

## Park land closes...from page 1A

of the Foster property is an historic moment in Towns County history.

"We need it," he said, referencing the property's purchase. "We've tried every conceivable way to develop Parks and Recreation here in Towns County over the years to no avail.

"The young people here just don't have adequate facilities for athletics

and the older generation doesn't have the walking trails that other communities around us have," he said. "We've got to have a park to build and grow our local athletic programs and have a place for the families in our community to enjoy. The children of this county deserve that much. The residents of Towns County deserve that much."

The bulk of the proceeds from the property's sale to the county by the Johnnie Irene Foster Charitable Trust go to Young Harris College for scholarships, Kendall said.

"The county money that we spend for that property will go toward future scholarships for our children and our grandchildren," Kendall said. "It's a win-win for Towns County."

## Fourth of July...continued from page 1A

There are a few tickets still available for that event.

Also, the Towns County Recreation Department's annual Fourth of July Activity Day is scheduled for July 3rd. It's a day of horseshoes, homerun derbies, three-legged races and of course, the Little Miss Recreation Pageant on the outdoor stage at the Fairgrounds near the ball fields.

Also on July 3rd, Cornbread Ted and the Butterbeans, along with Gnarly Fingers are scheduled to bring their "bona fide

ruckus music" to the Downtown Square from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., part of the Enchanted Music on the Square summer music series. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket, your family and friends and get ready for a musical feast. Delicious fresh-smoked BBQ will be available for sale along with hand-dipped ice cream.

On the Fourth, the annual Towns County Fire and Rescue Barbecue at Station Two in Young Harris is scheduled. It's the best Boston Butts available in Towns

County.

On Sunday evening, the Fourth of July Fireworks celebration is scheduled at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and also at Brasstown Valley Resort.

Prior to the fireworks, come join in the annual Boat Parade which concludes at The Ridges Resort. When you get to The Ridges, take the time to enjoy some good Fourth of July holiday food, beverages and fixings.

It's going to be a busy weekend in Towns County and the fun is guaranteed.

## Electric bills rise...continued from page 1A

In the wake of the rate increase, the utility company has seen its workforce decrease through attrition and has become more vigilant in the face of the struggling economy by cross-training its employees.

The rate increase will need to take several forms, and should fall in the low 6 percent range overall, according to the utility company. Customer charges also will increase to bring BRMEMC more in line with its sister TVA distributors.

The rate increase will be done to ensure that BRMEMC members share equitably in the costs of operating the overall business without regard to electricity usage.

BRMEMC will increase its kilowatt-hour charges for electricity. This will be done in an effort to help recoup the actual costs of delivering electricity in the face of declining kilowatt-hour sales.

Finally, BRMEMC will evaluate and adjust, as appropriate,

its aid-to-construction costs – charges for new service installations in its system – which is necessary to adequately cover the actual costs associated with new services built within BRMEMC's service territory.

The rate increase is not associated with the construction of a new BRMEMC headquarters in Young Harris, according to the utility company.

The new headquarters project is financed by the federal Rural Utility Service (RUS) and the loan is structured to minimize the impact on customer electric bills, according to the utility company. According to BRMEMC, paying for the new headquarters project only adds approximately \$1.49 per month to each customer's bill.

"As a member of the community we serve, where our families live and work and go to school, we are sensitive to the needs of that community, especially during challenging times like

these. Our management team and our financial consultants have spent months crunching the numbers in an effort to minimize the impact of an inevitable rate increase. After careful consideration we have decided to proceed with the construction of the new facility, one, because we desperately need the facility, two, because proceeding according to plan will minimize the impact on our bills and three, because of the needed stimulus to our local economy that this project will bring. We have already witnessed the benefits of building in a weak economy in terms of cost savings for site preparation, grading and construction. We also believe that with so many folks in our community out of work and unable to replace their former construction jobs, this is a perfect time to help put a few of these folks back to work, if even for a short period of time," the utility company stated in a prepared release on its Web site.

## GOP Meeting...continued from page 1A

made possible through the headquarters laboratory in Decatur and regional laboratories in Augusta, Columbus, Macon, Moultrie, Savannah, and Cleveland.

Leaders throughout the General Assembly sent a letter to Gov. Perdue stating their resolve to see the funding restored to these crime labs. The letter detailed reasons the labs should remain open, including the undue burden it would place on other regional labs throughout the state.

On another law enforcement front, Sheriff Clinton will unveil his Community Watch program, detailing how locals can get involved and become a part of the process to deter crime in their neighborhoods.

During the winter snow and ice events, it was alert community residents that helped the Towns County Sheriff's Office solve numerous burglaries in local subdivisions in the county.

The Community Watch

program has been a priority for Sheriff Clinton and entails many months of hard work and organization.

Democrats and Independents are encouraged to attend this meeting and hear important reports from these elected officials.

Daniels Steakhouse serves a very adequate buffet in the evening hours. Those attending this meeting may want to arrive early to enjoy fellowship and food under the same roof.

## Peter Pan just won't grow up

By Lisa Davis  
Towns County Herald  
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It's pretty obvious; Peter Pan will never grow up.

The boy from Neverland was the focus of attention on Saturday and Sunday as members of Hiwassee's Third Performing Arts Camp brought Pan back to Center Stage at Towns County Schools Auditorium.

The timeless play about the boy who would never grow up was the focus of this year's performing arts camp, arranged by the Performing Arts Camp's director, Robbie Dernehl.

The cast of more than 20 local youths practiced for two weeks to learn the play, which features a local flavor, at the Towns County Recreation Center. The musical theater camp concluded with the production of *Peter Pan – Our Way* at the Towns County schools' auditorium.

Dernehl's daughter inspired her to start the camps because there was nothing similar in the area to inspire young people in the way of performing arts.

Dernehl directs and produces the plays and instructs the group of young actors as they work tirelessly to learn their parts and songs for the prospective play.

"Children are capable of amazing things when we allow them to try," Dernehl said.

The production is entirely original with local youth and high school students working together to make the play a reality. The



Hiwassee's Third Performing Arts Camp performed in *Peter Pan, Our Way* over the weekend.

older kids play a huge role which includes set design, choreography and stage direction.

After a dozen songs and creative acting by the youthful players, it became creatively obvious that Peter Pan just continues to refuse to ever grow up.

The event was sponsored by United Community Bank of Hiwassee, Susan DeVries of State Farm Insurance and Dr. Andrew Linial. Set supplies were donated by Superior Paints, Pittsburgh Paints, Hiwassee Hardware and Anderson Store Hiwassee.

The Cast: Peter/Ryan Acree; Tink/Palmer Dernehl; Wendy/Kaitlyn Karcher; John/Connor Kelley; Michael/Keaton Helm; Mr. Darling/Zach

Richter; Loretta Darling/Danielle Ashe; Captain Hook/Garland Wells; Big Chief/Carter Helm; Smee/John Spaulding; Starkey/Travis Warren; Tinklet/Bazya Smith; Toonkie/Anna Maria Meer; Indian Brave/Alex Barrett; Pirate/Carter Helm; Little Pirate/Blythe Smith; Other Pirate/Isabella Porter; Tiger Lily/Amaira Barrett; Mermaid One/Joni Lyvers; Mermaid Two/Gracie Nix; Mermaid Three/Kaely Hamer; Mermaid Four/Erin Kelley; Fairy One/Danielle Ashe; Fairy Two/Cierra Meer; Fairy Three/Meredith Reynolds; Lost Kids – Scrunchy/Kennedi Henson; Zoom/Austin Jarrett; Itchy/Michelle Miller; Munchie/Jala Stamey; Tootles/Summer Swanson; The Croc/Zach Richter.

## Taste the Highlands...from page 1A

rector of the Towns County Family Connection, was there to greet guests with a smile as they came through the gate for the fifth annual event held last week at the Fairgrounds.

Rosser explained that all of the proceeds from the event benefit the people of Towns County through the Towns County Family Connection.

"Our mission is to improve the lives of families and children, and so the money that we raise through fundraisers, donations and grants goes back into making sure that our program remains successful," she said. "We have prevention programs in place, our goals are to prevent child abuse

and neglect and to promote school success. We do some other things, but this event is definitely our most successful."

The following is a list of winners for the Taste of the Southern Highlands Event:

Gourmet class: Best Entree - Brasstown Valley Resort; Best Dessert - Brothers at Willow Ranch; Most Unique - Brasstown Valley Resort; Best Use of Theme - Brothers at Willow Ranch.

International class: Best Entree - Crossroads; Best Dessert - Sweet Tooth; Most Unique - Crossroads; Best Use of Theme - Sweet Tooth.

Southern class: Best Entree - Cottage Deli; Best Dessert - Chophouse of Hiwassee; Most Unique - Brothers at Willow Ranch; Best Use of Theme - Cottage Deli.

Booth Display/Theme Category: Best Use of Theme - Antonietta's; Best Tabletop Presentation - Chophouse of Hiwassee; Most Unique Tabletop - Sweet Tooth. "Tipping the Scales" Award - Crossroads.

People's Choice Award - Doyle's Cedar Hill Restaurant.

Poster Contest Winner, Emily Williams, Towns County Elementary School; Honorable Mention - Amanda Garrett, TCES.

## Doughnuts pave way...from page 1A

County Republican Party is going to donate \$200 to the team on July 6 prior to its monthly meeting at Daniels Steakhouse in Hiwassee.

"Part of our mission is to make a difference in the lives of young people," said GOP Member Sam Fullerton. "We're just glad to make a dream come true for these young ladies."

Businesses around town, especially restaurants, have put up collection containers to help raise money for the team. At Mossy Bottoms Café a brightly colored box with a hole in the top is decorated with a collection

of team photos. The idea: get folks to donate and help the team get to Baxley.

Jasmine Forrester of the Lady Indians said they'll also be in town this weekend taking orders for boxes of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts as the team works to help defray the expenses of the six-hour drive, three-day trip to the state fast pitch softball tournament.

"It's only fair that we work hard and do everything possible to pay for the trip," she said. "Once we get there, we're going to do everything in our power to bring home a state title. That

would really be something for Towns County."

The Lady Indians earned the right to travel to Baxley after taking the best two-out-of-three games from Banks County in the District Title match up in Hiwassee.

The Ladies lost the first game 10-8, and were on the ropes in the second game 5-3 before roaring back and taking the momentum in the series. The Lady Indians won the second game 13-7 and capped that victory with a 24-2 three-inning romp to capture the District Title.