

Farabee...from Page 1A

the Historic Courthouse – thanks to the many hours, days, months and years of time volunteered by the Farabees – had been returned to much of its former glory when the courtroom was finished in 1998 and the tower in 2000.

Maurice, a U.S. Army Air Corps pilot during World War II, went high in the sky once more in 2000, this time in the bucket of a 150-ton crane, to help install the weathervane on the bell tower.

The Farabees have

received many honors over the years, including in March of 2002, when then-Gov. Roy Barnes presented the Governor’s Award in the Humanities for their “exemplary achievements that have fostered an understanding of our cultural traditions and values in Georgia, and have thus strengthened community, character and citizenship in our state.”

Their names can be readily found in several places within the Old Courthouse itself, as the Historical Society named the building’s elevator the Farabee Elevator in 2010, and the plaque recognizing their work as “Preservationists of the 20th Century” hangs in the C.R. Collins Lobby of the Old Courthouse to this day.

Following his passing, on June 4, Maurice was

remembered by his family and friends during a memorial service in the Chapel of Cochran Funeral Home.

“The Farabees being there

and getting that courthouse renovated like it was – that’s the No. 1 preservation of the whole county in my lifetime,” said Bud Akins, himself a past

Historical Society president who called the Farabees friends and spoke at Maurice’s funeral last week.

Waymore's Outlaws...from Page 1A

children registered.

“We have a team called the Community Action Team, and we work to secure funds to fund the books for the children. The books are free for the children.

“We have strong community support from businesses, organizations, churches, the school system and individuals. The cost for each child registered is \$36 per year.”

The work undertaken by the volunteer group of civic-minded literacy advocates has also been made possible through a partnership with Union General Hospital Labor & Delivery, which works to get all babies registered for the program.

This partnership, coupled with funding from a generous mountain community, helps Ferst Readers of Union County meet its goal of providing all children with one free book a month until their fifth birthday.

“Research indicates that children who are read to from birth are more ready for school success than children who are not read to,” said Cochran. “The books are high quality and age-appropriate.

“At age 5, the child will be ready to enter kindergarten with a better chance to succeed at learning. As a kindergarten teacher for 29 years, I know from experience how important it is to read to children at a very young age.”

Cochran said the Ferst Readers would like to thank Mitch Griggs, who helped to coordinate the concert fundraiser; Tommy Townsend, for the concert with Waymore’s Outlaws and acquiring the Country River Band as the opening act; Chick-fil-A for providing refreshments; and supporters of the concert.

“Making the community aware of the importance of early childhood literacy and its impact on the educational success of children as they enter school is a key focus for Ferst Readers of Union County,” said Cochran. “We work to spread the word through newspaper articles, Facebook page, planned speaking events to organizations and personal contacts.

“Through community support, this program can make a difference in a child’s life.”

Scottish Festival...from Page 1A

decision, and with dozens more vendors and athletes – and thousands of guests – planning to arrive from all over the Southeast, board members felt they had to make the tough decision out of an abundance of caution.

“Then, there were some safety concerns even if it wasn’t stormy, with the mud and the traffic control,” said Satterfield. “And of course, if we got lightning, wind, and if we got downpours of rain, the creek

at Meeks Park has gotten out of the banks pretty quickly on occasions.”

Satterfield said there was a washout 10 years ago at the sixth Scottish Festival, when a heavy downpour caused a near flash flood at Meeks Park, and heavy winds blew some of the clan tents into Butternut Creek.

And even if flash floods at Meeks Park were not an issue, rain would certainly put a damper on a huge part of the

annual festival – the Opening Ceremony.

This year, the Opening Ceremony was to feature six bands for its Massed Bands performance, plus the ever-popular Parade of Tartans.

“Those bands, they’re all in uniform and have their equipment and all – with an 80% and 90% forecast of rain, it would be pretty miserable for them to (perform),” said Satterfield. “And frankly, we as a committee thought we would have bands cancel and probably entertainers cancel.

“We were just combining all of the forecasts, vendors and athletes, and patrons, too, coming from long distances . . . (so) we decided that, rather than fighting the wet and possibility of storms all weekend, we’d just try to make a decision on Wednesday (June 5).”

Because the Scottish Festival brings in so many vendors, athletes, bands, entertainers, volunteers and patrons, not to mention a full week’s rental of Meeks Park, the board decided that rescheduling the event would not be feasible, though the show will go on in 2020.

Wastewater...from Page 1A

the city could potentially handle more than 90,000 gallons per day, which would bring in over \$1.7 million a year.

That said, the number of gallons treated would depend on how much The Water Authority hauls to Blairsville.

Cook said that air is used in treating the ammonia in the leachate, and that the plant is only using about 30% of its air capacity, meaning the city could easily handle whatever The Water Authority brings at this time.

The process would require The Water Authority to transport the leachate to Blairsville, where it would be pumped into an above-ground tank called a digester.

It would then be fed into the plant and would leave as treated wastewater.

The only cost to the city will be approximately \$1,400 for a pump to transfer the leachate from the transport vehicle to the digester, and The Water Authority will lend the city a pump during the testing process.

Council members unanimously approved a contract with The Water Authority, LLC, to begin the process.

In other city news, Blairsville Police Chief Michael “Bear” Baxter requested seven new body armor vests for the department, the cost of which will be reimbursed through a Georgia Municipal Association grant program.

The council voted unanimously to approve the purchase, and the old vests will be donated to the Fire Department for use during active shooter drills.

Work continues to progress on the new Blairsville Police Department building, located right next door to City



The Blue Ridge Mountain Chapter of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is comprised of services who’ve served our country as Commissioned Officers in the military or U.S. Public Health Service. Members may be active, inactive, reserve or retired.

The local chapter serves both Western North Carolina and North Georgia and meets on the third Wednesday of each month at different locations in our area.

For information on membership enrollment in the Blue Ridge Mountain Chapter, call Joff Filion at (386) 530-0904 or email joff27@aol.com and visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.