

Health...from Page 1A

schools had held a flu clinic earlier in the week, and that around 120 people had received vaccinations.

In other news, Jonathan Terry with District 2 Environmental Health presented a draft of the proposed "Towns County BOH Rabies Control Rules and Regulations" in the Oct. 25 quarterly meeting.

Basically, in adopting the new rules and regulations, the Board of Health will be codifying the most recent state requirements at the local level.

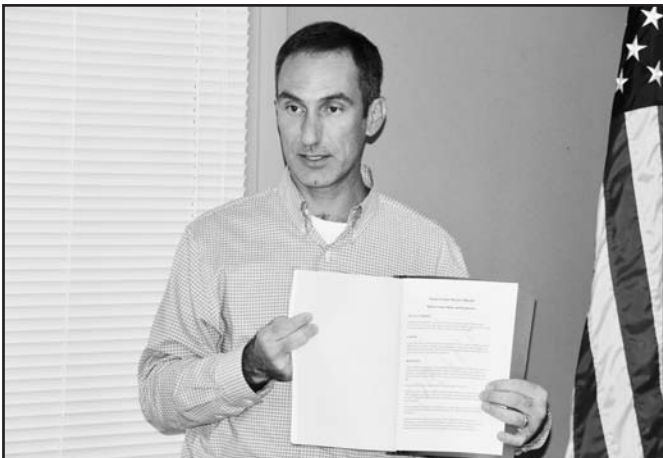
The state updated its rabies manual earlier this year to include two significant changes.

Prior to the rule changes, pets not currently vaccinated were treated as if they were unvaccinated animals. However, after the rules change, should a proven history of vaccination be supplied, an immediate booster is given to the pet, followed by a 45-day quarantine period.

"If no paperwork can be presented, the pet can undergo the Progressive Serological Monitoring Protocol (titer check) to prove that the animal has been vaccinated at some point," according to Public Health.

The second significant rule change deals with unvaccinated pets. Prior to the change, unvaccinated pets were either euthanized or held in strict isolation for six months.

Now, the animals are either euthanized or held in strict isolation for only four months for dogs and cats, but still six months for ferrets.



Jonathan Terry with District 2 Environmental Health showcasing the new rabies rules and regulations the Board of Health will soon be adopting. Photo by Shawn Jarrard



New County Nurse Manager Rebecca Flanagan will be taking maternity leave in December and January, and arrangements have been made to maintain care at the Towns County Health Department until she returns. Congratulations, Rebecca!

In order for the Rabies Control Rules and Regulations draft to be adopted, the Board of Health must hold two public hearings to solicit comments, after which the board can adopt the rules. The dates and times of these public hearings will be announced at a later date.

YHC...from Page 1A

Science and Technology. Within these divisions, the college is expanding the majors offered.

"This fall, we began offering majors in accounting, management, economics and graphic design," said Van Horn. "Then, two other undergraduate majors will be approved at the board meeting in November. One will be a degree in finance and the other will be a degree in marketing."

Last year, Young Harris College earned the ability to start offering online-only degrees, as well as graduate-level programs.

In January, the college will debut its Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership, an online program designed for working professionals who have an associate degree or equivalent credits.

Also in January, the college will launch its first ever graduate program, a Master of Arts in Teaching.

The Early College

program, in which students earn college credits while still in high school, has grown from an initial enrollment of 189 students last fall to more than 400 this fall. This program saves families money, as the state reimburses the college for tuition and book costs.

Van Horn and the college have also partnered with the University of Georgia to form what's referred to as a 3-2 engineering program. A Young Harris student takes three years of pre-engineering curriculum, then is automatically accepted at UGA to complete the degree.

Furthermore, the college is in negotiations with Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, to form a partnership for Young Harris students who aspire to be doctors, physician's assistants and dentists.

This program would be like the UGA engineering program, wherein Young Harris students would take three years of pre-med curriculum, then transfer to Meharry to complete

a degree in medicine.

A similar program exists with Mercer University, where former YHC President Cathy Cox is Dean of the Law School, for Young Harris students aspiring to enter the field of law.

These partnership programs, said Van Horn, have been crafted with the idea of students returning to their roots, to their culture, to work and open practices, all while fostering economic development.

Looking back, it's plain to see that small private colleges used to strive toward becoming elitist institutions, and that the ones that succeeded in this did little for their regions, said Van Horn.

Fortunately, times have changed, and today, the leadership of Young Harris College desires very much to facilitate regional improvement.

Dancing...from Page 1A

Levy and Roberto Romero that morning, and the two dancers performed some of their Salsa number right there in Romero's restaurant, the Sundance Grill.

From the looks of their brief performance in the restaurant, Levy and Romero will undoubtedly be a tough act to follow at the Dancing with North Georgia Stars event. And there will be nine other couples doing everything from hip-hop to the Texas Two-Step.

Also on Friday, Ruf gave a short overview and update on the nonprofit Enotah CASA just prior to the dance demonstration.

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate for children.

"Our volunteers - and they are volunteers - who agree to speak up for children in foster care go through 30 hours of training," said Ruf. "And they observe in court for 10 hours before they can be actually assigned a case by the juvenile judge."

"Our juvenile judge here in this circuit, which is Lumpkin, White, Towns and Union County, last year worked 354 cases of children being removed from their homes."

Ruf went on to enumerate the many advantages CASAs offer children of the circuit, such as "having a caring, loving, compassionate adult stand up for a child in court and speak about what's best for that child."

"Not what the parents want, not what the Department of Family and Children's Services think should happen, but what's best for that child," said Ruf. "By having a CASA, our children tend to graduate from high school



Dance partners Vickie Levy and Roberto Romero with Enotah CASA volunteer Liz Ruf. Photo by Mark Smith

with more regularity, they make better grades, their emotional disruptions are less than children that don't have a CASA.

"Therefore, they're better able to acclimate themselves into society and become long-term producers in society. So, CASAs perform not just a value for that child today, but they make an impact for a whole lifetime."

In Towns and Union counties last year, 154 children were removed from their homes and subsequently needed a CASA to represent them in court.

And CASA volunteers of the Enotah Judicial Circuit can boast that they advocate for 100 percent of the children that are removed from the care of parents, though there are many circuits in Georgia that can't say the same, because there are so many kids in care and not enough CASA volunteers overall.

"We've been so fortunate

to have people raise their hand and say, 'I want to be a volunteer. I know I can make a difference,'" said Ruf.

CASA volunteers, she said, saved Towns and Union counties \$193,000 in legal fees last year.

And that is why the Dancing with North Georgia Stars gala event is so important, as for all the good it does, CASA needs funds to survive.

"All funds raised at the event will assist Enotah CASA, Inc. with the training and management of additional volunteers to serve as a consistent adult figure and a voice for the vulnerable children in our foster care system in Lumpkin, White, Union and Towns counties," according to DancingwithNorthGeorgiaStars.com.

Tickets to the event will be sold at the door if available, and they can also be purchased at the website listed above, where donations can also be made.

Brew...from Page 1A

Festivalgoers gathered around the path, with heating lamps placed throughout the area, to mingle with new people and enjoy themselves while they sipped on their drinks.

Live music was provided by Rob Tiger & Friends, Austin Coleman and Angela Easterling, and the Third Annual Jam Hosted by Wyatt Espalin concluded the evening.

As the music played, many gathered around to dance and have a good time listening to the upbeat country music offered by the performers.

Windstream provided the Georgia/Florida football game during the event, and Devan Cole demonstrated glass blowing and crafting.

Cole made a variety of wine glasses and bowls during the festival that day.

"I make the glass in a very hot oven," said Cole. "When it is really heated, I can use the metal tools to mold it into the shape I need for whatever I make."

"I use another rod to add melted glass to what I already have, and I make a design with it. This is all the same type



Devan Cole demonstrating glass blowing during the Brew, Que & Stew Festival. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

of glass with no extra color. The difference in temperature makes the design harden into what I want."

Sponsors and volunteers helped make the festival possible and gave attendees the opportunity to have a great time while enjoying the fall season and seasonal craft beer.

The Appalachian Brew, Que & Stew Festival will return next year, and people should

check out the Fairgrounds other offerings this year, including Dwight Yoakam and Blue Oyster Cult in November, at GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com.

There's also the annual lightshow at the Fairgrounds known as the Mountain Country Christmas In Lights, which runs from Thanksgiving night through Dec. 29.

CLEA...from Page 1A

event was provided by Bill Rinaldo, George and Andy, and of course, the Chris Clinton Band, led by Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton.

"It is worth mentioning that the Sundance Grill sponsored this entire event," said Denton. "We are thankful for them helping us put on this fundraiser and making it possible for us to have a good time."

CLEA donates 100 percent of the proceeds to the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes Program.

"This is a great cause that we are proud to support," said Denton. "We help donate to give children better lives and opportunities to grow."

This program takes children who come from dysfunctional families where abuse or neglect has occurred and puts them under the care needed for them to thrive and develop into successful adults.

"These are good kids that have great potential," said Denton. "They have been taken away from their parents because of either drug problems in the family or some other form of dysfunction."

"They do not accept delinquent children, though. Each child has to be in good standing with potential."

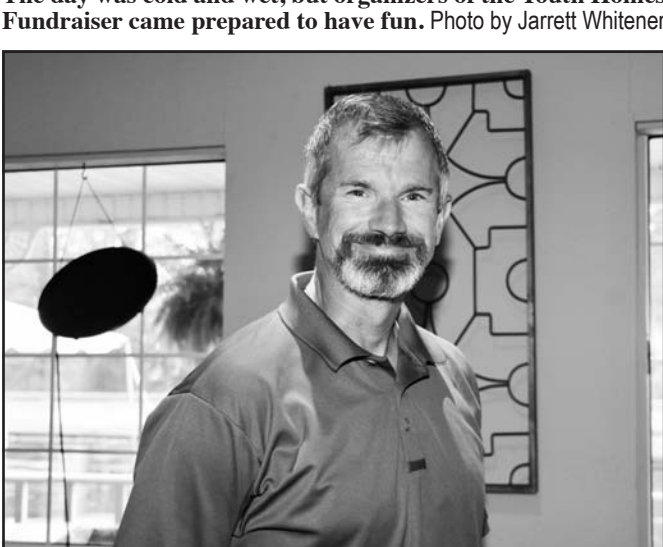
When the children are accepted, they are taken to one of five campuses, where they learn different life skills and build friendships with those who share similar experiences with them.

The program lasts until the children complete school, then they are off to lead their own lives with newfound goals and dreams.

Every year, the program continues to grow and accept children in need of a new lifestyle that supports their school work and activities.



The day was cold and wet, but organizers of the Youth Homes Fundraiser came prepared to have fun. Photo by Jarrett Whitener



Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton in the leadup to the Youth Homes Fundraiser on Oct. 27. The sheriff's band played during the event. Photo by Mark Smith

Money accepted by the program goes to continually provide for each child's specific needs and allows for the Youth Homes to continue their mission of caring for these children.

At a later date, CLEA will host an auction to continue benefiting the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes Program. The Towns County

CLEA is proud to support the organization, and CLEA members plan to continue doing so during fundraisers in the coming years.

For more information on the work of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes or how to help the program, visit GeorgiaSheriffsYouth.org.

Voting...from Page 1A

Metz.

For Lieutenant Governor, Republican Geoff Duncan and Democrat Sarah Riggs Amico.

For Secretary of State, Republican Brad Raffensperger, Democrat Josh Barrow and Libertarian Smythe Duval.

For Attorney General, Republican Incumbent Chris Carr and Democrat Charlie Bailey.

For Commissioner of Agriculture, Republican Incumbent Gary Black and Democrat Fred Swann.

For Commissioner of Insurance, Republican Jim Beck, Democrat Janice Laws and Libertarian Donnie Foster.

For State School Superintendent, Republican Incumbent Richard Woods and Democrat Otha E. Thornton Jr.

For Commissioner of Labor, Republican Incumbent Mark Butler and Democrat Richard Keatley.

For Public Service Commissioner District 3, Republican Incumbent Chuck Eaton, Democrat Lindy Miller and Libertarian Ryan Graham.

For Public Service Commissioner District 5, Republican Incumbent Tricia Pridemore, Democrat Dawn A. Randolph and Libertarian John Turpish.

For U.S. Representative in 116th Congress from the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, Republican Incumbent Doug Collins and Democrat Josh McCall.

For State Senator from the 50th District, Republican Incumbent John Wilkinson is running unopposed.

For State Representative in the General Assembly from the 8th District, Republican Incumbent Matt Gurtler is running unopposed.

For District Attorney of the Enotah Judicial Circuit,

Republican Incumbent Jeff Langley is running unopposed.

For Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, no one is running.

A pair of alcohol referendums will appear on the Nov. 6 General Election Ballot as well, one for all Towns County voters and another for Hiwassee residents only.

All Towns County registered voters will get a chance to vote for or against on-premises sales of liquor by the drink.

If voters approve the measure, the establishment of liquor licenses will be regulated by county ordinance, which will determine the hours and other parameters of liquor by the drink sales, excluding Sunday sales altogether.

As for the Hiwassee-specific alcohol referendum, all registered Hiwassee voters will be able to vote on a measure that would move the start time of alcohol sales by the drink from 12:30 p.m. to 11 a.m. on Sundays.

Also on the ballot are

five Proposed Constitutional Amendments, including: the creation of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund to protect water quality, wildlife habitats and parks; the creation of a statewide business court to lower costs, enhance efficiency and promote predictable judicial outcomes; the encouragement of the conservation, sustainability and longevity of Georgia's working forests through tax sub-classification and grants; the provision of rights for victims of crime in the judicial process; and the authorization of fair allocation of sales tax proceeds to county and city school districts.

Further, there will be two Proposed Statewide Referenda on the ballot, one providing for a homestead exemption for residents of certain municipal corporations, and another providing a tax exemption for certain homes for the mentally disabled.

Of course, voters will want to more fully familiarize themselves with the language of the amendments and referenda before voting.