

LOST...from Page 1A

representatives of those governing entities have determined the tax should be permitted to expire.

The authority to levy a tax is a legislative function of the state or the local governments created by the state, the justices ruled.

The decision has Towns County and its municipalities scrambling to submit a new LOST certificate to the Georgia Department of Revenue prior to Thursday, Oct. 17th.

If a new certificate is not filed before Thursday, Oct. 17th on behalf of a particular county, the Department of Revenue will cease collections for that county as of Thursday.

The LOST distribution percentages agreed upon in

February by Towns County, the City of Young Harris, and the City of Hiwassee are as follows: 2013-2014, the county will receive 81 percent, City of Hiwassee 10 percent, and City of Young Harris 9 percent; 2015-2017, the county will receive 80 percent, City of Hiwassee 10.5 percent, City of Young Harris 9.5 percent; 2018-2022, the county will receive 79.5 percent, City of Hiwassee 11 percent, City of Young Harris 9.5 percent.

Read the Oct. 23rd edition of the *Towns County Herald* for more details of how the High Court ruling has impacted the LOST accord between Towns County and its municipalities.

Codes...from Page 1A

Garriss explained that the goal is to establish fire prone areas and then to have locals adopt Firewise habits.

Some are very simple, and none are especially expensive. Garriss said that instead of pine straw or mulch, very flammable substances, homeowners could use other, less flammable, things.

That was just one example of a subtle, inexpensive fix.

As well as fire safety being expensive, Garriss adds another misconception is that we are not in danger of wildfires.

"Even South Georgia has pasture land that falls into this fire prone category," he said.

Garriss mentioned that even Gwinnett County has experienced a five-acre burn recently.

The workshop was held at The Ridges Resort and Marina, and the room was filled with vertical banners displaying checklists as to how to be Firewise, as well as explanations of the Ready Set Go program.

Towns County currently has eight Firewise communities, and has recently been commended for the impressive strides made in being fire ready.

Mike Zupko of the Southern Governors' Association spoke about cohesive strategy, and explained that there is a national collaborative approach to addressing Wildland fires across all lands and jurisdiction.

The national goals are to restore and maintain landscapes. He had a PowerPoint presentation with draft data in which the whole U.S. was split into individual counties and then assessed to figure out the best non-fire fuel treatments.

It is especially important in the South, as the region has a year round fire season.

One of the most interesting things he discussed was the up-and-coming South Wrap program.

The program, which will be available to the Forest Service around March, provides a satellite view of the state, and which specific areas are shown and specifically categorized as to danger.

This would be available to the public eventually, which would be useful in figuring out how your neighborhood compares to surrounding areas when it comes to fire safety.

Texas was the first to use the program, and its popularity has caused it to spread.

As of press time, Smokey the Bear is right, "Only you can prevent forest fires."

This is especially true since Smokey has been furloughed.

Luckily, the Towns County Fire and Rescue is dedicated to keeping our community safe.

Learning about the new Codes helps them do that, and we can look forward to positive changes to add to all they have already done to help us to be Firewise.

Fall Festival...from Page 1A

appreciative of the Anderson Music Hall crowd.

He talked about his early days and coming to the Music Hall with a then relatively unknown act opening for him.

"Reba and I have worked together for a longtime," referring to iconic Country Music legend Reba McEntire, then just a little lady with a big voice, whom Skaggs thought would go far.

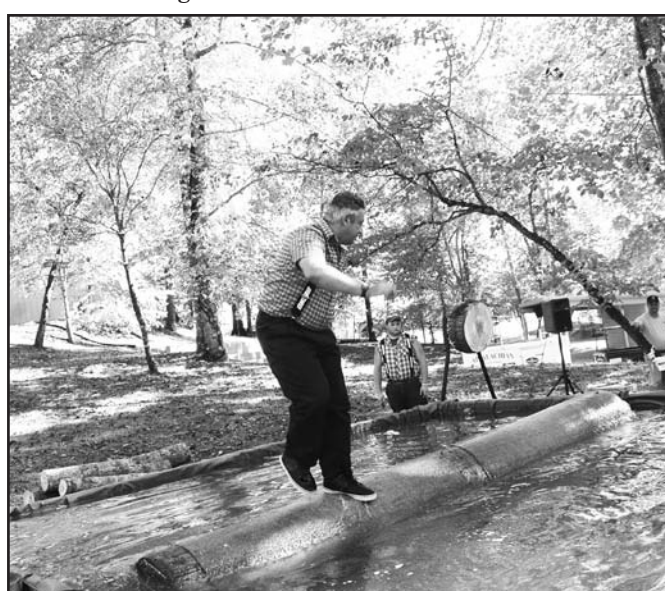
Fall Festival goes flocked to the Pioneer Village inside the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Friday and Saturday as the annual pilgrimage to the North Georgia Mountains continued throughout the weekend.

The Festival features more than 60 vendors that make and sell crafts.

Patrons enjoyed countless demonstrations including quilt making, cider making and wood-splitting.

There was a "Teeny Weeny Circus" for the kids, and Paul Bunyan enthusiasts had a field day with the lumberjack shows consisting of log rolling, chopping, sawing, axe throwing, dragster chainsaw, tree climbing and more.

The Georgia State Fiddlers' Convention takes center



A good time is being had by all at the Georgia Mountain Fall Festival. Photos by Lowell Nicholson



stage on Friday at 7 p.m. The convention always features performers of all ages competing in various musical categories such as Senior Fiddler, Junior Fiddler, Bluegrass Band, Fingerstyle Guitar, Flat-pick Guitar, Banjo, and Mandolin.

After the initial competitions, a winner will be declared in each category.

The winners of each category will be declared official Georgia State Champions.

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 2013 Georgia State Fiddlers' Convention emcee.

The State Fiddlers' Convention begins on Friday evening, but will continue into Saturday. The Finalists will compete at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Fiddlers' Convention

enthusiasts still are anxious to hear if the two-time champion, Johnny Ray Watts, of Delta, Ala., will compete in the 2013 competition.

Watts, the inspiration for the iconic Charlie Daniels hit *The Devil Went Down to Georgia*, is the one and only Johnny as referenced in the legendary Country Music hit.

Don't miss out on the remaining days of the Annual Fall Festival at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.



Career...from Page 1A

curious about what the GSP could need a helicopter for. While it is not likely to see a speeding car being pulled over by a chopper, they are used to supervise fires, rescue people, and find missing persons.

The pilot admitted they have called in speeding cars from the air before.

Down in the parking lot, students could speak to Turpin's Wrecking Service, Appalachian Drug Task Force, Towns County Sheriff's Office, GSP, Towns County EMS, Towns County Fire & Rescue, and Blue Ridge Mountain EMC.

Students had many questions for everyone in the lot, especially the EMC.

To help the students understand what it is like to be in their career field, they allowed students to don rubber sleeves and gloves, as to avoid electrocution, and then try to take a nut apart, reminding them that in that scenario, they would be many feet off the ground.

Not surprisingly, students willing to attempt the feat were not immediately successful.

All of the students were naturally curious, as so many of the jobs were quite interesting, but Melissa McConnell figured out a way to make the students work even harder at asking good questions. Each time a student asked a legitimate question, the person they asked would stamp their paper.

No challenge comes without incentive, so whichever class had the most stamps on average would receive a prize and the spirit stick.

Many students were curious about the reason for YHC attending the career fair, but the representatives explained to the students that the college is the largest employer in Towns County.

Students were also curious about future education, as the most popular question seemed to be whether or not that specific job required a college degree.

Freshman and sophomores enjoyed the fair, but the juniors and seniors took an extreme interest in the career fair, realizing that the time to start planning their futures was quickly approaching.

Sons...from Page 1A

to visit elementary schools every year to teach the importance of the Revolution. Furthermore, SAR rewards law enforcement with recognition through certificates regularly, and they also sponsor essay, poster and public speaking contests.

Recently, SAR presented blue stars to those whose relatives are actively serving in the military. They also placed flags on Revolutionary soldiers' graves on Memorial Day.

Never forgetting about the veterans, Jones recognized all in attendance and presented them with certificates.

Army veterans included Don Avery, Russell Beckett, Florence Gerrard, Bobby Peterson, Gene Reeves and Ross Breedlove.

Air Force Veterans in attendance included Colton Gosslin and Cyrus Gray.

Navy veterans in attendance were Ken Gerrard, John Catinberger and Ruth Savage.

Rex Long was the only United States Marine Corps veteran, and Max Baron was the only Merchant Marine.

Alan McDougal represented the U.S. Coast Guard.

"Big thank you for your service," Jones said. "We appreciate all you have done to maintain our liberty and freedom."

Also receiving thanks were Ken and Flo Gerrard,



The flags flying high at Hiwassee Park. Photo/Heather Poole

as they graciously donated flag poles.

While the flag has been a long time front yard staple, there are a surprising amount of rules as to how to fly it correctly.

For instance, if the flag is displayed with another flag, it should be to the viewer's left.

If the flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff.

Also, if the flag is hung in a window where it can be viewed from the street, the union of the flag should be placed at the head and over the left shoulder.

Of course, the most familiar rule is that a flag may not touch the ground.

After Shannon Watson, administrator of Hiwassee Park, welcomed those in attendance, Jones presented her with a Flag Certificate.

Jones and SAR inspect flags all around the community to ensure they are flying them properly.

He recently spoke in a SAR Officer's Meeting to approve floodlights in the Hiwassee Park area.

Once everything was assuredly being done right, the certificate was prepared as a thank you.

Peggy Beckett, president of the Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia also spoke at the ceremony.

"One of my favorite sayings is 'Don't you love it when a plan comes together?' Well this one has," Beckett said.

She explained that the flags and beautiful landscaping beneath them is exactly what they had planned when developing the subdivision.

She praised God for such wonderful people living in the community and mentioned how beautiful Towns County looked with the leaves changing.

The community has a great view of the county atop a hill just passed Towns County High School.

Beckett mentioned that also.

"We wanted this to be a city on the hill that shines out to the community below us and serve as an example," she said.

After the ceremony, the group enjoyed light refreshments at the Clubhouse, where they could admire the flag through the large windows.