

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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**Local Weather and Lake Levels**

Thur: Sunny	75 49
Fri: Sunny	74 50
Sat: Clouds	70 46
Sun: Clouds	62 37
Mon: Sunny	62 37
Tue: Sunny	60 36
Wed: Sunny	64 39

Upstream Elevation Predicted	10/24/12
Lake Chatuge	1919.60
Lake Nottely	1766.60
Blue Ridge	1672.21

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## TCSO

The Georgia Police Accreditation Coalition (GPAC) has awarded the Towns County Sheriff's Office state certification status.

State certification represents a significant professional achievement and acknowledges the accomplishment of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and effective on an operational level.

"The foundation of certification lies in the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives."

State certification has been a dream for Sheriff Clinton; he alluded to it in the special election in 2007. "I was concerned that state certification would be impossible to achieve in an agency that had been in such disarray," he said. "I've always said I would give the citizens of Towns County a professional sheriff's office, one that they can be proud of, one that has restored their trust, and this stamp of approval from the state of Georgia means you don't have to take my word for it. Georgia's professional law enforcement community has said that your sheriff's office is providing you with the best accepted practices in law enforcement," Sheriff Clinton said.

"I would like to thank the current staff for their hard work and dedication, without which none of this would've been possible. State certification demonstrates our commitment to professionalism at Towns County Sheriff's Office."

An official ceremony is planned and will be announced at a later date.

## Rep. Broun

U.S. Rep. Paul Broun, who represents the current 10th District, will bade farewell to Towns County at the weekly Mountain Movers and Shakers meeting at Mary's Southern Grill.

Rep. Broun will be at the 8 a.m. meeting on Friday, Oct. 26th.

Rep. Broun will continue to represent the 10th District, however, some counties like Towns have shifted into another Congressional District. Towns will become a member of the 9th Congressional District in January 2013.

Dr. Don Maynard will deliver the invocation, State Rep. Stephen Allison will introduce Rep. Broun. Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton will serve as the morning's emcee.

Mary's Southern Grill is at 1615 Hwy. 17 N, Tower Plaza, Hiawassee.

# Lambert claims 2012 Fiddle King crown

By Libby Shook  
Towns County Herald  
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

Two men were playing their fiddles and playing them hot on Saturday night. Only one walked away with the coveted title of Georgia Mountain Fiddle King. Junior Fiddle King Kenny Lambert of Lawrenceville, dueling Senior Fiddle King Mack Snoderly of Clyde, NC. Lambert emerged as the 2012 title holder. It all began with the toss of a coin, which Snoderly won but opted to perform last. It may have been a mistake on Snoderly's part, because once Lambert started playing, he appeared to lull the judges into his brand of fiddling. Lambert performed a stellar rendition of what he refers to as "my Momma's favorite tune that I play and I'm going to play this one for my Momma."

felt confidence, eyes closed, as if he were playing only for his mother. Next up, Snoderly walked confidently out onto the stage. It should be noted that he is no newcomer to performing in front of an audience as he was one of the fiddlers who performed in the movie *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou*.

He also told the audience that the fiddle he was using for his performance had been handcrafted by none other than Fiddlin' Howard Cunningham, Hiawassee's own. Snoderly performed *The Clarinet Polka* and performed beautifully. He made the fiddle sound like it was singing the song.

With both Snoderly and Lambert putting on their finest display of fiddling, there could still be only one winner. The judges' votes had been tallied and the numbers were clear. The 2012 Fiddlin' King was Lambert.

He threw his hands up in the air in excitement and said, "Long live Bluegrass music."



Kenny Lambert of Lawrenceville is the 2012 Georgia Mountain Fiddle King. Photo/Libby Shook

"I grew up in a musical family," said Lambert. "I have an older sister, Heidi Clare, who plays old-time fiddle and she got me interested in the fiddle. My younger sister, Michelle, lives in Nashville and she sings, writes songs, and she sings, write songs, and since they are both prettier than me, I just practice the heck out

of the fiddle," said Lambert. "I am honored. I was up against some great musicians and they have been playing a lot longer than me," said Lambert. Emcee, Barry Palmer, charmed the audience with his quick wit and dry sense of humor. "This is both an endear-

ing and humbling experience to be here and hear some of the greatest musicians anywhere. Watching some of them grow up here on this stage and watching them go on to do great things in the music world is just amazing," said Palmer. Palmer recognized the  
See Fiddle King, page 16A

# Ellis is 2012 Homecoming Queen

By Libby Shook  
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Towns County High School has a new reigning Homecoming Queen as senior Meagan Ellis was chosen by the student body to be crowned 2012 Queen at Friday night's Homecoming game.

The game turned out pretty good too as the Indians claimed their first victory of the season over North Cobb Christian High School 38-6.. Meagan Ellis was escorted by her father, David Ellis.

Meagan is the daughter of David and Vicki Ellis of Hiawassee. "I am shocked and surprised and I feel so blessed to have been voted Homecoming Queen by my classmates," said a very humble and elated Meagan Ellis.

Senior Erin Westberry was First runner-up. Erin was escorted by her father, Johnny Pyle. She is the daughter of Johnny and Jeannie Pyle.

Towns County High School was very well represented and all the girls were beautiful and worthy candidates for the crown.

Candidates included Davilyn Blythe, Dadrin Blythe, Christa Hamill, Kayla, Olin, Meagan Ellis, Erin Westberry, Claire Wilson, Alex Fagin, Brittany Ledford, and Brittany Boyer.

Senior Sonny Goodman was crowned 2012 Homecoming King Thursday evening at the community-wide pep rally and bonfire.

Senior Sponsor and Homecoming Sponsor Sarah Morrison said, "Tonight's homecoming ceremony was a great end to a spirit-filled week at Towns County High School.



Meagan Ellis and Sonny Goodman are the 2012 Queen and King for Towns County High School. Photo/Libby Shook

The students had a great time participating in spirit week and our first parade and bonfire was a tremendous success."

"This year's homecoming court was a great group of students to work with. All were enthusiastic to be a part of the 2012 Football Homecoming Court," said Morrison.

Spirit week kicked off with the first ever Football Homecoming Parade Thursday, Oct. 18th with more than 30 participants.

Elvis was the Grand Marshal of the parade and once again, as seems to be common whenever Elvis comes to town, Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren was no where to be found. It's almost starting to look suspicious.

The parade began at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and ended up in front of the school where a large crowd turned out to show their support of the Towns County Football team. The boys Homecoming

Court was introduced to the crowd and were escorted by the lovely ladies of the 2012 Homecoming Court.

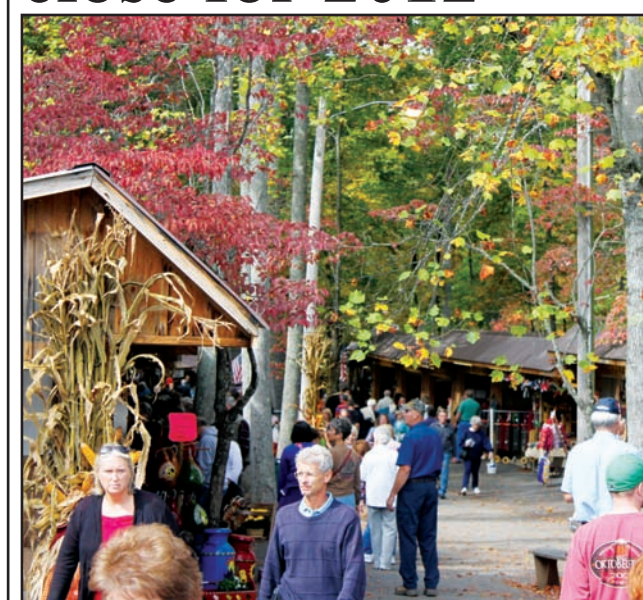
Before beginning the introductions of the boys, last year's Homecoming King and Queen, Zack Stroud and Felicia Baker were introduced to the crowd.

The boys court was made up of the following and their escorts, Wesley Bloodworth escorted by Erin Westberry, Dillon Diehl escorted by Davilyn Blythe, Sonny Goodman escorted by Brittany Boyer and Brittany Ledford, Tyler Hoffman escorted by Kayla Olin, Luke Parker escorted by Meagan Ellis, Bradley Smith escorted by Claire Wilson, Ryan Tallent escorted by Dadrin Blythe, Dillon Thompson escorted by Christa Hamill, and Austin Wood escorted by Alex Fagin.

When Sonny Goodman

See Homecoming, page 16A

# Festival comes to a close for 2012



All roads led to Hiawassee for the Annual Fall Festival.

By Libby Shook  
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The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Fall Festival came to a close on Sunday, Oct. 21st, with many folks sad to see it go.

The Festival was action-filled from the day it opened with 30,000-plus folks passing through the gate during the 10-day event.

This was a wonderful way for folks to enjoy all that the beautiful North Georgia Mountains has to offer during this beautiful fall season.

The weather was very cooperative all 10 days with mild temperatures and beautiful fall colors.

The Fall Festival offered many fabulous attractions including the Pioneer and Craft Village with over 50 vendors selling their handcrafted

wares.

People seemed to enjoy the "step back in time" as they walked through the Pioneer Village to experience life as it used to be. They stood mesmerized as they watched educational demonstrations such as blacksmithing, moonshining, soap-making, hominy-making, and quilting in the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' very own Pioneer Village.

Visitors to the Festival were able to walk through and enjoy 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 had the opportunity to experience North Georgia's past first-hand, they also enjoyed listening to tales

See Festival, page 16A

# Halloween on the Square returns

By Libby Shook  
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The City of Hiawassee is pleased to announce their annual Halloween on the Square on Saturday, Oct. 27th and the 2nd Annual North Georgia Jeepers Trunk-or-Treat.

The fun will start on the square at 5:30 p.m. and will end at 8 p.m.

According to Mayor Barbara Mathis there will be about 50 jeeps decorated and filled with candy with for the little ones.

She encourages everyone to come out and enjoy a fun-filled family evening and a safe way for your children to enjoy Halloween.

The Jeepers will kick off the festivities with a parade starting at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds at 4:45 p.m.

They will travel from the Fairgrounds traveling East into Hiawassee to the Hiawassee Square.

The Hiawassee Police Department will have roads roped off so you may want to get there early to find a parking place to enjoy the fun.

Mathis said, "We will have local businesses participating with lots of candy for the



Expect the Funworld mascots to be on hand for Halloween On the Square. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

children and we are expecting a great turnout."

The American Red Cross will be there with a food booth for those that need a fill-up or beverage. They will sell hamburgers and hot dogs plus coffee and hot chocolate to take off the inevitable chill that comes with fall weather.

In addition to the many treats for the kids, Mathis reports that they will also have a bounce house and a costume

# Early voting underway

By Libby Shook  
Towns County Herald  
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Early voting commenced Monday, Oct. 15th with a record turnout according to Towns County Registrar Irma Nichols.

Towns County Superintendent of Elections Jonni Marie Shook said early voting has been popular.

"It has been a great start for our first week of early voting in Towns County," said Shook.

According to Shook, 1,308 voters have turned out for "in person voting" and an additional 289 have returned their absentee ballots.

"This has been a record setting week and we still have two more weeks of voting to go," said Shook.

Shook encourages voters to "Please tell your friends and neighbors and bring them with you to vote."

The hours for early voting are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The office will be open until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. For all you working folks who find it inconvenient to try to get out to the polls during scheduled week day hours.

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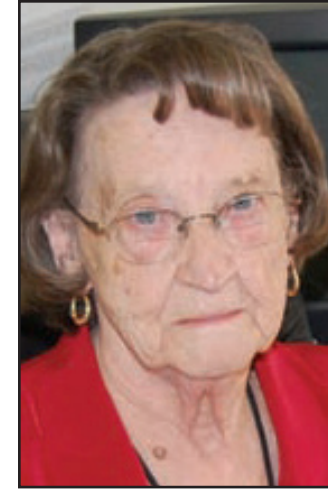
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Irma Nichols

Many voters expressed what a simple and convenient process it is and how helpful the folks at the polls are.

Shook wanted to make sure that folks know what a demanding process this is for workers at the voting precinct.

"Hats off to Irma Nichols and her crew. They have been burning the midnight oil keeping all the necessary paper-

See Early page 16A

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