

# Towns County Herald

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## Fall Festival starts Friday at the Fairgrounds

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Autumn has finally announced itself with changing leaves and the onset of cooler weather, and there is no better way to celebrate than with a festival.

The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds is hosting its annual Fall Festival, beginning on Friday, Oct. 7, and running through Saturday, Oct. 15.

Fairground General Manager Hilda Thomason is pulling out all the stops for this year's festivities, to feature plenty of daily entertainment

and nightly live musical acts in the Anderson Music Hall.

"We have a lot of bus tours that have booked to come here this year," said Thomason. "Just on opening day, we have two buses with 100 people coming from Springfield, Florida. They're going to ride the train in Blue Ridge then coming to the Fairgrounds to attend our opening night act, the Mickey Gilley concert."

"Then on Oct. 11 we have another bus tour coming out of South Carolina that is coming to the TG Sheppard Concert. And there's even another one coming that same

day that's going to bring 31 people.

"We have a lot of buses coming and a lot of children coming for school field trips. So, a lot of people are going to be coming out for the festival."

Along with the extraordinary lineup of musical acts, the usual bevy of crafters and artists will be setting up shop around the Fairgrounds, along with the Pioneer Village, full of old Appalachian living demonstrations.

"There are going to be

See Fall Festival, Page 6A



The 2016 Fall Festival promises to live up to festivals of years gone by, with plenty of music, authentic Mountain Arts & Crafts, and the festival's newest edition – helicopter rides.

## Homecoming night special for Queen, King, everybody

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County High School sure knows how to put on a Homecoming – from the pre-game to the post-game, everyone had a good time Friday night.

During the halftime coronation of new Towns County royalty, senior Kristen Henson was crowned the 2016 Football Homecoming Queen, and by none other than 2015 Football Homecoming Queen Taylor Underwood, who returned to bestow the honors.

The Indian Raider Band played "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," as the girls of the Homecoming Court made their way down the field under escort of a special loved one.

Henson certainly felt the love of her family that night, See Homecoming, Page 6A



From the TCHS 2016 Football Homecoming Court, classmates chose Kristen Henson as their Queen, Walker Ross as their King and Madison Stroud as their Princess. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Fire department saves another home

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County Fire Chief Harold Copeland loves fighting fires – especially if he can save a home in the process.

Which is exactly what happened earlier in September, after a Young Harris couple noticed their home was on fire when their cats started acting funny.

Shortly thereafter, one of the residents spotted smoke out the window, and they soon started to smell the smoke from inside the house.

And where there's smoke, there's fire.

"The call came in at 7:45 in the morning," said Chief Copeland. "Engine 2, Engine 1 and Tanker 1 responded. Crews made a swift knockdown."

When Chief Copeland says a swift knockdown, he means it. Within a minute of



No one was hurt and this home was saved as a result of the total knockdown efforts of Towns County Fire & Rescue in early September.

deploying lines, the fire was out. Damage was confined to the basement, where the fire occurred.

that the fire was an accident, and fortunately no one was hurt, human, animal or otherwise.

"The crews did a  
Investigators determined  
See Fire, Page 6A

## Business showcase doubles in size

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Chamber of Commerce hosted its second annual Business Showcase on Friday, Sept. 30, filling the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center with 103 vendors who were there to promote their businesses.

More than 700 area residents flocked to Foster Park last Friday to see the best of what the North Georgia region has to offer.

The event featured vendors, both chamber members and non-members, from Union and Towns counties, and served as an opportunity for businesses to hold raffles, give out samples of their product or simply hand out flyers in order to network across the area.

"We plan to have this every year," said Chamber



The Towns County Recreation and Conference Center played host to the Second Annual Business Showcase, sponsored by the Towns County Chamber of Commerce. Photo/Lily Avery

President Candace Lee. "We've doubled in size since last year. This year, we've had to spread out into two gyms, and last year

we were only in one. "I think this is important because a lot of times residents  
See Showcase, Page 6A

## Towns students compete in regional speech contest at UC Farmers Market



Contestants of the inaugural Towns County Farmers Market Speech Contest were: Andrew Collins, Emma Kate Ledford, Haley Zuber and Caitlyn Murphy. Photo/Lily Avery

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

BLAIRSVILLE – Public speaking was the name of the game at the Union County Farmers Market on Saturday, Oct. 1, as the market played host to students from

Union and neighboring Towns County.

High school students from Union, Towns, Fannin, and Rabun Counties were invited to participate in the market's first public speaking contest, held in the Market Pavilion.

While the market hosted the competition, a lot of area organizations pitched in to make the idea come to fruition, with the Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District leading the charge.

See Speech, Page 6A

## The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band celebrates 50 years in Hiawassee

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Fans got down to the Nitty Gritty with the Classic Country Folk Rock band, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, at the Anderson Music Hall on Saturday, Oct. 1.

Having recently celebrated their 50th year in the limelight, the fun-loving band played a wide variety of their songs during the show, with the audience and longtime fan favorites alike.

The Dirt Band started off the concert with a bang, jumping right into their hit song, "You Ain't Goin' Nowhere," bringing everyone to their feet as the band took the stage under a dazzling purple and blue light show.

"I just want to take the opportunity to say this," said Jeff Hanna, Dirt Band lead singer. "Doing this for 50 years, it's not lost on us how lucky we are to be able to play music. It's so much better when people actually show up.



Jeff Hanna, lead singer and guitar player for Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, kept the audience entertained with verbal jests between classic Dirt Band hits on Saturday, Oct. 1. Photo/Lily Avery

"I want to thank anybody out there who ever bought a Nitty Gritty Dirt Band record."

The Dirt Band did not

disappoint, going full steam ahead, performing one crowd favorite after the other. Tunes such as "Buy For Me The Rain," "Workin' Man" and their beloved cover of Jerry Jeff Walker's song, "Mr. Bojangles," had everyone tapping their feet and singing along with the band and making 50 years of great music seem like a blink of the eye.

Opening for the Dirt Band that evening was not one but two acts – Georgia native and Country Music artist Joe Hall and High Ridge Band. Hall was recently signed with William Morris Endeavor Entertainment and will begin touring with Joe Nichols at the end of the month.

"I was just blown away that we were getting to open for these guys," said Hall. "My dad grew up listening to these guys and then I grew up listening to them."

"I started playing guitar when I was about 13 and started playing open mics and writing. Then, I met with some people

See Band, Page 6A

## Board of elections to hold residency hearings Thursday

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

A couple of special called meetings of the Towns County Board of Elections and Registration has resulted in eight individuals registered to vote within the City of Hiawassee.

The hearings – which will determine whether or not the individuals remain Hiawassee voters – will be held on Thursday, Oct. 6, at 4 p.m. at the office of the Towns County Board of Elections in the Old Rock Jail.

These eight people share two important things in common: one, they own businesses within Hiawassee City Limits, and two, the board of elections has determined that they are not Hiawassee



The Towns County Board of Elections and Registration met for a special called meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 27, to decide what to do about issues of residence for a handful of Hiawassee voters ahead of the Nov. 8 Municipal Election.

residents.

This second item is important because, according to Georgia election law, a person's residence is held to be the place where their

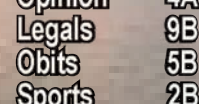
"habitation is fixed," meaning that in order to register to vote within a specific city or county, a person must live within that city or county.

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Lake Levels  
Blue Ridge 1,672.00  
Chatuge 1,918.33  
Nottely 1,763.72



Retirement PARTY for Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall  
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American Red Cross Red Cross Yard Sale  
See page 5A

Eastern Star Pecan Baked Goods Sale  
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Football JV Thurs. Oct. 6th @ White County 5:30 PM