all started for me years ago," he said.

Tommy Townsend is the grandson of Jack McClure, an Appalachian moonshiner and local philanthropist from Young Harris.

The North Georgia Mountains are plush with stories of McClure's quality bootleg spirits, his charitable giving, and his self-delivered justice to those who crossed him.

Bluegrass icons Lester Flat and Earl Scruggs even enjoyed the famous brew a time or two when they were in the area according to Tommy Townsend.

McClure's career in bootlegging began during the Great Depression and continued until his death in 1969 when he died of pancreatic cancer.

Tommy Townsend was only 2 years old when his 'infamous' grandfather died, but the stories of his 'shining days' lived on and the family stories of his grandfather sparked an interest in Granddaddy Mimm that could not be squelched.

"I began to question my mother, aunts, and uncles about the recipe," said Townsend. "With their blessing, I began the process of producing Granddaddy Mimm using the same recipe and the same simple ingredients with all the taste and tradition enjoyed by folks back in the day of Mimm."

Tommy Townsend said patrons could look forward to music and fellowship at the museum.

"We'll have music, square dances, have some free concerts, get some of the Nashville songwriters down here," he said. "We're looking



Above, Tommy Townsend poses with the new Granddaddy Mimm's welcoming sign; below, quart jars ready to be filled with Apple Brown Betty Moonshine. Photos/Shawn Jarrard

forward to having some writers' nights, as well as some other music related events. We want to have those events free to the public.

"When we have our grand opening, we're looking to have Waymore's Outlaws and Shooter Jennings here," he said. "We'll have a whole day of music.

"Now that moonshine is legal, it's going to be a blast for me to carry on the tradi-

tion," he said. "I've thought about it for several years of how cool it would be to run 'shine' because of all the stories I've heard about Granddaddy Mimm since I was a child.

"I've always liked outlaws and the folks that colored outside the lines a bit, so that's what motivated me to do this," he said.

"Now I can run it legally. I just have to pay the taxes on it," he said.