

Reece...from Page 1A

poems that are seeking something. That's my path, to try to be a seeker. I think that poetry is one tremendous vehicle for that quest, as I see it."

Hirsch went on to illuminate the difference between poetry and religion in his views — religion comes with a church and a creed, acting as a sort of authorized testimony. "Poetry is an unauthor-

ized testimony," said Hirsch. "It's a kind of witnessing of the individual. It doesn't come with a community, it comes with an individual spirit. But that quest would seem so American to me. That's powerful, because we want to hear from individuals, and their experiences speak to us."

Another member in the audience asked how aspiring

writers might get over their fears of personal expression.

"I would say that we live in very cynical times, and that extreme irony has been one of the ways that a lot of people have responded to these times," said Hirsch. "And poets especially are part of this movement, which is much larger than poetry — it's something that's happening in

the culture at large.

"When you're completely cynical and you don't believe anything and you doubt everything, then you're not vulnerable. You're protected in some kind of way by a wall. And when you express your feelings or when you commit to feelings, then you are vulnerable, and you are open to attack, just as the way

the feeling of wonder opens us to attack. Any time you express anything positive, you're vulnerable in some ways to be attacked."

And while good technique is necessary, said Hirsch, it's not the be-all and the end-all of successful poetic expression.

"It takes courage, it takes some bravery to try to

throw yourself into the abyss of yourself," said Hirsch. "And I believe that the great poets have this, they've shown this, and they're our models."

Hirsch, a Chicago native, spent more than two decades teaching English and creative writing, and is the president of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Taylor...from Page 1A

old housewife was dead, and her 67-year-old husband Robert Taylor would soon be behind bars, Sheriff Mason said.

Fran Taylor died of blunt force trauma to the head on Monday, Nov. 25, Sheriff Mason said.

An autopsy by state medical examiners revealed that Fran Taylor was struck in the head more than 40 times with a blunt object, Sgt. Hammond said.

"The autopsy shows that she was struck in the head more than 40 times," Sgt. Hammond said. "Falling down a flight of steps as the

cause of death didn't match the autopsy results."

The incident unfolded at the couple's home on Amy Lynn Drive, off of Moccasin Road, Sheriff Mason said.

Union County 911 dispatchers received a distress call from the couple's home on Nov. 25. It was reported that Fran Taylor had fallen down a flight of steps leading to the family basement.

Sgt. Dyer arrived, and the incident shifted from an accident investigation, to an active homicide investigation, Sheriff Mason said.

Fran Taylor's body was sent to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Crime Labo-

ratory. Autopsy results show she died of blunt force trauma to the head, Detective Hammond said.

GBI special agents and a crime scene investigation crew came to the Taylors' home. They secured search warrants and once received, began to process what they believed to be a murder crime scene.

Investigators immediately found blood spatter evidence, and obvious signs of a struggle once inside the home.

Sgt. Hammond said that Robert Taylor changed his story time after time when talking with investigators.

"His story changed a few times," Hammond said. "His first story was that his wife fell down the steps leading to the basement. That changed, once we got in the house and found blood evidence. He told us later that he and his wife got into an argument and she chased him through the house. He said she tripped and fell down the stairs leading to the basement."

Initially, Robert Taylor was arrested and held on giving false statements to officers. Those charges shifted to include murder and tampering with evidence.

After authorities re-

ceived the autopsy report for Fran Taylor from state medical examiners, Robert Taylor was charged with murder and tampering with evidence.

On Friday, Robert Taylor did something that had never before been done in a Union County Superior Court courtroom — he apologized to his dead wife's daughters — via Skype.

He cried as he apologized, but he never provided details of what led up to the brutal murder of Fran Taylor.

The two had argued, and it could be assumed that dispute involved the extramarital affair Robert Taylor had been having, Langley

said. "We believe he killed her with a sharp-edge object with more than 40 blows to the head and then he staged her falling down the stairs to create a false scenario," Langley said. "We were prepared to present more than 20 witnesses to that effect at a jury trial on Monday."

Normally, one must serve 30 years of a murder conviction. Langley agreed to reduce that to 27 years because of Taylor's advanced age, in return for a guilty plea.

"This guarantees his incarceration until the age of 94," Langley said.

Lapidary Arts...from Page 1A

full, every lodging room full. It's really neat to see how it has grown, and to start on the planning portion to make sure we're going for the next 30 years, too."

Rev. Ken Fuller from Blairsville's Church of the Nazarene led a prayer before the ribbon-cutting, after which guests were invited into the Sparks Lodge for a delicious meal prepared by William Holland's Executive

Chef Alan Oana.

Oana received 80-90 percent of the food for Friday's affair as a donation from long-time distributor PFG Milton's, a company that has changed names over the years, but that has been with the school since its beginning.

William Holland Lapidary offers a tremendous number of classes over a multitude of disciplines for the 30-week-long annual season spanning the third week in

April until the second week of November.

Classes include, but are not limited to, ArtGourds, basketry, beading, cabochons, carving, casting, chain, enameling, faceting, forming, gem identification, glass fusing, gold, intarsia, jewelry design, junior rockhounding, metal clay, mineral identification, opals, polymer clay, scrimshaw, silver, stained glass and wire sculpture.

Starting the opening

week of April 12, the school will be conducting its weekly Tailgating Thursday event at 6:30 p.m., which will allow members of the community to come by the school and purchase materials used in classes to make jewelry. There will also be some finished items available for purchase, and the public can get a good look at what the school has to offer.

"It's big, because this place, over the course of the

summer when they have their classes, brings in literally thousands of people, and they are from all over the country," said Towns County Chamber of Commerce President Candace Lee. "You can come here at any time during the week and just see the different cars parked in the parking lot — there are very few Georgia cars here in the parking lot."

"I've been over here when there are cars from Alaska. We've had people

from Canada here, and I'm sure there are some from out of the country that actually have to rent a car when they get here. But the cars are just a great indication of the number of people they bring in. They usually sell out every class."

Prospective students may visit the campus to pick up an application, or head over to the website for the online form and more information at www.lapidaryschool.org.

Arrests...from Page 1A

ation warrant from Florida.

"Each time we went to serve him, he was like Houdini, just nowhere to be seen," Sgt. Osborn said. "We received a 911 hang up call from that residence on April 8 at approximately 5:30 in the afternoon," Sgt. Osborn said. "Deputy Keith Lockwood responded to the call and when he arrived, he saw Blankenship tossing the football with another

young man.

Blankenship ran and deputies called for Deputy Jeff McConnell and Lacey (K-9 Bloodhound).

"Less than 10 minutes after Lacey hit the ground, we located Blankenship," Sgt. Osborn said. "He was hiding under a tarp covering a woodpile at a neighboring house."

Blankenship awaits ex-

tradition to Florida and remains in the Union County Jail.

In an unrelated case, Luke David Rohloff, 33, of Greensboro, NC, was taken into custody during a license check on Glenn Gooch By-Pass, Sgt. Osborn said.

"Right after midnight on April 8, during a pre-planned, properly marked license checkpoint at U.S. 129 and Shoe Factory Road a silver Volkswagen

Jetta approached Deputy Bradley Glass. The driver told Deputy Glass that he didn't have any driver's license. His license was suspended and he was arrested for driving on a suspended license," Sgt. Osborn said. "The vehicle was a rental vehicle."

An inventory of the rental vehicle yielded a glass pipe with residue suspected to be methamphetamine; several drug-related items with black-

powdery substances suspected to be methamphetamine; a small blue container with a substance inside believed to be marijuana, digital scales and 58 small plastic bags consistent with those used to distribute methamphetamine.

Deputies also recovered almost two grams of methamphetamine, Sheriff Mason said.

Sgt. Osborn said the most interesting item recovered from

the Jetta — a San Francisco Police Department dress shirt as well as a police radio.

Rohloff is charged with distribution of a controlled substance; possession of marijuana; driving with a suspended driver's license; possession of drug-related objects, Union County Jail records show.

Rohloff was being held on \$22,000 bail, jail records show.

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