

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	62 32
Fri: Clouds	52 26
Sat: Clouds	58 32
Sun: Clouds	61 35
Mon: Sunny	63 43
Tues: Sunny	60 40
Wed: Clouds	56 37



Upstream Elevation	
Predicted	
10/23/13	
Lake Chatuge	1,919.48
Lake Nottely	1,764.38
Blue Ridge	1,673.05

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SPORTS

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Free Food Distribution

Tuesday
October 29th
2 PM - 5 PM
Towns County Food Pantry

LAKE CHATUGE ANNUAL CLEAN-UP

SAT. NOV. 2ND
See Page 5A

Home Heating Assistance Funds May Be Available

See Page 2A



Pink Ribbon Survivor Celebration

Thurs. Oct 24th
Brasstown Manor
See Page 3A



FOOTBALL

FRI. OCT 25th
7:00 PM
@ St. Francis

DeJarnette is a Fiddle Queen

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Emma DeJarnette made Snellville proud during her weekend visit to the Fall Festival at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

When the dust settled close to midnight on Saturday, 16-year-old DeJarnette was on Cloud Nine celebrating her new claim to fame, Georgia State Fiddle King, uh, Georgia State Fiddle Queen.

DeJarnette has been a regular at Fiddlers' conventions since she was 7 years old. She won the Beginning Fiddlers' competition in 2011 at Anderson Music Hall. She has also traveled the Southeast competing in fiddle competitions.

But not in her wildest dreams did she expect to earn the title of "Fiddle King," at least not this year.

As Saturday turned to Sunday, DeJarnette had a night to remember at Anderson Music Hall. By the end of the night, even Charlie Daniels would have been proud.



Emma DeJarnette of Snellville is Fiddle Royalty as she earned the title of Fiddle Queen on Saturday at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Alex Thomlinson of Suches finished fourth in Junior Fiddle.

The 2013 Fall Festival concluded Saturday night with the Georgia Fiddler's Convention at Anderson Music Hall, warming plenty of hearts with many, although instrumental,

strings attached. More than 20 musicians, including DeJarnette, ranging from ages 10 and up were at the top of this year's musical joyride as judges decided who would be the Best of the Best.

See Fiddle, Page 12A

LOST distributions a done deal through 2022

By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

A special call meeting of the Hiwassee City Council was held last week regarding the renewal of the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) certificate which includes an agreed upon distribution of LOST proceeds.

Mayor Barbara Mathis brought the meeting to order and promptly reminded the council that the resolution had to be "done by midnight," Oct. 17th.

Towns County and its municipalities were already in agreement in regards to the distribution of the proceeds from the LOST, which is a combination of city and county local sales and use taxes, and as City Manager Rick Stancil pointed out, this upgraded version was "basically adopting the same percentage rates as we previously adopted, but free from, as they say, 'the taint of litigation.'"



Rick Stancil

In other words, Towns County and its municipalities had to rework the LOST resolution as a result of the decision made by the Georgia Supreme Court on Oct. 7, which stated that using a judicial decision to propagate the funds in the event the county and its municipalities could not come to an agreement on how the tax proceeds should be distributed.

See LOST, Page 12A

Eastern Band of Cherokee break ground on new casino in Murphy

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Murphy, NC - Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall believes that the new tribal casino in Murphy, NC will bring jobs to the region.

About 900 jobs to be exact, and that's not counting the jobs that will come with the construction of the casino.

The \$110 million project to build a new casino in Cherokee County, NC is officially under way.

A ground breaking ceremony was held last week at the future site of the casino just outside the Murphy City Limits.

The casino will be owned by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and will be managed by Caesars Entertainment Corp.

The Eastern Band of Cherokees already owns Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort in Cherokee, NC, about an hour's drive from the new casino location.

The new Cherokee County, NC casino will be located about 30 minutes from Union



A new casino in Murphy, NC could mean 900 new jobs for the region, and \$39 million in new money into local economies. Hundreds of construction jobs also will be created. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

County, and just a slightly longer drive from Hiwassee. It also will target patrons from Knoxville and Chattanooga, Tenn., and the Metro Atlanta area. "Our winning partnership with Caesars Entertainment gives us a proven track record in the

gaming industry," said Principal Chief Michell Hicks. "This is an ambitious project, but we are confident that it will be a success - for our customers, our tribe and for the surrounding

See Casino, Page 12A

'ObamaScare' a hot topic

By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

With Americans across the nation in a panic over the impending Affordable Healthcare Act, including Towns County residents, Tim Barrett with Barrett & Associates Insurance took time to answer questions about the new healthcare law.

Barrett was the Friday morning guest of the Mountain Movers and Shakers at Mary's Southern Grill in Young Harris.

Barrett, an attorney and insurance broker with Barrett & Associates, has attended numerous seminars, webinars, etc., educating himself about



Tim Barrett

the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obamacare," which was signed into law on March 23, 2010.

Oct. 1st was the deadline for enrollment to begin for coverage starting Jan. 1, 2014; however, as Barrett pointed

out on the Oct. 1st, he "did not write a single policy."

Barrett also was quick to point out that in Georgia, there are five companies to choose from, but "only two of these plans have doctors in our area."

The lack of choice is in direct opposition to the promises made by President Obama while promoting his healthcare reform.

During a White House Press Conference in 2009, the President clearly stated, "the government is not going to make you change plans (or doctors) under health reform...., so, if you like your plan and you like your doctor,

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Wings of Freedom at Blairsville Airport

By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Blairsville - The Wings of Freedom Tour arrived shortly before noon at Blairsville Municipal Airport's North Ramp on Monday.

The three warbirds came here from Greenville, SC.

The event was organized by Blairsville's Sherry Beth Dyer, a former volunteer for the Collings Foundation, which sponsors the Wings of Freedom tours.

Vietta Mae Dyer, of Blairsville, also helped Sherry Beth Dyer organize the event.

"We contacted the Foundation to have Blairsville as one of the stops to allow local residents to come and tour the birds," Vietta Mae Dyer said. "Otherwise, our local folks



The Warbirds have arrived at Blairsville Municipal Airport. They'll be there through noon on Wednesday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Fall Festival thrives in 2013 season

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The 2013 Georgia Mountain Fall Festival is in the history books. And what a festival it was.

Artists, craftsmen, cooks, musicians, and tourists flocked from all over the country, coming from as far away as Colorado.

Those who attended enjoyed a stroll in the crisp mountain air through the arts and crafts booths, the food booths, and the Pioneer Village.

They might have stopped by the Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show or one of the one of the "old ways" demonstrations on their way to Anderson Music Hall, where musicians that included Ricky Skaggs, Lynn Anderson, and the Quebe Sisters Band performed.

The Festival ended on a high note with the Georgia State Fiddlers Convention on Friday and Saturday.

Daniel Nichols recounted some of the history behind the Fall Festival.

It's been an annual tradition since 1976. It started as a way to raise money for a local hospital that burned down that year, but quickly grew into a larger-scale event.

"They started the festival



Ricky Skaggs

to help pay for the hospital that was burned down that year," Nichols said. "The hospital had been burned down and they started the festival to help raise money for it and it turned out to be a big event and we turned it into an annual thing after that."

He also said that in recent years, a broad audience of 25,000-30,000 people have been turning out to enjoy the festival.

Beside the live music, the arts and crafts exhibits are the biggest attraction.

There were about 60

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GOP Speech Contest Saturday at YHC



By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Republican Party of Towns County is hosting their annual Youth Leadership Development Scholarship contest finals Saturday, Oct. 26th, at 1 p.m. in the Wilson Lecture Hall of Young Harris College.

In anticipation of the upcoming finals, preliminaries were held in the auditorium at Towns County High School on Thursday, Oct. 17th, and Saturday, Oct. 19th, with participants from Towns County High School and Eastgate Life Academy who are in the 9th-12th grades.

Advancing to the finals, from Towns County High School, juniors Michael Austin, Alana Calhoun, and Danielle Diehl. Joining them are sophomores Adam Penland, and Alexis Stephens. Eastgate Life Academy

students Emily Blair and Emma Ledford, both ninth graders, and brothers Ashton and C.J. Owens will be joining them Saturday, Oct. 26th at YHC.

Every single contestant was a winner, gaining invaluable experience and self-confidence to fortify them throughout the rest of their lives, as well as a \$25 Participation Award to boot.

Those students not advancing this year are Hannah Lugo, Shelby Moore, Jalen Moody, Samuel Utt and his brother Seth, all from Eastgate, and Bonnie Bennett, Nicole Garrett and Brianna White from TCHS.

The participants had

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