

## A night at the theater

Saturday evening I enjoyed attending a high caliber production of Alfred Uhry's "Driving Miss Daisy" at the Blue Ridge Community Theater.



**Whitney Crouch**

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Performed by an impressive three-member cast from the Tater Patch Players out of Jasper, the play told the story of an unlikely friendship between a feisty Jewish widow who is the quintessential backseat driver and her African-American chauffeur.

While I was already familiar with the storyline thanks to the 1989 film starring Moran Freeman and Jessica Tandy, I enjoyed the opportunity to see it through fresh eyes and in a different format.

There's something special about live theater.

Indeed, I always feel a rush of excitement as the house lights go down and a hush ripples over the audience. On such occasions I find myself taking a deep breath of anticipation before plunging into the world of the story and losing myself in its intricacies and characters.

I particularly enjoy the temporal nature of stage productions as an art form.

While a movie can play in an empty room and be exactly the same with each viewing, the experience of watching a play is new and fresh with each performance. Even if the lines, set and actors remain the

same, no two performances will ever be identical.

This variance is due in part to changes in inflection, movements and timing, but theater is also special because it invites the audience to take an active role in the event. As many thespians will tell you, actors respond to each individual audience, feeding off its excitement, laughter, applause and support.

Perhaps it is because I like feeling as though I too am a character in the performance that I enjoy attending plays, but whatever the case, it is always a treat to take a seat in a darkened theater and watch a story unfold.

All in all, I heartily enjoyed attending "Driving Miss Daisy," which moved me through a series of responses ranging from laughter to frustration as it covered a span of 25 years in the lives of its characters.

By the arrival of the final poignant scene, which will long be etched in my memory, I had reached a state of teary contentment.

While the play is by and large in the "feel-good" story category, it still touches on tough topics like racial and religious discrimination, dementia and fear of public opinion, thus encouraging viewers to reevaluate their own opinions and perceptions.

It also provides a vivid, positive portrait of the enduring nature of true friendship.

"Driving Miss Daisy" is still in Blue Ridge this weekend.

For more information, visit [www.blueridgecommunitytheater.com](http://www.blueridgecommunitytheater.com).

## Meth

—from 1A

charged with possession of hydrocodone and xanax.

Maxine Chastain Frady, 54, also of 98 Savannah Lane, was charged with distribution of hydrocodone.

Michael Wesley Williams, 51, of 2205 Legion Drive, was charged with possession of meth with intent to distribute, possession of endocet (oxycodone and acetaminophen) and possession of hydrocodone.

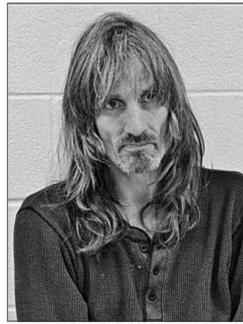
Owens said approximately 13 grams of meth were seized during a search of the residence, with just over \$1,400 of street value. In addition, three xanax tablets were found along with 36 hydrocodone pills, the latter with a street value of \$360.

Owens was asked if authorities had received any tips from the public about alleged drug activity at the site.

"We've had several complaints over many months, from deputies and homeowners in the area," he replied. "We actually conducted an undercover operation there and purchased methamphetamine out of the residence and that led to the search warrant."

Has the task force dealt with any of the arrested individuals before?

"No, but we've heard the



**Mitchell**



**Turley**



**V. Frady**

names," he said. "The (Mitchell) guy, we've heard his name in the past. He actually goes by the nickname of 'Michigan Rick.' That's his alias or street name."

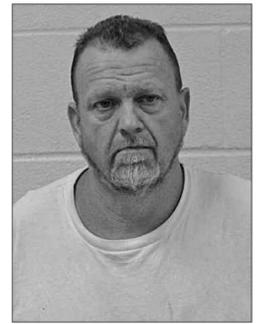
He said Maxine Frady was the only one of the five charged with distribution of hydrocodone pills.

"She had received her prescription that morning (Jan. 24) at approximately 9 o'clock and the prescription was for 90 pills," he said. "(By) 2:30 (p.m.) there were only 11 pills left in her bottle. So she had gone and already distributed that many pills in a short time frame."

Maxine Frady, Vickie Frady and Turley have been given \$5,000 bonds, according to a jail spokesman. Mitchell is on probation and Williams is on parole and have not been given bonds. Mitchell pleaded guilty in 2007 to a 2006 burglary, according to records in the district attorney's office. Information on Williams regarding



**M. Frady**



**Williams**

his past prison time and parole were not available in county records.

All five suspects remained in the Gilmer County jail on Tuesday. The investigation is ongoing and more charges could result, the news release stated.

"This has been going on about a year, and I told my husband it has to stop," the neighbor said. "We have a grandchild."

The Coosawattee River Resort public safety webpage states the department "is not a police force that is responsible for

maintaining law and order or making [an] arrest."

Director of Public Safety Gail Williamson said she was not aware of any complaints about the camper lot at 102 21st St., although she had not checked any paperwork.

"Any information that we get — if we have any suspicions — we do pass it on to the deputies and they pass it on to the drug task force," she explained. "That's about all we can do. That's what we've always done. If we have an idea of something (suspicious), we pass it on."

## Sheriff

—from 1A

seizing law-abiding citizens' firearms," he said. "First of all, I believe these are two completely separate issues; however, I do agree that the first could be a precursor to the latter. There is no doubt that we are living in turbulent times and there is a fear among many citizens that the federal government will attempt to erode 'the right to bear arms' out of the Constitution.

"I firmly believe and stand by that the passing of gun control bills, or even complete bans, will not impact the threat of violence upon this nation's citizens in any positive way. In fact, the impact could very well be a negative one in that citizens do not have the ability to protect themselves from criminals. A more productive effort in preventing senseless tragedies would be for our state governments and federal government to address mental health issues that are all too common in each of our communities."

The original Facebook post stated: "During my career as a Gilmer County deputy and most recently entering my third term as sheriff, I have taken the

same oath numerous times in which I swear, so help me God, that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Georgia. Therefore having said that, I have no intention of performing any act which would violate the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, nor will I permit my deputies as they take the same oath as me.

"I, along with a large number (which is growing daily) of sheriffs across the

state of Georgia — as well as the entire United States — have no intention of following any orders of the federal government to perform any act which would be considered to be unlawful or a violation of any part of the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of the State of Georgia. Nor will we permit it to be done if within our power to prevent it. I know we are living in 'worrisome times,' but I feel pretty confident that your concerns over these issues

need to be addressed to all of your state senators, state representatives and most importantly, your U.S. senators and U.S. representatives."

According to *Black Hills Today*, a newspaper in Deadwood, S.D., three other Georgia sheriffs besides Nicholson — in Cherokee, Cobb and Oconee counties — have joined around 100 sheriffs nationwide in speaking publicly about their support for the Second Amendment.

## Dog exposed to rabid raccoon in Ellijay

North Georgia Health District

A 7-year-old male boxer in Ellijay fought and killed a raccoon that has since tested positive for rabies. Because the dog was not current on its rabies vaccination, it is now undergoing a six-month strict quarantine.

There was no human exposure. Gilmer County Environmental Manager Andrea Martin reported that the fight between the dog and the raccoon occurred on January 16, 2013, at a residence on Raspberry Court off Highway 382 in Ellijay.

The raccoon was tested for rabies at the Georgia Department of Public Health Laboratory on Jan. 17, and the positive rabies result was reported on Jan. 18.

Health officials urge residents to maintain

current rabies vaccinations in their pets, not only for the sake of the pet, but to also protect themselves and their family from rabies.

Rabies that goes untreated is fatal almost 100 percent of the time.

For more contact Gilmer County Environmental Health at (706) 635-6050 or log onto the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

## Ellijay Wildlife Rehab Sanctuary



[www.wildliferehabsanctuary.org](http://www.wildliferehabsanctuary.org)  
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## Warning

—from 1A

Fire Chief Tony Pritchett told the *Times-Courier* this week that, "the system needs some fine tuning. We need to tweak a few things. The people who set up the system said this is normal in the initial stages."

Residents without a landline, or unlisted number, need to go to the system's website and enter their preferred contact information, such as a cell phone number.

Pritchett said an easier link will be established on the county website in the near future under the fire department heading.

"We've still got a few bugs to work out and that's one of them," he said.

Pritchett said approximately 11,000 numbers have been entered into the computerized system. "That probably reaches

about 18,000 (residents)," he noted.

The system will alert residents of impending emergency situations including weather, road closures or other situations.

Pritchett said his department responded to a large number of minor accidents with no reported injuries from the storm.

To register contact information for the emergency warning system, please register at: [https://ww2.everbridge.net/citizen/EverbridgeGateway.action?body=home&gis\\_alias\\_id=1690781](https://ww2.everbridge.net/citizen/EverbridgeGateway.action?body=home&gis_alias_id=1690781)

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