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## Mountain Youth School welcomes artists

### Local artists help with 'Careers in Creativity' program

By STACY GREEN  
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**Martins Creek**  
Local artists and musicians converged on Mountain Youth School from Feb. 6-7 for a hands-on version of career day for students.

"Careers in Creativity" is a program designed to enhance appreciation for the arts in middle and high school students. The program hopes to teach students that the arts can be an outlet for creative expression and a potentially fulfilling career.

Sponsored by the Cherokee County Arts Council, the two-day event included four vastly different outlets for students like pottery, watercolor painting, bluegrass music and wood burning.

The event lasted two days with an art show Thursday. Students displayed their creations and shared what they learned during the event.

Artists who participated represented a wide range of the county. Kathy Chastain of Brasstown showed students how to create art using watercolors.

The students were able to learn the art of making "zentangles," which are different designs made from the natural flow of the artist. The class created watercolor paintings using water, paint and cotton paper.

"I've loved drawing the 'zentangles' and learning how water painting works," student Amber Rogers said. "Everything turned out really cool."

Master potter Mike Malone of Murphy taught students about the hands-on craft of pottery and sculpt-



Mountain Youth School students Preston Smith, 16, and Noah Killian 15, (from left), admire one of their classmate's "zentangles" - intricate designs made from the natural flow of the artist - during an art show Thursday on campus. The show was the culmination of a two-day event called "Careers in Creativity" from Feb. 6-7.

ing. Students created head sculptures under Lalone's tutelage.

"It went really slow the first day," student Jamie Nelson said. "It's been really fun."

Guitarist Sonny Reighard of Topton showed students music can be fulfilling and how to play the guitar.

"A lot of these students didn't know the first thing about guitars, now they have the skills to practice and learn more," Reighard said. "These kids were a good team and good listeners."

Students learned a lot about dedication and life during their lessons, "It's something that can't be picked up easily, we had to sit down and practice," said Sam Kendrick, a student

at Mountain Youth. "We learned we have to succeed in what we want, it's not going to come to us."

Carpentry/masonry instructor Nathan Davenport of Murphy taught students how to do wood burning, or "pyrography."

Students learned how to place a design on wood and burn the design to make the texture look richer. Many students made gifts for friends and family, C.J. Hobson created a plaque for Mountain Youth Principal Bill Gaither in the class.

A special appearance by legendary banjo picker Bill Pruett, a music instructor at Stecoah Cultural Arts Center in Graham County, gave the students an inside look at the music and art that a

banjo can make.

Nearly 50 students, around 10 per class, in grades 6-12 enrolled at the school participated in the event. These students benefitted from the exposure and interaction with working local artists who are passionate about their craft.

The program gives students a realistic idea of a career in the arts as a small business owner/entrepreneur, professional artist, gallery owner/employee, professional musician and art teacher.

Through the "Career Cruising" survey students took prior to the event, the students were able to be matched up with an artist who can teach them about a potential career in the arts.

The two-day program gave students ample time to explore different types of fields where they can benefit with careers in the arts.

"I am grateful to all of the artists who came out and worked with the students for the program," Mountain Youth graduation coach Cindi Herr said.

Photos by SCOTT WALLACE/swallace@cherokeescout.com



Professional musicians Bill Pruett and Sonny Reighard (standing) go over chords Thursday with Mountain Youth School students Easton Dillard, 12; Samuel Kendrick, 18; Alston Fillo, 16; and Mylo LaTour, 12 (clockwise from left of Reighard). The pair spent two days with the students during the school's "Careers in Creativity" event.

## Local girl in running for 'America's Next Top Model' cycle 20

**Bianca Malin**, who has roots in Cherokee County, has an opportunity to be on the next cycle of the hit reality television show *America's Next Top Model*.

In October, Malin auditioned in Philadelphia for the show. She since has received the most shares on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter.

Malin had the honor of having three photographs posted on social media sites as opposed to having just one, which has made a difference in her opportunities with the show.

Malin brought three natural pictures of herself to the casting call, and all three were chosen for social media sites.

"We really hope that she can get on the show," said Malin's mother, **Janet Malin**. "This has been on her bucket list for a long time."

Malin is the daughter of **Chadd and Janet Malin** of Denver. Chadd graduated from Andrews High School in 1988, while Janet graduated from Murphy High

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School in 1990. Bianca is the granddaughter of **Dale and Sue Malin** of Andrews.

Malin lived in Okinawa, Japan, and has modeled since she was 14 years old.

Malin has enjoyed modeling and is attending University of Maryland University College. She lives in New Mexico, but will move to New York if she makes it onto the show.

Fans have a lot of say in cycle 20 of *America's Next Top Model*.

The final cut for the show will be held Monday, and the family is asking for local help to get Malin to the show.

Like or share Malin's photo on the fan page for the show on Facebook. So far, Malin has almost 600 likes on her photo and a lot of shares. This season also will add men to the mix - 15 female and 15 male models will be on the show.

The Web link to help Malin is [www.facebook.com/pages/Americas-Next-Top-Model-Cycle-20](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Americas-Next-Top-Model-Cycle-20)

### Trails meeting Tuesday

The Southwestern North Carolina Planning and Economic Development Commission has scheduled an open house in February to gather comments on the Regional Trails Plan.

The open house is from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday at the Community Facilities Building in Andrews.

The Southwestern Commission is the council of

government for North Carolina's Region A covering the western most part of the state. It covers Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties.

The Southwestern Com-

mission is conducting a regional trails inventory and concept plan for the seven far-western counties of North Carolina.

The draft Regional Trails Plan and maps of existing and planned trails will be on

display at the open house and available on the Southwestern Commission's Web site, [www.regiona.org](http://www.regiona.org).

Maps generated for each county through the planning effort include existing *see SCOUTING, 2B*



**Bianca Malin**, whose parents are from Cherokee County, is in the running for the next cycle of the hit reality TV show *America's Next Top Model*. She needs votes on Facebook in order to make the show's cast.

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