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committee is still in need. Also, businesses along the parade route are strongly encouraged to decorate for this exciting event in support of Towns County students," said Rosser. "We would really like for the football players, homecoming court, cheerleaders, the band, as well as the entire stu-

dent body to feel a strong sense of unity in the community and know that folks and businesses are behind them and supporting them," said Rosser.

For more details or to obtain an entry form to enter a float in the parade, please contact Amy Rosser at (706) 896-4131, ext. 1233.

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ney) to come in his office and talk with him about the situation," Ralph Sanders said.

"He was very understanding and he offered to let us sleep in the Senior Center to keep folks out of the elements as it's been getting pretty cold at night."

"It was real nice of the Commissioner to open up the Senior Center. Most folks are sleeping in their cars. They just go down there if it gets real cold," said McKinney.

"Towns County has got a good Commissioner. I can't say enough good things about him," said Ralph Sanders. "I read the newspaper article about the financial state of the county. As a former Commissioner, I know what it takes to run a county and for Towns County to be debt-free says a lot about him. I don't know of any other counties that can make that claim."

Commissioner Kendall told the group they had to be off the courthouse lawn by 4:30 p.m. each day and opened the Senior Center to those that wanted to use it. Everyone was in compliance with his request.

Everyone felt very passionate about their cause and all voiced the same sentiment. There needs to be a better way of securing coveted lots in Chatuge Woods.

Commissioner Kendall said he hears what these folks have to say.

"These are good folks," Kendall said. "They have been very respectful and conscientious about taking care of public property. The RV lots are issued on a first come, first serve basis. They are in line early to get the lot of their choice."

By the end of the day on Saturday, a total of 52 people had gone through the line to claim their spot at the campground.

Rayette Ross, who is in charge of reservations for Chatuge Woods, reported that this was the biggest turnout yet.

"Everyone walked away happy and they all got the lot they wanted," said Ross. "You know it's funny, if folks came in and saw that somebody else was already in a particular spot, they wouldn't take it. They looked for another place. It's like they're all one big family up there and they look out for each other."

Ross also wanted to point out that Saturday's renewal process was for seasonal lots only and they still have four lakefront lots available.

Monthly rentals will be available beginning in January. The rental season runs April 1st, through Oct. 31st.



Campers lined up at the Towns County Courthouse on Saturday to renew their campsites at Chatuge Woods Campground. It was first come, first serve. Photo/Libby Shook

Water ...continued from page 1

to increase public awareness of the State's nonpoint source pollution and water quality issues, provide citizens with the tools and training to evaluate and protect their local waterways, encourage partnerships between citizens and their local government, and collect quality baseline water quality data.

"The coalition would like to thank all our volunteers who have come out to participate in the workshops and for donating their time and money to make this program possible," said Fuller.

The coalition is a 16-year-old, local, non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining good water quality in streams, lakes and rivers that flow into the Hiwassee River.

"The coalition works with local landowners, govern-

ments, schools and businesses to recognize and address threats to our water resources," Fuller said.

According to Fuller, the coalition is made up of a staff of knowledgeable professionals who plan and implement volunteer-powered projects to solve problems before water quality is beyond reasonable recovery.

If you are interested in becoming a coalition water quality monitoring volunteer, Fuller encourages you to contact her at (706) 970-9069.

Membership dues and personal participation of families, businesses, and individuals in the local community are the foundation of their efforts.

For more details visit the Web at www.hrwc.net.

Kiss ...continued from page 1

Moon hails from Evansville, Ind. and this is her second year at 'The Kiss' claiming a "best in show" award at last year's event.

"My art captures the energy of the universe. Everything has energy and my art brings a message of hope and renewal," Moon said.

She has been selling her "eco art" for the past 12 years.

One of the more popular sites was Destiny Alpacas with owners Larry and Cathi Dietsch of Young Harris available to chat and answer questions about the very friendly animals.

Folks, especially the children, were gathering to pet and feed the alpacas.

They were also very interested in the homespun hats and scarves made from the all natural fleece of the alpacas.

According to Larry Dietsch, he makes the hats and Cathi makes the scarves.

He also said that they have 21 alpacas on their farm in Young Harris. He invites the public to stop by and pay them a visit.

With live entertainment playing in the background, folks were not only perusing the huge assortment of arts and crafts, but socializing and



Wildlife artist Carol Moore Demme, of Blairsville proudly shows off her art. This is Demme's second year at Summer's Last Kiss. Photo/Libby Shook

enjoying the delicious foods available.

If you were just feeling like a light snack, there was delicious kettle corn available as well as flavored shaved ice.

But if you were in the mood for a meal, you had a lot to choose from including barbecue sandwiches, ribs, Brunswick stew, hot dogs, bratwurst, Italian sausage, and Polish sausage.

If you went hungry, you had only yourself to blame as there was food in abundance.

The time had finally come to announce the judges' picks for top place honors.

First place went to Bob Frankfield of Florida with his creative letters, in second place was Kotah Moon of Indiana with her eco art, and coming in third was local talent

Barbara Pirkle with her acrylic paintings.

Honorable Mention went to Isabel Wood for her Latin jewelry.

Jane Holland of the Tourism Association and the members of the 'Kiss Committee' expressed their appreciation to all who came out in support of Summer's Last Kiss and they hope to see you back again next year.

Scouts ...continued from page 1

available by the TCEMS.

Scout Master Joe Spellman and Assistant Scout Master Dan March were both present for the class.

Spellman said, "We thought it very important for the Boy Scouts in Troop 125 to have first hand knowledge of CPR."

"The Scouts Motto is 'Be Prepared' and we felt that this to be an important step in being prepared to potentially save a life," said Spellman.

"The adult leaders as well as the boys enjoyed the instruction and we will use other courses offered by the Towns County EMS and the Fire Department in the future," said Spellman.

Spellman expressed his appreciation to Lallement and Wilson, seconded by March, "for doing an outstanding job with the boys."

They also wanted to extend their thanks to Commissioner Kendall for arranging the visit and for attending as well.



Towns County Paramedic Mike Lallement gives Scouts from Troop 125 instruction on the proper techniques of CPR. Photo/Libby Shook

County Mounties in action on horseback

The County Mounties based in Hayesville, NC hosted the North Georgia Mounted Search and Rescue Association for intense training of their horses on stationary and moving obstacles on Saturday, Sept. 15th.

The exercise taught the basics of a routine mountain forest search and rescue operation at the training arena and local wooded area on Sunday, Sept. 16th.

Sixteen Certified County Mounties took part in the exercise along with six members of the North Georgia Mounted Search and Rescue Association (NGMSAR).

One NGMSAR member who tented overnight on the outskirts of the training arena said that the arena has more obstacles and riders are glad to be able to expose their horses to the new challenges.

Members are from all over the region including North Carolina and the North Georgia area including Hiwassee,

Young Harris, Blue Ridge, and Blairsville.

Director Lawrence Beal said the obstacle work went on for approximately six hours with breaks for the horses and riders.

"The stationery obstacles included various teeter-totters, platforms, planks, and cavalletties (round painted logs)," Beal said. "The riders and their horses were challenged by climbing up and down steep embankments and maneuvering around barrels while holding soft reins at a walk and a trot."

"The most daring moving obstacle was a 'Sky Dancer' that was powered by a generator to keep it floating high above the arena with its waving fringe and tubular body," Beal said. "The horses had to approach it, turn back and forth in front of it, and perform a serpentine pattern around barrels by it. Not every horse was thrilled with 'the dancer.'"

Beal, who has been training and developing the CM

training and obstacles for the past five years said this group of County Mounties and NGMSAR representatives are very serious about the training and had mostly very willing horses.

The Sunday Mock Search and Rescue (SAR) training got off to a start with a 'line search' that had 17 horses parallel to each other about five feet apart scanning the terrain for 'evidence gathering.'

According to County Mountie Bonny Herman, "There were 13 County Mounties and nine NGMSAR members participating."

"They slowly moved down a field that had been prepared with clues for the riders to find," she said. "As each clue was spotted, a rider would shout, 'Stop the line.' All riders would halt until the clue was inspected by the field people and then the line would move on to the next item. All clues were found."

"Next came the SAR

exercise in the woods," Herman said. "There were four teams of four riders who were given a scenario, radio equipment, instruction on protocols and sent off to find the item/person hidden for this exercise."

"Teams had to call in their findings on walkie-talkies before touching anything so base camp could determine the next move," she said. "It was a very real-life exercise and the teams worked diligently to find all the clues and the missing person and bring him back to base camp."

This was a new experience for many of the County Mounties and so very timely as hunting and hiking season begins soon, which could present some future search and rescue opportunities for these volunteers. For more details on County Mounties contact Beal at (828) 361-4669 to find out the requirements, fees, and training schedules. Beal invites you to check out the County Mounties on Facebook.

A little slice of heaven in the Valley Above the Clouds at the 35th Annual Indian Summer Festival in Suches

Indian Summer Festival

If you have a sweet tooth like me, then you don't want to pass up an opportunity to get your own little piece of heaven from the Gaddistown Homemakers' pie booth at the 35th annual Indian Summer Festival. These women are there at the crack of dawn making these delicious pies from scratch.

Gaddistown Homemaker President Dena Gooch says, "We put a lot of work in on this weekend, but it all goes to a good cause." Gooch says, "Come out and buy a pie, we have chocolate, apple, pecan, coconut, sweet potato, and pumpkin. If you like chocolate or apple then you better get there early and reserve your pies, because Linda Stover's chocolate and Dena Gooch's apple pies

don't stay around long. When asked what they do with the money they make at the festival, Ms. Gooch, (that's right men, she's single and a great cook) replied "the money goes back into the school as scholarships for the seniors, special projects for the different classes, and into the Suches fire department."

The Gaddistown Homemakers are not the only ones that put their money back into the school. The festival also has many school booths that make money for different projects throughout the year. Booths like Mrs. Althea Cantrell's local studies class. They sell homemade fried pies, local honey, jams and jellies, and boiled peanuts.

The majority of the funds made at the festival go to the school system. The proceeds from the square dance are set aside to provide every Woody Gap senior with a scholarship to further his/her education in the field of their choice. The teachers have their own booth to help with projects in the classrooms.

All proceeds from admission, barbeque booth, and booth rental go back into the classrooms. Help for the school is not limited to monetary value, but comes in the form of volunteer labor from generous community members, parents, and organizations. From donating time in the barbeque booth to parking cars, every little bit makes it go smoother.

The 35th annual Indian Summer Festival is October 6th and 7th with gates opening from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$4 for ages 13 and up, \$2 for 6-12, and free to anyone under 6. The country square dance starts at 8 p.m. till midnight on Saturday with advance tickets sold on the field for \$6 and \$8 at the door. Kids 12 and under get in free.

For more information about the festival or the Run Above the Clouds go to Suches.com website or call the school at 706-747-2401. Hope to see everyone in October.