

Shutdown...from Page 1A

provides Head Start programs funding sufficient to fund their operations for a 52-week period, Head Start programs will prepay the funds made available by the National Head Start Association at no interest through the generosity of Laura and John Arnold.

"The entire Head Start community and the at-risk children we serve are tremendously grateful to the Arnolds for their compassion and generosity," Vinci said. "The bottom line, however, is that angel investors like the Arnolds cannot possibly offer a sustainable solution to the funding crisis threatening thousands of our poorest children. Our elected officials simply must find a fiscal solution that protects, preserves and promotes the promise that quality early learning opportunities like Head Start offer to nearly 1 million at-risk children each year."

The Pre-K program isn't the only victim of the federal government shutdown.

Tourism has been greatly impacted.

U.S. Forest Service campgrounds, the legendary attractions at Brasstown Bald, TVA and Army Corps of Engineer campgrounds and boat ramps not leased to county or state governments are closed.

The Georgia 180 Spur that leads to Brasstown Bald will remain closed until the

U.S. Forest Service requests its opening.

Georgia 180 Spur in Brasstown Bald Visitor Information Center and Day Use Parking, said Georgia Department Transportation spokesperson Teri Pope.

"The Forest Service requested closure due to the federal government shutdown," Pope said.

The next big fear is the closure of the federal free and reduced school lunch program.

Scott Austensen, chief financial officer for the Georgia Department of Education, said news about funding for free and reduced lunches will come as it becomes available.

"In the event that the shutdown continues for a protracted period, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will continue to communicate the availability of funds," Austensen said. "Unless you hear differently from the GaDOE, please continue serving free and reduced meals."

U.S. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner refuses to reopen the vote to allow for government funding to continue.

Speaker Boehner insists that President Obama must negotiate with Republicans if he wants to end the federal government shutdown.

Fall Festival...from Page 1A

Sledge, Lynn Anderson, T. Graham Brown, Tammie Davis, the Quebe Sisters Band, and don't forget Jim Wood and the Georgia Mountain Fair Band.

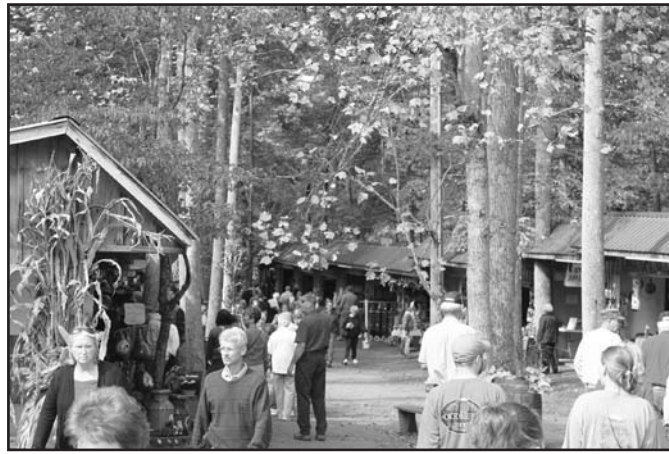
Other entertainment includes The Whites, Irons in the Fire, The Thomas Family Band, Southern Parts, and Johnny Bellar.

There also will be the traditional Gospel Music performances featuring the Isaacs, Dixie Melody Boys, and the Ball Brothers.

Two-time Fiddle King Champion Johnny Ray Watts might be back to reclaim his crown as the Georgia Fiddler's Convention returns on Oct. 18th and 19th.

Throughout this event, performers of all ages will compete in various musical categories such as Senior Fiddler, Junior Fiddler, Bluegrass Band, Finger-style Guitar, Flat-pick Guitar, Banjo, and Mandolin. After the initial competitions, a winner will be declared in each category.

The winner from both the Senior and Junior Fiddling groups will compete in a 'Fiddle Off' where the winner will be declared the "Georgia Mountain Fiddle King." Barry Palmer is the emcee.



Patrons also will have the opportunity to step back in time as they watch educational demonstrations such as blacksmithing, moonshining, soap-making, hominy-making, and quilting in the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' very own Pioneer Village.

Patrons can tour restored authentic and antique buildings including a one-room schoolhouse, a general store, a blacksmith shop, and an old mountain home moved to the fairgrounds to preserve the area's rich history.

While visitors get to experience North Georgia's past first-hand, they also will be able to listen to tales of Mountain

life as it once was from local experts.

Art lovers will enjoy strolling through the Juried Arts and Crafts which will be set up throughout the Pioneer Village and Craft Village each day of the festival.

The show features talented artisans from around the country displaying their unique handmade crafts.

It's a chance to walk through the Exhibit Hall where patrons will be able to look back on Towns County's rich cultural history. The Exhibit Hall also is home to a large selection of antique farm equipment, and during the festival, locals will share stories of how

the equipment was once used and how vital the equipment was to farm life.

While you are there, you'll want to make sure you stroll through the beautiful Anderson-Paris Park complete with stage, picnic tables, and a water wheel.

It's the perfect spot to just "sit a spell" or maybe picnic with family and friends.

From delicious barbecue to hamburgers and hot dogs, no one will leave the Georgia Mountain Fall Festival hungry. With a wide range of festival favorites, there is something for every craving during the Festival.

The food booths are run by local civic organizations and serve as a fundraising tool for very worth while nonprofit groups in Towns County.

Tickets are \$11 per person and that includes the music shows. Children 9 and under get in free.

Also, there's free parking with a trolley service available each day.

No pets allowed. Festival hours will be Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Finals...from Page 1A

Strickland, also of Athens, sang *I Will Always Love You*, and she did so perfectly.

After a few more performances, the audience grew antsy while the four judges discussed the winners backstage.

Three of the four judges had all participated in singing contests before, but the fourth judge, the only female on the panel, said she had only judged beauty pageants.

Espalin, Short and Van Sheridan found themselves deadlocked in a tie. A perfect score was 90, and the three men all scored an 89.

Mike Blackwell, the emcee for the event and promoter for the Haggard Concert, refused to let the audience break

the tie. So, the three will split the \$500.

As far as who would open for Haggard, the two boys that were still present drew pieces of paper out of a hat that would decide their fate.

Surprisingly, the two both drew out slips of paper that read "Tickets," and not the one slip that read "Merle."

Afterwards, the three female finalists, York, Owens and Strickland were called to the stage. York and Owens tied with an 89, and received tickets to watch the winner, Strickland, opens for Haggard.

Strickland, Van Sheridan and Haggard will be singing at Anderson Music Hall Oct. 25th.

Ansley...from Page 1A

coming King by the student body.

But on Friday night, an evening that would see the Towns County Indians win their first game since Nov. 9th, 2012, a 28-13 victory over Hebron Christian Academy, by defeating Copper Basin's Cougars 17-8, a new Homecoming Queen would be crowned.

The envelope please - Ansley Vardeman, also the Queen of Cross Country, was named as the 2013 Homecoming Queen.

Jasmine Forrester was crowned Homecoming Princess.

The Homecoming celebration was a climax to a week of fun and anticipation.

Towns County High

School went all out for their pep rally last Friday. It was a "Blue Out," as a majority of students and teachers had on Towns County shirts, many of which read, "Blue Crew."

Some students even went as far as painting their arms, legs and faces blue and black in honor of the TC colors.

The students proved they could really make some noise as TCHS Principal Jonathan Gibson had them cheer as loud as they could.

Towns County Middle School was invited to watch the High School pep rally, and they were just as excited as their older peers.

The Homecoming Court was introduced, and some of the boys had a lot of fun with the attention, wearing some pretty interesting things.

Stetson Hedden wore tall boots, short overalls, a sleeveless shirt and a camouflage hat.

In the biography he provided to be read as he was introduced, he included that he was voted most likely to wear cut off overalls.

While all of the boys seemed worthy of the title of Homecoming King, only one could be crowned.

Sonny Goodwin, last year's King, gave the award to Garrett Bradshaw, stealing the show with his enthusiasm.

The event include skits. The Freshmen and Juniors reenacted Jeannie Ledford's high school homecoming experience, which included preparing for a Cross Country meet, clogging, and attending a Bon Jovi concert.

Though she was portrayed as too busy for a date, she went on to win Homecoming Queen.

Coach Shannon Floyd and Coach Jim Melton were also portrayed, Floyd apparently loving Michael Jackson.

The skit poked fun at Melton, as Floyd stole his potential date.

It was a hilarious pep



Homecoming Queen Ansley Vardeman, left, with sisters Amy and Taylor Vardeman. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Homecoming King Garrett Bradshaw, right, with last year's King Sonny Goodman. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

rally, and if the point was to get the football players excited, it worked.

They did an outstanding job Friday night, and won 17-8 over Copper Basin.

It all culminated with the crowning of the lovely Ansley Vardeman as Homecoming Queen.

Her older sister, Amy Vardeman, a 2010 Towns

County graduate, was in town from Valdosta.

The trip was surely worthwhile when her sister received the prestigious title.

With all of the fun spawned from the Pep Rally, Parade, and Spirit Days at the high school, Towns County may have found the ultimate way of encouraging their football players.

Shakers...from Page 1A

lison said. "Many people do not know I am a state representative, or where I go to work every day."

He proved he was truthful, saying that when the government shut down last week, he received e-mails expressing concern about his pay.

"I was getting e-mails from people telling me I should cut my pay during the shutdown," he said. "I only make \$17,000 a year, but okay."

While he was being facetious, he was serious when he tried to calm the tension over the federal government shutdown, saying that the government shut down nearly 17 times while Reagan was in office.

He was also serious when he complained that "men who serve in high office are incredibly wealthy and have lost

touch with people a long time ago. They pay \$17 for coffee.

"They probably do not even know what milk costs," he said.

Everyone in the room was in agreement, and seemed grateful to feel understood.

They were also grateful for the honesty Allison expressed when he said, "telephone calls scare politicians because you are the people who can take away the one thing they treasure: their jobs."

He then became an advocate for the people, admitting his opinions on voting.

He explained that when a representative is no longer representing the public's values, it is time to get a new person in that position.

He also expressed hu-

mility when he said, "people expect me to be an expert on everything. I'm a lawyer who cannot change his own oil. I do not have the skills, but I have never been taught. I do not know much about law enforcement, so I call Chris Clinton."

His honesty pleased all of the Shakers, and once Rep. Allison opened himself up to questions, those he received were very polite, and generalized.

This was surely a relief, as Rep. Allison deemed the question and answer session as "Human Piñata Time."

Shakers Co-Founder Sam Fullerton closed the meeting on yet another positive note saying, "North Georgia is blessed to have Stephen Allison. We appreciate him and look forward to him running for governor."

Fullerton was surely kidding, and Allison laughed, but based on how well received he was, Rep. Allison may just want to consider it.

Frederick Moyer returns to Brasstown October 13

On Sunday, October 13 the Brasstown Concert Association (BCA) will open its fortieth season with a performance by internationally acclaimed pianist Frederick Moyer. "Fred Moyer has been part of our concert series at least eleven times since his first BCA appearance in 1982. We are particularly pleased to present such a favorite of local audiences in this anniversary season," says Rosemarie Kelischek, BCA program chair.

During over thirty years as a concert pianist, Moyer's dynamic musical career has taken him to over 43 countries and venues such as Sutori Hall in Tokyo, Sydney Opera House, Windsor Castle, Carnegie Recital Hall, Tanglewood and the Kennedy Center. He has appeared as soloist with most of the major orchestras of the United States as well as many orchestras of Europe, Asia, South America, Africa and Australia. His wide ranging musical interests are reflected in recordings of works by over thirty composers, in collaborations with jazz musicians, and by his incorporation of technology into some of his concerts.

Sponsored in part by the Dub and Murray Martin Cherokee and Clay Counties Trust, Frederick Moyer will perform on Sunday, October 13, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. in Keith House on the campus of the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC. No reservations are required; seating is by general admission. Individual tickets (\$18 for adults, \$10 for students) and season tickets (\$45 and \$30, respectively) may be purchased at the door. Light refreshments

are served at intermission. For information call a BCA Board member at 828-837-1863 or 828-837-8822 or email brass-townconcertnews@gmail.com.