

Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 88 Number 37

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

67th Georgia Mountain Fair kicks off Friday

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
Editor

The 67th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair figures to be one for the ages.

With some of the best music shows in years scheduled, along with top notch entertainment that includes arts and crafts exhibits, a working Pioneer Village and authentic mountain demonstrations, the Fair kicks off Friday, July 21.

Price of admission is \$12 each day, children 12 and under get in free. A 3-Day Pass is \$33 (valid in three days) and those are available at the gate, and a Fun Fair Pass is \$90 for all nine days of the Fair. All tickets are available at the gates.

Included in the cost, Midway rides are an additional charge.

The Annual Flower Show begins at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 21.

One of the 2017 attractions will be the Disc-Connected K-9s Frisbee Team, said Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason.

The K9s will perform three shows Monday thru Friday beginning at 2 p.m., on Saturday beginning at noon, and on Sunday at 1 p.m.

B & K Carnival will be featuring amusement rides of all sorts during the Fair, starting on Friday at 2 p.m. Wristbands can be purchased for \$20 (available all nine days).

Every year, the fair is the talk of the mountains as thousands flock to the fairgrounds to take part in one of the biggest regional events of the season.

From carnival rides to live music, to arts and crafts to old timey culture sprung to life, the fair has a little something for everyone, tourists and locals alike.

"We have all different kinds of entertainment such as Country, Bluegrass, Gospel, all kinds of arts and crafts," said Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason. "We have handmade arts and crafts. The Pioneer Village will be open, which is a live, working Pioneer Village with authentic mountain demonstrations, which include soap and hominy making.

"We will have board splittin' and quiltin' and apple cider makin.' We have a live, working saw mill. We also have the old one-room schoolhouse with the Towns County Retired

See Fair, Page 8A



Folks out and about for the 2016 Georgia Mountain Fair Parade. Don't miss the 2017 Parade on Saturday, July 22, starting at 11 a.m. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Angela Smith resigns from Young Harris City Council

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Young Harris City Councilwoman Angela Smith officially resigned from her seat during the Tuesday, July 11 city council meeting.

Smith, who assumed the vacated Post 5 council seat when previous councilwoman Hilary Martin resigned in 2015, submitted a letter of resignation to Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby and the council to be read during the meeting last Tuesday.

In the letter, Smith explained that she has taken another job in Tennessee and will be vacating her seat, effective immediately. Smith did not attend the July meeting where her resignation was



Angela Smith announced. "We will miss her," said Mayor Gibby. "We're happy for her and her new job, but we'll miss her here."

Although Smith is vacating her seat before the end of her term, the council had several options to choose from going forward since the Post 5 Council seat was up for re-election anyway.

"Under the charter, there are several provisions that govern how the council can move forward," said Marvin Harkins, City Attorney. "If there is less than six months remaining in that member's term, then the council would appoint a successor to fill out the unexpired term.

"It is per the charter, the council shall appoint a successor, however, if the council doesn't want to do that and wait until someone is elected, that's within the council's means as well."

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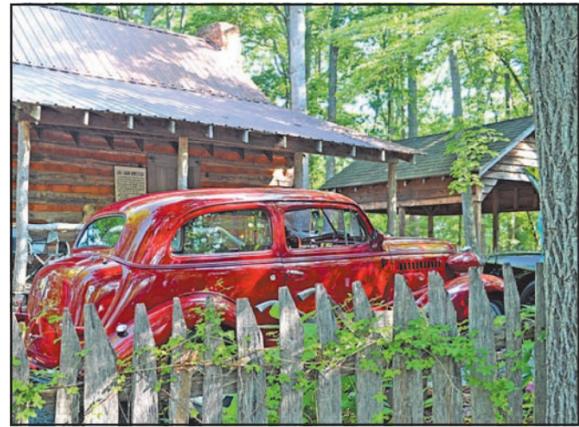
Ninth Annual Hiawassee Moonshine Cruiz-In a success

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Hiawassee – The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Moonshine Cruiz-In returned to Hiawassee last weekend to fill the mountains with the sound of revving engines and the smell of burnt rubber and racing fuel.

Thousands of visitors flocked to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds as hundreds of classic and modern hot rods began rolling into town on Thursday for the three-day event that featured live music, a swap meet, folk show exhibits, vendors, crafts and much more throughout the GMF's Pioneer Village.

Meanwhile, classic car owners from across the



A scene straight out of the early 20th century at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

country brought their pride and joy to the North Georgia mountains for an event that is quickly becoming one of the

most popular car shows in the Southeast. "This is a great event. See Cruiz-In, Page 8A

Union County grand jurors indict Heaton, Mike Gowder

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
Editor

A Union County Grand Jury handed up a four-count indictment last week against former Union General Hospital CEO Mike Gowder.

In addition, the same grand jury handed up a 45-count indictment against Dr. James Heaton, Union County Superior Court records show.

Heaton and Gowder were arrested in Union County on Feb. 4, 2016, Gowder for three counts of fraudulently obtaining a controlled substance; one count of conspiracy; and Heaton for 40 counts of unauthorized distribution and dispensation of controlled substances, and one count of conspiracy.

Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley presented the cases for



Jeff Langley, Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney

indictment last week before July Term grand jurors, court records show.

Gowder was indicted for

two counts fraud in obtaining a controlled substance, and two counts Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act for illegally possessing hydrocodone and oxycodone, respectively, the indictments show.

Heaton was indicted on 43 counts of unauthorized distribution and dispensation of a Schedule II controlled substance.

According to the indictments, from the 15th day of December 2011, until June 8, 2015, Heaton allegedly wrote 43 prescriptions for either hydrocodone or oxycodone for Gowder.

Heaton also was indicted on one count possession of less than an ounce of marijuana, and one count of Violation of Alcoholic Beverage Statute,

See Indictments, Page 8A

Towns County Indians continue to play quality golf



Towns County High School Indians

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Just before Chase Williams teed up for his 18th

hole during the first day of the two-day GHSA Class A State Championship Tournament in May, a rumor started going around.

Tournament officials might have to cancel the second day of the tournament due to inclement weather.

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Classic cars shine on the Hiawassee Town Square

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

For the first time ever, the City of Hiawassee teamed up with the Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In to hold a co-sponsored event on the Hiawassee Downtown Square.

More than 120 classic cars, hotrods and street rods surrounded the square and lined its streets, which were closed off by the Hiawassee Police Department for safety, on Thursday, July 13.

Hundreds of spectators and classic car enthusiasts did exactly what people are supposed to do at a classic car show that Thursday – they mingled and talked shop, making a circuit around the square to admire all of the



A classic car on display in a classic city. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

nostalgia on display.

And by all accounts, the automotive affair upon the square was an enormous

success.

"My goal for the community is to have events

See Square, Page 3A

Haggard, Gatlin Brothers headline Fair music shows

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
Editor

Marty Haggard, Crystal Gayle, and the Gatlin Brothers headline the featured music shows for the 67th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair.

The region braces for nine days of legendary Country Music acts at Anderson Music Hall in Hiawassee beginning Friday, July 21, with Neal McCoy and Country River Band.

McCoy is famous for his No. 1 hits "No Doubt About It," and "Wink," that topped the charts in the early 1990s from his platinum-certified album "No Doubt About It."

Although he has not topped the country charts since, his commercial success



Marty Haggard

continued with two more platinum, as well as a gold Top Ten hits. A seventh Top

Ten hit, the No. 10 "Billy's Got His Beer Goggles On," came in 2005 from McCoy's

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