

## Willie packs The Hall...continued from page 1A

traditional raffle for prizes and front row seats, with proceeds going to Alzheimer's research. Three lucky winners received Willie memorabilia and front row seats.

The show consisted of well-known, crowd pleasing melodies. However, the song that got the most cheers was Nelson's hit, *Always on My Mind*, accompanied on the piano by his baby sister, Bobbie.

Throughout the show, Nelson wore his trademark red bandanna, and interchanged them with each song, throwing the previously worn ones to the crowd. He even donned one

of his trademark cowboy hats.

The audience was made up of fans of all ages, some dressed up for the Halloween holiday and others simply sporting cowboy hats. Some were die-hard followers of Willie, having kept up with his career from the start.

Others came to see a country music legend in the flesh. For fans in these categories, along with all of the others in between, fortunate enough to attend the sold out concert, the Halloween spent with Willie Nelson is not one that will escape from their memories anytime soon.



Willie Nelson performs *Always on my Mind* as a packed house at Anderson Music Hall sings along. Nelson sold out The Hall for the Halloween night performance. Photo/Reggie Shook

## Anderson benefit Nov. 7



A benefit for Mitchell Anderson is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 7 in the Towns County High School Lunchroom. Mitchell Anderson is a life-long resident of Hiawassee. He is the son of Wayne and Fannie Anderson and grandson of the Late Ilah Taylor Anderson. Mitchell Anderson was recently diagnosed with esophagus cancer and will incur large medical bills. This event is being held to help defer those costs. The event includes a benefit singing, cake walks, door prizes, a raffle and an auction. A spaghetti supper also is scheduled. A plate is \$6 and it includes garlic bread, cole slaw, a drink and dessert. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Halloween on Square a safe one...from page 1A

every year. Any kid who wants to look around the fire trucks, we show them around until they shut her down," said Fire Department Lt. Wayne Canterbury.

It wasn't just businesses who showed support for the event. Chase Williams, a young trick-or-treater and student at Towns County Elementary, donned his No. 7 Towns County football jersey over an intimidating gorilla suit, prepping himself for playoffs the very next day.

Trying to keep their heads above water all throughout the night was local and state law enforcement officers as the annual "Dunk A Cop" booth, a Christmas fundraiser for those less fortunate, was an endless crowd pleaser.

The event, which also was possible thanks to a group of goodwill inclined Young Harris College students, was to raise money for kids for the approaching holiday season. For \$1, toss the ball well enough, hit the bull's-eye, and it would give new meaning to "water patrol."

Police Chief Jimmy Wright, of the Hiawassee Police Department, was one of the lucky few to participate in the soaking ceremony.

"I've enjoyed it," said Wright as he dried off. "We do this to raise money for *Shop With A Cop* where we take a bunch of kids out to eat and then let them buy whatever they want to buy.

"It's actually going to be our second year with *Shop With A Cop* and our goal to reach with the program is at least a dozen 16 year olds,"

Chief Wright said. "We hope to do better with each year that we do it, despite the economy and all. Marine Corps leagues do stuff like that and always do a great job, too. There are left out kids and we just want them to go out and have a great time too."

Barbara Mathis, incumbent mayor of 14 years, stood on the sidelines enjoying the soaking spectacle watching from a safe distance.

"I've talked to so many people here tonight without jobs," she said. "It's good to see this money go to people who normally can't get it."

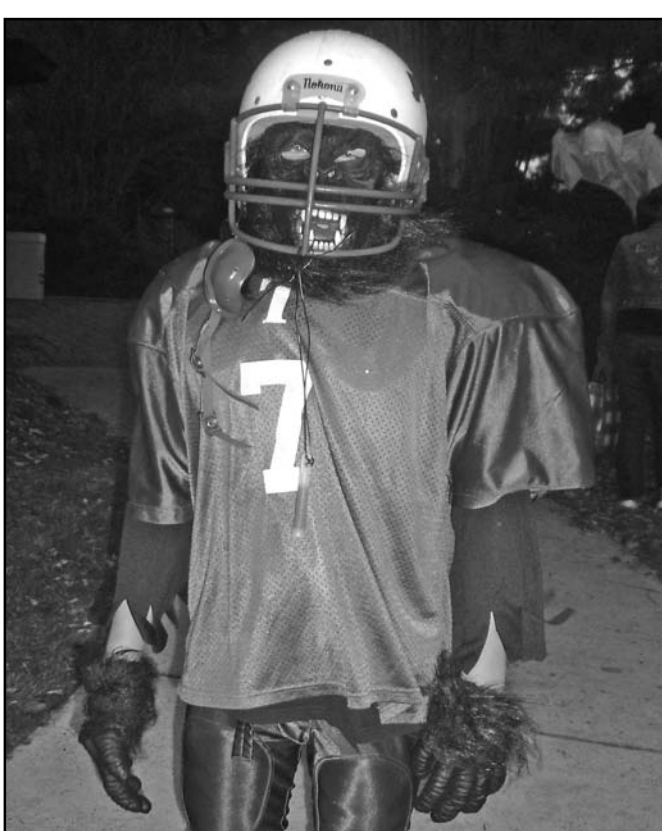
The American Red Cross of Towns County was also in attendance trading food for donations, grilling hotdogs and serving up beverages.

Sally Varao, an American Red Cross member for eight years, is among those accustomed to offering a helping hand to those coming to grips with hard times.

"We go out on house fires, we had a house fire last night, and we take care of the victims and raise money for things like that," she said. "We are still feeding approximately 200 people on these events and monthly drives."

The monthly mobile food distribution in November for families in need will be held at North Mt. Zion Church of God on Friday, Nov. 13 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

During an event like this, it almost seemed like Christmas, although that holiday is just right around the corner. And while the spirit of Halloween lingered in the air on the Hiawassee Square, the memories will last a lifetime.



Above, young Towns County Indian gridiron player Chase Williams dons a gorilla suit underneath his football uniform as he takes part in Halloween on the Square. Below, twin vampire brothers Devon Whitaker and Dalton Whitaker, fourth graders from Hayesville, NC pose for the camera. Heather Whitaker, of the Towns County Sheriff's Department is their mother. Photos/Matthew Jarrard

## Chicken and Grits served again...from page 1A

North Georgia Technical College Annual Report, they saw unprecedented growth of about 600 more students enrolled this fall than a year ago.

"As everybody is talking about the economy there are so many people that don't have jobs. That's a lot of the reason our enrollment is up," explained Culpepper.

"We're going to come out with a better prepared workforce because this economy has forced people to go back to the classroom and upgrade their skills. We have some that come here as carpenters that graduate as chefs."

The most prominent course of study at the Blairsville Campus is the Culinary Arts Department.

Nestled among the hardwoods along Georgia 515, the Blairsville campus is rapidly emerging as the place to go to experience life in a professional kitchen.

The brainchild of retired U.S. Sen. Zell Miller, the school's Culinary Arts program

is flourishing in the midst of the greatest economic downturn in U.S. History.

Led by Chef Drake, the Blairsville campus is making its mark on the region's culinary market and restaurants throughout North Georgia and Western Carolina are reaping the rewards.

"Without a doubt, it's the flagship of the Blairsville campus and it's a very good ambassador for the school," said Culpepper.

"It's the most visible program here and I would say that when people think about North Georgia Technical College Blairsville Campus, this is probably what they're thinking about."

The program had a modest beginning 10 years ago in the Shirley Miller Building with 12 to 13 students taking part in the two-year program. Chef Drake, the owner of Antoinetta's in Blairsville, has been with the program for eight years.

The program, one of



NGTC Culinary Arts students served up another batch of traditional Southern cuisine during the 11th Annual Chicken and Grits event at the Blairsville Campus off Georgia 515.

only eight culinary programs in the state, offers an Associate's Degree and or an Applied Technical Science Degree.

The program emphasizes technical and theoretical knowledge combined with practical application of cooking, serving, and managing food.

The program is driven with a managerial perspective as graduates are prepared for

jobs as lead cooks, kitchen, and or restaurant supervisors. Through the American Culinary Federation Educational Institute, graduates are eligible to become certified cooks after one year approved work experience.

The program now boasts more than 40 students from ages 18 to 70 and also has attracted the interest of many local restaurants.

## Career Day...from page 1A

leges, universities and technical colleges, as well as local businesses, financial aid advisors, agencies, non-profit groups and the branches of the U.S. Military also took part.

The event was intended to give local high school students something to think about when friends and relatives ask the question "what will you do when you get out of school?"

It also provides students with the chance to explore many career opportunities that are present throughout Northeast Georgia. It also provides students with the chance to get acquainted with college and university admissions requirements and the recruiting process.

On Wednesday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, Towns County High School students got a head start on planning their futures. The Towns County Career Expo was geared toward eighth to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Representatives from 51 colleges, universities, and technical colleges,

along with local businesses, agencies, non-profits, and military institutions, said Amy Gibby-Rosser, Director of Towns County Family Connection,

"The kids rotate through, 12<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and it's just an opportunity for them to get an idea of things they would like to do and see the different opportunities that are out there," she said.

Local businesses such as United Community Bank and Bank of Hiawassee were in attendance as well as Young Harris College, North Georgia Technical College, and the University of Georgia.

The morning hours of the fair were mostly dedicated to local businesses whereas the afternoon hours were directed toward the colleges, universities, and technical colleges.

The event was a success in exposing students to the endless options for their futures. Although it was time spent out of the classroom, it was time well invested in their futures.

## Deputies busy...from 1A

burglary, theft by taking and criminal damage to property. All three suspects have Hiawassee addresses, according to the sheriff's release.

The stolen items were recovered, according to the release.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, Oct. 29, deputies with the Towns County Sheriff's Office assisted Rabun County Sheriff's Office, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and local Drug Task Force agents in searching a residence in rural Rabun County, according to a sheriff's release.

Towns County assisted with K-9 Dexter because Rabun County does not have a K-9 Unit, Towns County Sheriff's Office Detective Mike Davis and K-9 Deputy Mark Marshall

along with Dexter assisted in the search of the residence.

Authorities discovered over a pound of a pink powdered substance which later tested positive in field tests for methamphetamine, as well as receiving a positive hit from K-9 Dexter, according to the sheriff's release.

Detectives stated that pink food coloring is normally added to appeal to children, according to the sheriff's release.

One person was arrested and taken to the Rabun County Detention Center. The investigation is ongoing. Detectives state that there was no indication that the pink-colored drug was to be distributed as Halloween candy, according to the sheriff's release.