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brought home the top award for Small Vocal Ensemble.

Erin Westberry, Alyssa Pyle and Courtney Farmer all honor students attending Towns County Schools were the youngest small vocal ensemble in the competition hosted by Lee College.

"When our trio started practicing the very difficult song, I thought

we had no chance at winning, but the more we practiced, the better we got, said Alyssa Pyle. "As we improved I started to realize we really did have a shot. I just thank God and all the people who believed in us."

"Although I love to sing, the most important things in my life are God, my

family and my church North Mount Zion Church of God," Erin Westberry said.

Vocal coaches for the winning trio are Ryan Wilson music director at North Mount Zion

Church of God who has performed across the nation and internationally. He has performed

with numerous artists including the Gaither Vocal Band and Vestal Goodman and Friends.

Latisha Wilson-Usher, who is a state and international Teen Talent winner and director of the North Mt. Zion College and Career Ministry, also has been instrumental in the trio's training.

The trio also has

learned from Towns County Schools' voice teacher, Chris Adams, who has been very instrumental in their training.

Johnny and Jeanie Pyle of Hiawassee are the parents of Alyssa and Erin. Their grandparents are Lucille Westberry of Hayesville, NC and Lester Pyle of Blue Ridge.

Kim Farmer and the late Ken Farmer are the parents of Courtney Farmer; her grandfather is Herb Allen of Hiawassee.

The name of the trio is Down Pour and they will be appearing on the local television show Common Cup which is broadcast on Windstream Channel 4. The episode will air in the near future.

School Starts...continued from page 1A

proved to be the Assistant High School Principal.

"That left me needing a counselor," Berrong said. "Lana Parker, our sixth grade language arts teacher was approved for that job, which left me with an opening for a sixth grade language arts teacher. Miss Gina Chambers will take Lana's place in the classroom.

"We've got some

changes going on, but even with those changes, things have gone very smooth," Berrong said.

Changes are also the order of business at Towns County Elementary School.

Dr. Sandra Page is the new principal and Stephanie Moss is the new assistant principal.

"It's one of the smoothest beginnings to a

school year that I can remember," Dr. Page said. "The traffic hasn't been backed up, we've had the kids picked up and out of here by 3:20 p.m.; everything is going just wonderfully.

"If this is a sign of how the school year is going to go, it's going to be a wonderful school year," Dr. Page said.



Sister...continued from page 1A

lected Sister School Contact, are working to develop the project's first initiatives.

The Towns County Board of Education forged its alliance with Chikha Public School at its recent monthly meeting for August. Both schools are look-

ing forward to doing a variety of projects this year in the areas of literature, music, history, art and more.

Towns County Schools is holding a book drive until August 19 for its new sister school. All reading levels and topics are

needed. Donations may be given to any faculty member. Those wishing to support shipping costs may donate online at: <http://chikhalibrary.chipin.com>.

For more details, e-mail Christina at: peeblescd@gmail.com.

Cruise-In...continued from page 1A

Robert "Rakes" Parrish, the brain trust behind the Cruise-In, said the event is catching on nationwide.

"Folks enjoy the pioneer setting, with live mountain music, folk exhibits, local crafts, and of course hundreds of hot classic cars," Parrish said.

Parrish's dream of live Mountain Music shows, a shine Run for cold, hard cash, a folk arts show and exhibit and mountain crafts in the Pioneer Vil-

lage have more than come to fruition.

"There will be plenty of automotive vendors on display to help folks with a hard to find part for their classic car or street rod. It'll be a chance to sit back and enjoy the shade trees, lakeside views, and relax in the easy chair beside your hotrod with a cold glass of lemonade."

It'll also be a chance for locals to haul in some much needed cash as restaurants and local busi-

nesses expect to be bustling with trade activity. The three-day event puts a head in every bed for miles around as bookings for this event begins early for local hotels.

The three-day event sparked an economic rally in Hiawassee, Young Harris and Towns County when it first arrived in 2009. Now in its third year, it's become a community economic staple.

It figures to be another busy August for Towns County.

Free food distribution


There will be a free food distribution Tuesday, August 16, 2011. The distribution will be held at The Towns County Food Pantry from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. All that are in need of food assistance are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to pick up your food please contact the pantry at 706-896-4783 prior to distribution day so arrangements can be made to deliver your food. All clients and inquiries are confidential

Boy Scouts need your help

If your child used to be a Boy or Cub Scout and you still have his old uniform, would you please consider donating it to Hiawassee's Boy Scout Troop 125 and Cub Scout Pack 407. They are in need of uniforms. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. Contact Matt Holton at 706-970-0346.

TAUG10.7/SH

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

According to FBI reports, credit/debit card fraud, computer fraud, confidence fraud, and financial institutions fraud, round out the top seven categories of complaints referred to law enforcement. Internet fraud and email scams can be expensive, disruptive, and even dangerous. Consider using the following guidelines suggested by the FBI for avoiding Internet fraud or email scams: Only purchase merchandise from reputable dealers or establishments.

Try to obtain a physical address rather than merely a post office box and a phone number; call the seller to see if the number is correct and working.

Send them an e-mail to see if they have an active e-mail address and be wary of those that utilize free e-mail services where a credit card wasn't required to open the account.

Consider not purchasing from sellers who won't provide you with this type of information.

Purchase merchandise directly from the individual/company that holds the trademark, copyright, or patent.

Beware when responding to e-mail that may not have been sent by a reputable company.

Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as Nigerian or foreign government officials asking for your help in placing large sums of money in overseas bank accounts.

Do not believe the promise of large sums of money for your cooperation.

Guard your account information carefully. Don't give out your credit card number(s) online unless the site is a secure and reputable site. Sometimes a tiny icon of a padlock appears to symbolize a higher level of security to transmit data. This icon is not a guarantee of a secure site, but might provide you some assurance.

You can now follow the Sheriff's Office on Facebook, Twitter, or on the Sheriff's Office blog, by visiting online at www.townscountysheriffsoffice.com. TAUG10.K1/SH



Every Green Herb
By Janice Boling

Glossary - More G's

Grape seed extract is a powerful OPC (Oligomeric Proanthocyanidin). As an antioxidant and bioflavonoid, this extract is fifty times more powerful than vitamin E and twenty times stronger than vitamin C.

Grape seed extract fights allergies and inflammation. It strengthens blood vessels, improves the circulation, and gives skin a healthy glow. Grape seed extract limits the oxidation of fats and reduces free radical formation. Grape seed extract fights heart disease and the growth of cancer cells. It is also used in the treatment of HIV, stubborn wounds, tooth decay, edema, menopausal symptoms, hardening of the arteries, high blood pressure, diabetes complications, vision problems, swelling, and other ailments.

Grape seed extract contains a substance called procyranidin. Procyranidin was discovered in 1936 by Professor Jacques Masquelier, who named it vitamin P (although the name is no longer used). Procyranidin protects the body from premature aging by increasing vitamin C levels in the cells and helping the body to rid itself of toxic materials.

Grapefruit seed extract is a multi purpose natural antibiotic. It is used to treat bacterial, viral, and fungal infections. Grapefruit seed extract is used in cases of yeast infection, vaginal infection, parasite infection, and dysentery. Grapefruit seed extract speeds healing, fights gingivitis, strep throat, sore throat, ringworm, ear infection, nail fungus, and dandruff. It is also used for wart removal and to cleanse fresh produce of pesticides.

Green drinks, chlorophyll, and super foods are available in powders, drink mixes, and capsules. From wheatgrass to seaweed, they

are useful when treating cancerous growths (especially colon cancers), thyroid problems, arthritis, hemorrhoids, varicose veins, obesity, and liver diseases. Green drinks detoxify the body. They fight the effects of pollution, x-rays, other forms of radiation, and rancid foods. Super foods help the skin, the organs, and the tissues by providing concentrated nutrients and increasing the body's uptake of oxygen.

Green drinks and foods include wheatgrass, seaweed, algae, aloe vera, chlorella, Spirulina, and other grasses. Chlorella is a complete protein food that contains a large amount of beta carotene. It detoxifies the colon, eliminates heavy metals, and strengthens the liver. Spirulina is harvested from the ocean. It contains proteins, amino acids, essential fatty acids, minerals, and B vitamins. Barley grass helps repair cell damage and delay aging. Barley grass also neutralizes heavy metals like mercury. It is often used in place of steroids when treating inflammation. Alfalfa pulls nutrients from the soil from as far as 100 feet deep. Alfalfa is used as a body cleanser and natural deodorant. It is rich in fiber and helps relieve water retention. It is used to treat bladder infection, colon disorders, anemia, hemorrhaging, diabetes, and to balance estrogen production.

Green grasses and super foods transform elements of soil, water, and sunlight into living cells! They contain all known minerals, vitamins, and enzymes needed for digestion.

* Always consult with a healthcare professional before using any herb or supplement as a medicine especially if pregnant, nursing, or taking other medications. For more information about herbal remedies and aromatherapy, visit www.EveryGreenHerb.com.



It appears to be a smooth transition for Towns County Schools for the 2011-2012 school year. All the students have a smile on their faces. Photos by James Reese and Lowell Nicholson

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nity at \$3.66 per gallon. For the most part, local gas prices were stagnant at \$3.69 a gallon.

What's wrong with this picture?

In some instances, the price of a gallon of local unleaded regular is determined by a price survey of local stations. The low price leader tries to stay just below their competition; the others jockey for position.

Some say it's gouging, but state law allows for gas stations to sell their product for whatever price they deem fit, unless of course the governor has declared a

state of emergency, in which case, gouging rules are enforced.

Currently, stations south and to the west of Atlanta are 30 cents or more per gallon cheaper than stations in Northeast Georgia.

From Augusta to Savannah, the price of a gallon of unleaded regular averages between \$3.35 per gallon to \$3.39 per gallon.

In Westminster, SC, the price of a gallon of unleaded regular is \$3.35 per gallon; in Ringgold, in Northwest Georgia, the price of a gallon of unleaded regular chimed in at \$3.39 per gallon.

In Franklin, NC, some stations are selling unleaded regular at \$3.59 per gallon, and in Sylva, NC, the price of a gallon of unleaded regular runs at \$3.62 a gallon.

As the folks on Wall Street continue to wait for the fallout from the Debt Debacle in Washington to cease, they'll continue to wring their hands as they wait out some anxious moments surrounding the stock market.

Meanwhile, locals will continue to wait for gas prices to come in line with the continued downward spiral of oil prices.

"Forgiven" returns to Old Courthouse



The band "Forgiven" in concert

Appearing at the Old Courthouse on the Square in Blairsville at 7 p.m. on August 12th will be one of the hottest young groups in the area, "Forgiven."

Merle Fortenberry plays bass and sings lead and low tenor. Merle's musical roots run deep in these mountains.

His great-grandfather, Frank Kerby, was a well known banjo player in Young Harris. Another great-grandfather, Fate Fortenberry, was a fiddler as was his grandfather, Garnett. His uncle Bobby Fortenberry was one of the first in this area to play the "Scruggs" style banjo.

Jonathon Adams also

has deep musical roots in this area. Jonathon plays guitar and also sings lead and tenor.

Bryant Pope from Blue Ridge is the banjo player for the group.

Andy Pickelsimer from Blairsville plays mandolin, and Seth Stanley, another Blue Ridge native plays lead guitar and does lead singing.

The Friday night concerts are presented by the Union County Historical Society in The Old Courthouse on the Square as a public service and to keep alive the tradition of music in the old courthouse. There is no admissions charge. The musicians donate their time and talents. Voluntary donations to the maintenance fund are always welcomed and appreciated. NAUG10.Z11/CA