

TCSO offering \$500 reward in theft, property damage at Fairgrounds

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HIAWASSEE – The Towns County Sheriff's Office is offering a \$500 cash reward to any individual who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a vehicle theft and property damage at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds over the weekend.

People can call the Sheriff's Office at 706-896-4444 to provide information, which will be kept completely confidential.

The theft and damage occurred either late Friday or in the early morning hours of Saturday, April 6, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Local deputies responded to the incident Saturday morning, discovering that the front gate into the Fairgrounds had sustained major damage.

"The suspects also attempted to steal an ATM machine located on the property," according to a TCSO statement. "A Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds pickup truck was also discovered stolen, and it was believed to have been used to crash through the front gate of the Fairgrounds."

"While the deputies were on the scene taking the initial report and processing for evidence, the stolen truck was located in Clay County, North Carolina."

The investigation is active and ongoing at this time.

Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said that the intrusion was a first for the beloved local tourist attraction.

"I'm just real sorry that something like this happened at the Fairgrounds," said Thomason. "The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds is a place to come for family entertainment, and for people to enjoy themselves and have a good time, and we want to continue that."

"It's sad that there's some people out in the world that want to destroy things, and hopefully, we can find out who did this, and they can be punished for it."

All damage will be covered by insurance, though Thomason said the gate will



A picture of the damaged front gate at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds that somebody drove through over the weekend.

have to be replaced.

Saturday was also the sold-out Hank Williams Jr. concert at Anderson Music Hall, and fortunately, no operations were interrupted anywhere in the Fairgrounds as

a result of the mischief from the night before.

"Hank had a good time, and Hank said he loved Hiawassee and he wants to come back," said Thomason.

The contemporary

Christian band Big Daddy Weave will play The Hall this weekend on Saturday, April 13, with doors opening at 6 p.m. for the 7 p.m. show.

GA Lawmakers...from Page 1A

Essentially, the bill would prohibit abortion beyond any point that a fetal heartbeat is detected by a doctor, which usually occurs around six weeks of pregnancy.

Pro-life advocates have called the bill a major step in the right direction toward saving

the lives of unborn babies, while pro-choice advocates have vocally denounced the measure as harmful to women.

Gov. Kemp is expected to sign the bill into law, at which point it will likely face legal challenges that could see the case being taken up by the highest court in the land.

Under the current law, abortions cannot be performed after 20 weeks, and the same exceptions would apply in the new law, namely for health of the mother, as well as in cases where it is medically determined that a baby could not survive outside the womb, and in instances of incest and/or rape.

"Georgia values life," said Kemp after the bill passed on March 29. "We stand up for the innocent and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves."

"The legislature's bold action reaffirms our priorities and who we are as a state. I thank these lawmakers for their leadership and applaud their undeniable courage."

Georgia legislators passed another highly-anticipated bill on the last day of the session – an amendment to the controversial "legislative leave law."

As it stands, the law allows for attorney members of

the Georgia General Assembly to delay cases they're involved in indefinitely, or at least as long as they remain elected to the state's legislative body.

The law came under renewed scrutiny following an Atlanta Journal-Constitution/Channel 2 investigation earlier this year into criminal defense attorney and House Speaker David Ralston's alleged abuse of the law, which in some cases has allowed him to keep clients from facing the charges against them for years at a time.

Should the amended bill – arrived at by a special panel appointed by Ralston – be signed into law, lawyer-legislators would be required to provide specific reasons for requesting leave for legislative purposes, and judges, opposing counsel and parties in their cases would gain the ability to object.

Lawmakers also fulfilled their constitutional mandate to pass a balanced budget during the 2019 session, approving a record \$27.5 billion state budget that includes base pay raises of \$2,775 for all Georgia public school teachers and other certified school employees starting July 1.

The last day for Gov. Kemp to sign or veto a bill or resolution is coming up on May 12, 2019.

Rathburn

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motherhood," said Rathburn. "It's told in interlocking sections, so the different sections are in conversation with each other. So, it's largely about childhood, motherhood, the female body, women's bodies in visual art, and it's about storytelling, so there's a lot in there."

Added Rathburn, "Becoming a mother made me think back on my childhood in different ways, so there are poems rooted in my childhood and thinking about some of the really dangerous experiences that I had, and then thinking about my own daughter's future."

North Georgia News Staff Writer Jarrett Whitener, who authored this article, is a student of Chelsea Rathburn's in the Creative Writing Program of Young Harris College.

Second Annual American Legion Golf Tournament May 4th



The Ira Weaver American Legion Post 121, 78 Old Blue Ridge Highway, Blairsville, GA is excited to announce the upcoming second annual American Legion Golf tournament to be held on 4 May 2019.

Help the American Legion support Union County Veterans and provide scholarships for children of Union County Veterans.

You can register by visiting Old Union Golf Course or calling Cameron Forrest at 706-745-4653. Pre-registration makes the whole tournament easier for everyone. The cost is \$260 per team or \$65 per single, Captain's Choice, with \$5,000 hole in one; longest drive, closest to the pin and lunch. Come support the Union County Veterans.

You can call Commander Mike Ayers (678) 378-4663 or Adjutant Jack Waters at 813-334-7235. Our meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month except November and December at the Major Leon Davenport Veteran's Center at 78 Old Blue Ridge Highway at the intersection of Old Blue Ridge Highway and Highway 515. The meetings start at 6:30 PM. Prospective members are welcome. N(Apr10Z3)CA

Allegheny Masonic Lodge

Allegheny Masonic Lodge #114 meets 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Dinner 6:30 PM and meeting 7:30 PM. N(Apr10Z2)CA