

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

www.townscountyherald.net

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

Publication Number 635540 Volume 88 Number 50

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Fiddle Queen reigns supreme at Fall Festival

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
Editor

The third time was a charm for the future of Bluegrass.

Ivy Phillips of Chapmansboro, Tennessee, is a multi-talented multi-instrumentalist, and she showed that Friday and Saturday at the Annual Georgia State Fiddlers' Convention at Anderson Music Hall.

She became the Georgia State Champion Dobro player, and her Bluegrass band, The Trailblazers, took the state title as well.

Phillips finished second in Dulcimer and Old Time Banjo, and she's also quite the dancer, claiming Second Place in Buck Dancing.

And yes, she claimed a couple of other state titles on Saturday.

She took First Place in

Junior Fiddle, and for the first time since 2014, the Georgia State Fiddlers' Convention has a Fiddle Queen.

Phillips, 15, has been playing the fiddle since she was 4 years old, and this was her third year competing at the Georgia State Fiddlers' Convention.

"I'm flattered and excited to be the Fiddle Queen," she said. "Winning this title really means a lot to me."

Phillips competed in a fiddle-off with Roy Crawford of Cullman, Alabama, this year's state champion as Senior Fiddler.

Playing Minor Swing, accompanied by the guitar play of Tyler Andal of Nashville, Tennessee, a confident and graceful Phillips finished off one of the top performances of her young career.

"I'm humbled and honored to be the Georgia State

Fiddle Queen," she said. "I'll do my best to get back here next year and defend my title."

Phillips is more than just your average kid from Tennessee. She is an all-around musician and a multi-state fiddle champion.

The young fiddler first became interested in the fiddle after watching her brother take lessons at a local college. Within the next year, at the age of 3, she began to take them, too.

Being homeschooled and working very hard from a young age, she started competing at local festivals and making many Bluegrass friends.

Today, at the age of 15, Phillips has won several state titles and plays in many bands.

She can play all the instruments in a Bluegrass band. After learning the fiddle, See *Fiddle Queen*, Page 6A



Ivy Phillips, 15, earned the title of Georgia State Fiddle Queen after dominating the competition field at the annual Georgia State Fiddlers' Convention at Anderson Music Hall. Pictured here with Tyler Andal. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Appalachian Brew, Que & Stew Festival arrives this weekend

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Calling all craft beer and downhome barbeque lovers this upcoming weekend on Saturday, Oct. 28, for the 2nd Annual Appalachian Brew, Que & Stew Festival at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

Featuring 23 different craft breweries from all across Georgia and North Carolina, such as Terrapin Beer Company out of Athens and Wicked Weed Brewing from Asheville, NC, this festival is sure to be the perfect cap for the month of October.

"This is our second year to host this type of festival at the Fairgrounds," said Hilda Thomas, Fairgrounds General Manager. "We have 75 different craft beers that are going to be available to try with the purchase of a ticket. It's



The 2017 Appalachian Brew, Que & Stew Festival is sure to quench a lot of thirst and fill more than a few bellies. Photo/Lily Avery

unlimited tasting, in advance for \$35 or you can buy it at the door for \$40.

"When you purchase a

ticket for the festival, you get a little beer glass as a souvenir that you can take with you to See *Appalacian Fest*, Page 6A

Hiawassee responds to EMC letter on franchise fee ordinance

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Blue Ridge must pay franchise fees to the City of Hiawassee, according to a letter from Hiawassee City Attorney Thomas Mitchell to BRMEMC General Manager Jeremy Nelms.

The EMC said in an Oct. 4 letter to the city that it objected to a recently passed franchise fee ordinance as written, which prompted Mitchell to write a letter addressing Nelms' concerns.

"Initially, your letter notes two facts that are self-evident from the law, specifically that the fee will be indicated on the customers' bills and that only city residents will pay," said Mitchell in his letter, dated Oct. 18. "I write,



Hiawassee City Hall

however, to respond to the other, inaccurate, contentions therein that have apparently created a misunderstanding." Mitchell goes on to

say that the city – via the city charter, state law, and even according to the Georgia Supreme Court – is authorized See *EMC*, Page 6A

Brown-Mauldin Bridge brings two families together for dedication

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Brown and Mauldin families of Towns County met at the lower end of Mt. Zion Baptist Church on Friday, Oct. 20, just south of the bridge on Georgia 17.

They gathered in friendship and in remembrance of the past, and together acted to bridge the present to days gone by that some in the group still remembered well.

There, on the side of the road, members of each family shared their history with the land, and enjoyed a special dedication of the bridge as the Brown-Mauldin Bridge.

Thanks to the efforts of State Sen. John Wilkinson and State Rep. Matt Gurtler, the bridge received the Brown-Mauldin designation as a resolution of the 2017



Members of the Brown and Mauldin families join to celebrate the dedication of the Brown-Mauldin Bridge the morning of Friday, Oct. 20. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly.

"The Brown and Mauldin families of Towns County have

a rich history and tradition of See *Brown-Mauldin*, Page 6A

13 percent of voters turn out during first week of early voting



Vote here, at the Towns County Board of Elections. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Ninety-two of Hiawassee's 731 registered voters cast ballots during the

first week of early voting, which works out to about 13 percent of the City's electorate.

City and early voting for the Hiawassee General and Special Elections continues See *Voting*, Page 6A

Wilkinson, Gurtler team up to name Berrong Bridge on Georgia 2

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Berrong family goes back many generations in Towns County and the Upper Hightower area, and on Friday, October 20, a few of those generations joined to commemorate the Berrong Bridge.

Upper Hightower Baptist Church served as the dedication grounds for the bridge, which is viewable from the church parking lot.

"It's good to be here this morning. I appreciate all of you coming out," said State Sen. John Wilkinson to everyone in attendance that Friday.

See *Berrong Bridge*, Page 6A



State Sen. John Wilkinson reading the resolution naming the Georgia 2 bridge the Berrong Bridge. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Bradshaw welcomes HRWC to talk about Nov. 4 cleanup

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw started the Oct. 17 county meeting in his usual manner, by calling the meeting to order and having a guest give an invocation.

Daren Osborn of Hiawassee delivered the invocation for the meeting, and Zoe Phillips led those gathered in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The commissioner welcomed Raleigh Keagan of the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, who spoke on the upcoming Lake Chatuge



Raleigh Keagan and Callie Moore of the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition in the Towns County Courthouse on Oct. 17. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

See *Fire HRWC*, Page 8A

2 Sections 16 Pages
Lake Levels
Blue Ridge 1,676.61
Chatuge 1,920.31
Nottely 1,765.68

Inside	
Arrests	2A
Chamber	3A
Church	4B
Classifieds	6B
Opinion	4A
Legals	7B
Obits	5B
Sports	2B

Football
Friday, October 27th
vs. Lakeview Academy
7:30 PM

9th District Announces Heating Help For Elderly
See page 1B

Food Pantry Italian Dinner Fund Raiser
See page 3A

Halloween on the Square
Oct. 31 @ 5:30