

Chamber Chronicles

The official source of Towns County Chamber News

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Locals celebrate the Fall season at The Ridges

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It's not every day that you find scarecrows, superheroes, and ghouls crossing paths on such charitable terms. That is unless you're at The Ridges Resort at Fieldstone.

The Ridges hosted an incredible exception on Sunday as hundreds of local children and their families enjoyed three-plus hours of holiday festivities.

At the Third Annual Fall-A-Bration many local businesses and churches took part in the Trunk-or-Treat event passing out free candy and other concession favorites from the trunks of their decorated vehicles.

The idea is for local businesses and churches to decorate their vehicles in fall themes to give out holiday candy to children.

"It's been a success every year," said Ridges General Manager Chad Hooper. "Of course last year we started down at the Resort. We were able to include a lot of different games and entertainment for children and their families."

"It's become a tradition for us here at The Ridges and we hope to continue that," Hooper said. "We've got a couple of new things this year that can be an impact to our community."

Those new events included live music and the Cornhole competition, which raised money for the Food Pantry, Hooper said.

"We're excited about that and we're tickled to be a part of that," he said.

The day's events also included food and lake tours.

"We took our tour boats and a couple of pontoons and gave free tours of Lake Chatuge," he said. "It worked out real well with the leaves turning and the fall colors for



photo/Lowell Nicholson

Even Raggedy Ann and Andy had a blast at Fall-A-Bration; they also won the costume competition.

the children and families to see. It was really amazing giving people that experience, some of which had not experienced that before."

The Towns County Food Pantry and the Town's County High School benefited greatly from the lively event. The Food Pantry experienced monetary rewards from a competitive yet gracious group of players of the addictive "Cornhole Toss" competitions. By donating \$5 players joined in on the seemingly modest game, a cross between bean-bag toss in the spirit of horseshoes. It's wasn't as easy as it looks.

Located on Jack Dayton Circle, the Food Pantry distributes food weekly between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays.

While some tried their luck at the Cornhole tournaments others were enjoying delicious Southern barbeque served up by members of the Towns County High School's Future Farmers of America. Goodwill and strong, respectful character was on full display here as the handful of eager young FFA members worked diligently, happy to serve their community. The proceeds earned will go toward purchasing a new truck and livestock trailer. Not a bad way to approach the end of what was the 82nd National FFA Convention Week.

Even the livestock was present as local farmers kindly offered their cattle for tours, events, and benefits to support the FFA's crucial role in Georgia's agricultural education, being one of the top largest FFA membership states in the country.

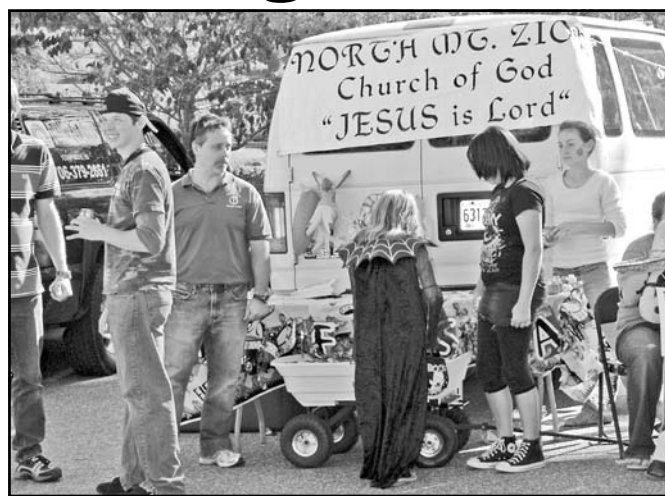
Relishing in these acts of literal sugarcoted thoughtfulness are the costumed young ones choosing from a buffet of sweets. A bright red Towns County Fire and Rescue truck was parked on one end of the lot next to Trunk-or-Treat candy-stand winner Michael J. Aubrecht, president of Atlanta Executive Search, which specializes in renewable energy. His decorated 2007 Harley Davidson Ultra Classic motorcycle stood left of the fire truck, a veritable corner of big boy toys.

Ridges Resort Marina manager Al Craig took families on pontoon tours of beautiful Lake Chatuge. Others experienced hay rides through the beautiful grounds at the Ridges. With live rock-band entertainment from Southern Breeze, children's games and delicious fire-pit flavors the Fall-A-Bration came to a close just as lively as it began.

"It's all about having the community come together as one for a fall celebration. We're one community together here," said Susan Wyman, an events coordinator for the occasion.

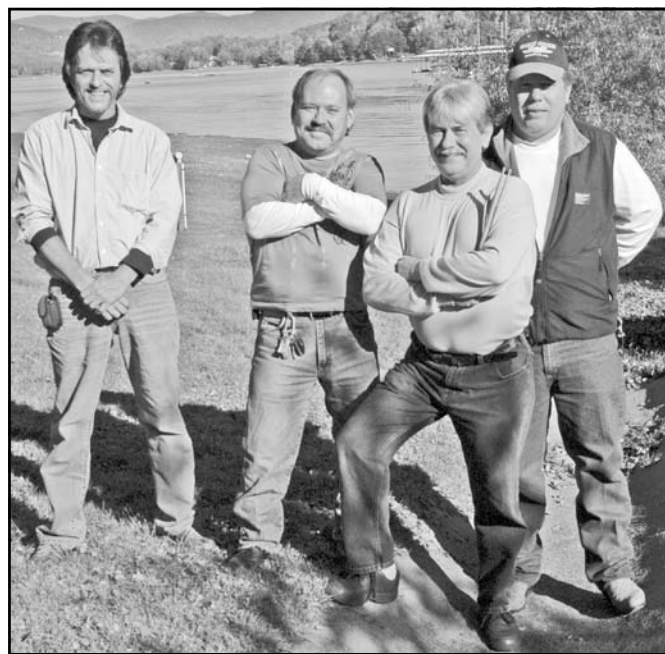


photo/Lowell Nicholson
Pete Page prepares to make his bean bags count during the first Cornhole competition.



photo/Lowell Nicholson

Members of North Mount Zion Church of God were excited to be a part of the good clean fun of Fall-A-Bration.



photo/Lowell Nicholson

Local band Southern Breeze kept the crowd entertained.

Locals Gary Rogers and Pete Page took home first place in the Cornhole completion, earning a \$50 dinner gift certificate from The Oaks Restaurant at Fieldstone.

The Oaks, located in front of The Ridges, is currently

giving \$5 off Sunday Brunch at the eatery for those bringing in their local church bulletins.

"We're all about promoting family get-togethers," Hooper said. "This is our way of encouraging families to come visit us at The Oaks."

Angel's Chamber Messages



2009 Christmas Tour of Homes

Our 2009 Christmas Tour of Homes will be held the weekend of December 4-6, 2009. For the next seven weeks, we will be featuring a different home that will be on the tour. Cathy Cox, President of Young Harris College and her husband, Mark Dehler, an attorney with offices in Hiawassee and Decatur will be on the tour. The president's home of Young Harris College was constructed in 1958-1959 and was first occupied by the then-president of the college, Dr. & Mrs. Charles Clegg. It replaced a small presidential house in the center of the campus, where faculty routinely took their coffee breaks. Mrs. Fay Clegg Hoag recalls that "those men" (the college trustees) chose to build the new presidential house near the highway "so everyone could see it." It is a two-level brick ranch house within easy walking distance of the campus. Cathy and Mark brought their furniture when she began her tenure at Young Harris College. The home is also augmented with several antiques provided by the college.

Towns County Chamber Chicken-Que

The Towns County Chamber of Commerce is having its first annual Chicken-Que! We will be on the corner of Hwy 76 & 288 on Saturday, November 14th from 10:00am-2:00pm. We will be selling Smoked Chicken Plates that will include a smoked chicken quarter, baked beans, coleslaw and a homemade chocolate brownie. We will also have Smoked Whole Chickens and beans and slaw by the pint available.
Smoked Chicken Plate - \$6 • Smoked Whole Chicken - \$6
Baked Beans by the Pint - \$2.50
Coleslaw by the Pint - \$2.50
Canned Soda - .50
We will be taking pre-orders, so give us a call at 706.896.4966 or stop by the Chamber if you'd like to put in an order.

Fuzion Dance Company to perform "Fuzion Fright Night" a Halloween Concert on October 31, 2009

Excitement is building as The Fuzion Dance Company's annual Fall Concert approaches. The Company will present a Halloween production titled, "Fuzion Fright Night." The one-hour show is packed with thrilling and chilling dance pieces in a variety of styles including contemporary, hip hop, modern, lyrical, tap, and even disco. There will be plenty of spooky surprises and creatures of the night appearing throughout. The Company will present two performances on October 31st in the Towns County School Auditorium; the first at 4:00pm, and the second one later in the evening at 9:00pm. The times were carefully chosen so that audiences could enjoy the show either before or after the "Trick or Treat on the Square" events in Hayesville and Blairsville that are being held on the same evening. Admission is only \$5 per person and tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at Brasstown Dance Academy and Head 2 Toe Dance Supply in Young Harris, or at Hiawassee Animal Hospital and Lakeside Café in Hiawassee. In addition, tickets will be available at each of the Town Square celebrations on Halloween night, and the Hiawassee Town Square on October 30th. Whether you plan to attend the performance before going to the "Trick or Treat at the Square" events or afterwards, be sure to come in costume! There will be secret Judges at each performance, choosing their favorites as guests arrive. Winners will be announced following the final dance number at each performance. A special Halloween door prize will be given away at each performance as well. This production is underwritten in part by a grant from the Grassroots Arts Program. The Grassroots Arts Program is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through an appropriation of the Georgia General Assembly and administered by the Georgia Appalachian Studies Center at North Georgia College & State University, a GCA-certified Regional Partner.

The eight members of the Fuzion Dance Company along with their instructors and Co-Directors have been working tirelessly since August to present an exciting and memorable event you won't want to miss! Creative choreography, fantastic music and inspired costumes will keep you on the edge of your seat! Make plans now to include this concert in your Halloween plans! For more information about the Fuzion Dance Company, Brasstown Dance Academy, other scheduled performances or to see if we are available to perform at an event, please call or visit the Brasstown Dance Academy, located in Young Harris, GA, just up the hill, across from the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC. Studio office hours are Monday-Thursday 2:00 - 7:00pm and the phone number is (706) 379-2651.

Annual Chamber meeting Nov. 12

Towns County Chamber President Angel Long announced last week that Nov. 12 will be the date of the 2009 annual Chamber of Commerce Meeting.

"We hope you can join us at The Ridges Resort at Fieldstone on Thursday, Nov. 12 from 7:30a.m. to 9 a.m. for our annual meeting," she said.

"In addition to conducting our annual business and enjoying a delicious southern home style breakfast, we'll be kicking off an informational series titled "Best Kept Secrets of Towns County Revealed." The event features two guest speakers to kick off the annual meeting, President Long said.

"We've got two great speakers coming in to get us started, Lewis Kelley, CEO of Chatuge Regional Hospital and Dr. Richard Behrens, superintendent of Towns County Comprehensive Schools.

"They've got some great information about their organizations and about the services they offer, so we hope you can be there to hear the good news," she said.

Long expressed her sincere gratitude to the Ridges Resort at Fieldstone for keeping the event affordable and within reason.

"We would like to thank the Ridges Resort for keeping the breakfast so affordable," she said. "At only \$12 per person, we're hoping this event will be affordable for our entire membership. Please try to let us know if you plan to attend."

President Long also expressed thanks to Kelley and his staff at Chatuge Regional Hospital.

"They will arrive early (7 a.m.) to provide blood pressure, blood glucose and cholesterol checks at no charge," she said. "All it takes is a prick of the finger to get instant results just try not to eat or drink before you come."

Operation PUP ribbon cutting event held by Chamber of Commerce



A ribbon cutting for Operation PUP was held last week on the square in Hiawassee. Pets were invited to attend. "Operation PUP is helping the community by helping citizens spay and neuter pets. They are also an outreach for the North Georgia SPCA. Welcome to the Chamber of Commerce."

11th Annual "Chicken & Grits" event

The 11th Annual "Chicken & Grits" event is set for Thursday, Oct. 29, on the Blairsville Campus of North Georgia Technical College.

Starting at 5:30 PM, there will be a special presentation of the history of the Blairsville Campus while guests enjoy the traditional dinner of Chicken & Grits. Following the short business meeting, the program Advisory Committees will meet to discuss current trends applicable to the areas of study provided by NGTC.

For more information on the Annual Chicken & Grits meeting in Blairsville, please contact Dorothy Mayfield at (706) 439-6328, dmayfiel@northgatech.edu.

Pine Top Baptist Church celebrates annual Fall Festival



Saturday was a time for fun and hayrides as Pine Top Baptist Church celebrated its annual Fall Festival. Hundreds gathered to take part in fun and games and especially a hayride to enjoy the fall colors. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The Oaks Restaurant offers a tempting variety of selections, from sumptuous steaks, chops, pastas, and seafood to mouth-watering desserts. Join us for our delicious new Early Bird menu and Sunday Champagne Brunch. Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, outstanding cuisine and friendly, attentive staff!

The Oaks RESTAURANT

Thanksgiving Buffet Now Taking Reservations

EARLY BIRD: 5pm-6pm • HAPPY HOURS: Tues.-Sat. 4pm-6pm
Tuesday-Thursday: 4pm-9pm • Friday & Saturday: 4pm-10pm
SUNDAY BRUNCH: 11am-2:30pm

3493 Highway 76W • Young Harris, Georgia 30582
Located at The Ridges Resort • Reservations: 706-896-4141