

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Rain 68 57
Fri: Rain 66 54
Sat: Clouds 66 51
Sun: Clouds 69 49
Mon: Sunny 69 50
Tue: Sunny 69 51
Wed: Clouds 70 53



Upstream Elevation Predicted 09/30/2015
Lake Chatuge 1,921.31
Lake Nottely 1,767.87
Blue Ridge 1,677.42

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Indian Summer Festival
Suches, GA
Oct 3rd & 4th



Moving Wall will be here October 8-12th at Meeks Park

Energy Assistance Program Delayed a Month See Page 7

Warm Hearts Warm Heads! See Page 7



SPORTS FOOTBALL

Fri. Oct 2 @ Athens Academy 7:30 PM

SOFTBALL Thurs. Oct. 1 vs. Providence 4:45 PM (SR Night)

CROSS COUNTRY Wed. Sept 30 Carney Classic @ Hayesville 4 PM

Moving Wall comes to Meeks Park

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News Staff Writer

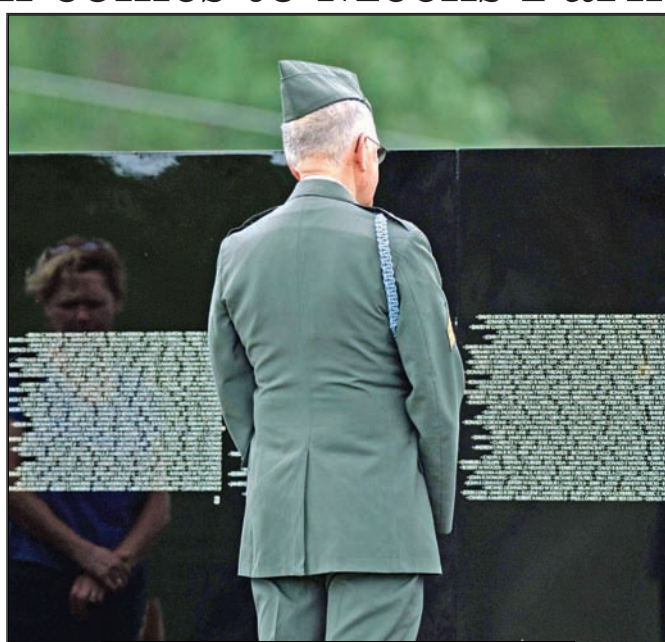
Blairsville - The Moving Wall Memorial is coming to Meeks Park in Blairsville, and will be available around the clock and free to the public during its stay between Thursday, Oct. 8, and Monday, Oct. 12.

Arriving that Thursday morning, The Moving Wall - a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. - will bring with it a time of silent reflection for the many brave members of the United States Armed Forces who died or are still missing as a result of the Vietnam War.

As of May 25, 2015, there are 58,307 names etched into the mirror-like black granite of The Moving Wall.

Among this enormous list of Vietnam War casualties gone but not forgotten are the names of area service members who lost their lives during the war.

Brave souls from Union



County are: Roger Ray Brown, age 21, Herbert Carson Davis, 20, Anthony Edwin Elliott, 23, John Henry Woody, 23, Charles F. Lance and Preston H. Patterson.

Brave souls from Towns County are: Ernest William Garrett, 21, and Clyde Owen-

by, 21.

Brave souls from Fannin County are: Leslie Howard Cantrell, 36, Jewell Robert Green, 20, David Mack Herndon, 24, Jeppie Joseph Payne, 48, Donald Wayne Queen, 23,

See The Wall, Page 10

Home Show draws a crowd

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

The fall Home and Garden Show graced the Event Center at Fieldstone in Young Harris, and vendors from all over the Southeast offered their goods and services to area residents on Saturday, Sept. 26, and Sunday, Sept. 27.

This is the second Home and Garden Show this year, thanks in large part to the tremendous success of the previous event that was held in June.

"It was so successful, with such a crowd, that the businesses demanded a Fall Home and Garden Show," said Bill Anderson, president of Expo Management.

Headquartered in Andrews, NC, Expo Management produces the shows, usually around 14 to 20 a year, which travel to Tennessee, Northeast Georgia, Spartanburg, SC, with 10 shows in Florida.

"The neat part about Home and Garden Shows is



TV personality Jim Parks entertains the masses at the Fall Home and Garden Show at the Event Center at Fieldstone in Young Harris. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

that you can come to a building, see one spot, and be exposed to 61 other companies that are doing things for your home and your garden," said Anderson,

now in his 27th year and 426th show. "It's like the old expression, one-stop shopping."

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Sorghum Festival celebrates 46 years

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

The 46th Annual Blairsville Sorghum Festival is bringing its authentic brand of mountain heritage to Meeks Park the second and third weekends in October.

The festival kicks off Saturday, Oct. 10, when the Sorghum Mill gears up for the crushing and cooking of sorghum at 9 a.m. Vendors also begin to demonstrate and showcase their wares at this time, with live music shortly following at 10:30 a.m.

Also on Saturday, Oct. 10, the 2015 Sorghum Festival Parade makes its way from the Old Middle School Gym to Meeks Park.

This year's parade is all about patriotism, and float builders are encouraged to embrace the theme: "American Pride... All Gave Some... Some Gave All."

Special to this year's festival and parade is The Moving Wall, a half-size replica of the



Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

The Moving Wall will arrive at Meeks Park on Thursday, Oct. 8, and will be on display around the clock until its closing ceremony on Monday, Oct. 12.

This puts The Moving Wall at Meeks Park the same time as the Sorghum Festival, and the Blairsville Sorghum

Festival Club decided to highlight The Wall's presence by incorporating the patriotic theme for this year's parade.

"We're trying to revolve everything around The Moving Wall," said Festival Club Treasurer Kim Bridges, who co-organized the festival. "The Wall won't be here the second

See Sorghum, Page 10

Business Showcase promotes business

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

On Thursday, Sept. 22, the Towns County Chamber of Commerce hosted its first ever Business Showcase, which packed the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center with 102 vendors who set up 95 booths to promote their businesses.

"We've had a really good turnout and awesome feedback, and the county worked really well with us supplying the building and helping us set up and stuff, and I think it was kind of a last-minute decision to do this, so we have a group of ambassadors, local business owners, and they kind of helped us and got us going," said Chamber Special Events Coordinator Katie Blutworth.

Blutworth stood outside the conference center, where a bouncy castle, a face-painting



The First Business Showcase draws a crowd.

station and a game of pumpkin bowling were set up for the kids.

"This is my first business showcase. At first it was kind of to network with local businesses, they were planning to have 30 vendors or something, and so we just kept hammering it into the community, so we were taking vendors up

until two days ago. And then we decided to make this free and open it to the community and make it family-friendly, so we added games. And then we had youth from McConnell Memorial to help with this," said Blutworth.

The tri-county event was

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Barrett dies of natural causes on Georgia's Death Row

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News Staff Writer

Winston Clay Barrett of Towns County, who was convicted of the Aug. 4, 2002, murder of his friend Danny "Stumpy" Youngblood, has died of natural causes, according to information obtained from the Georgia Department of Corrections by the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

Barrett, who would have turned 60 this October, died a death row inmate at Jackson State Prison, where he awaited an execution date for his death penalty conviction.

No foul play is suspected in Barrett's death, which occurred sometime over the weekend of Sept. 18, according to information available at press time.

Before his death, Barrett had exhausted all appeals processes in the state, having his convictions upheld by the Georgia Supreme Court in 2012.

According to Towns County Herald news archives,



Clay Barrett

Barrett's death penalty conviction was Towns County's first since the 1960s.

A Towns County Grand Jury indicted Barrett on Dec. 3, 2002, charging him with malice murder, aggravated assault, aggravated battery and two counts of possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

Enotah Circuit District Attorney Stan Gunter filed written notice of intent to seek the death penalty on Feb. 3, 2003.

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Brasstown Manor excited about second fall festival

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

Brasstown Manor has cordially invited the community to join the senior living facility's Second Annual Fall Fest on Saturday, Oct. 3.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, the day is for everyone, Manor Events Director Ashley Moore said.

"Friends, family, kids. We're going to have painting pumpkins, corn hole, ring toss, and some other fun games for kids," said Manor Events Director Ashley Moore.

Events Coordinator Teresa Anderson added that she was looking forward to a successful event.

"Last year was our first annual and it was a successful one, but this year is going to be our second annual, and we're going to have all kinds of games for the kids. We're going to do a ring toss, and we're going to do corn hole, and we're debating between a bouncy house or a bouncy slide," she said.

Plenty of Brasstown Manor residents are excited to help out.

"We're going to do pumpkin painting, and one of our independent residents is going to come down and help the kids with the pumpkin paintings. Then we've got a lady that's going to come in and she's going to do massages. She's actually one of our care-

givers here, and so she's going to be our massage therapist," said Anderson.

"The independent residents are going to be very involved in helping set up and mingling with the guests that come in and especially helping with the children. They love helping with the children and helping with the games. They're going to be assisting with the kid games and all in all just having a lot of fall fun," she added.

This year's Fall Fest will be a little different than last year.

"We're just going to try to change it up and have a little more different games. Last year we had a rummage sale, but we're not going to do that this year. Last year a lot of residents wanted to clean out their closets and they donated a lot of stuff. So what we did with that is we bought a treadmill and put it in our residents' wellness center for them, and we bought a flat screen TV, and we just turned around and put the money back into the facilities for the residents from the rummage sale last year," said Anderson.

Instead of a rummage sale, the focus this year will be on outdoor activities for the kids. Anderson hopes that people will come out and that the weather stays clear enough for everyone to enjoy the fest.

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City Council forum set for Monday, Oct. 26th

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

The Towns County Homeowners Association, in conjunction with the Mountain Movers and Shakers, has scheduled a moderated discussion forum featuring Hiwassee City Council candidates.

The forum is set for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 26 - a week before the Nov. 3 elections - and the forum will take place at the new Towns County Senior Center.

Planning for the forum occurred on Wednesday, Sept. 23, when the Mountain Movers and Shakers met with the TCHA to discuss sponsoring a public forum regarding the upcoming Hiwassee City Council elections.

The idea is to have members of the public come and ask questions of the candidates.

"This is a joint forum to allow the candidates and the incumbents for City Council positions in Hiwassee to tell us a little bit about themselves and discuss some of the issues to the public. Since there's no League of Women Voters anymore who typically sponsors these types of things, we felt like we would fill in the void and provide this forum for the community. This is a planning meeting for that," said Homeowners Association President Noel Turner.

Turner wanted to ensure that each candidate got a fair shot at answering questions.



Sam Fullerton and Noel Turner

"We're going to come up with some questions for them. My opinion is that we give them these questions in advance. I just think that these aren't professional politicians, which is a good thing. I think they'd have a better chance to give a more comprehensive answer if they know the question in advance so they can work on it rather than being surprised. A lot of them are new to this," he said.

It was Grace Howard's idea that the candidates should receive formal letters of invitation.

"I think from the joint group here, the letter should

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