

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

www.townscountyherald.net

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

Publication Number 635540 Volume 88 Number 48

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

TCHS invites community to attend Homecoming festivities

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Homecoming is a favorite time of year for high schools everywhere – students get to vote on their peers to select Kings and Queens, and alumni return to reminisce about the good old days spent at alma maters.

In Towns County, where the high school holds both a Homecoming and a Basketball Homecoming, the fall event is an opportunity to thank the community at large for their support of the children year after year.

For the second year running, Towns County High will be hosting a Homecoming Carnival the day before the big Homecoming Game.

This year's carnival will be Thursday, Oct. 12, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the track in Frank McClure Memorial Stadium at the high school.

To highlight the special thank you to the community, all activities at the carnival will be provided free of charge, excluding concessions.

"We invite the whole community and all the schools and students," said TCHS Principal Dr. Connie Hobbs. "We have local clubs, organizations and sporting teams that will be setting up booths for games for students to play, and there will be prizes.

"We have three big inflatables, one for the elementary age kids and the other two are for older

students. We have a live band, Steven Phillips and Midnight Express, performing from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m."

Festivities on Thursday will begin with an introduction of the 2017 Homecoming Court, and the 2017 Football Homecoming King will be crowned.

After that, the carnival kicks in with at least 30 games, a petting zoo, music, free popcorn and snow cones, and plenty more family-friendly fun.

Food will be available for purchase from the school concessions stand, and an ice cream truck will also be onsite for those looking for a wider variety of frozen treats.

At 7:30 p.m., the school will light a bonfire for everyone

See Homecoming, Page 6A



2017 Girls and Boys Football Homecoming Court: Sara Beth Hobbs, Hayley Stowers, Jenna Cole, Taralee Arrowood, Hannah Whitehead, Sarah Bastian, Kyra Tallent, Lori Cox, Brooke Barrett, Tori Cox, Luke Woody, Aaron King, Cole Ledford, Andy Chambers, Taylor Osborn, Harold Cox, Jeremy Mays, Chase Williams, Zach Davenport and Logan Cowart. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Fall Festival arrives Friday at Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
Editor

Hiwassee – It's no secret – the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Fall Festival is all about music, local arts and crafts, and history.

On Friday, Oct. 13, the festival returns complete with crafts, demonstrations of old-timey ways, and a Pioneer Village full of vendors and exhibits, with folks anxious to show off why they're here.

"We have the Nergers' Tigers," said Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason. "They are going to have 12 Bengal Tigers, including two White Tigers. All of that's new. There will be three shows a day.

"Then we also have the helicopter rides on the weekends. We've had that before," she said. "Then we have some new arts and crafts.



Blacksmithing is one of the many live demonstrations of pioneer crafts available at the annual Fall Festival.

We have a great new pottery lady that's coming, Donna Kay from Helen, Georgia. She goes around the lake and picks

up driftwood and collects it and puts it on the pottery. It's so unique and different from

See Festival, Page 6A

Free concert for area veterans in Union County on Saturday



The Tunnel Rats performing recently in Murphy, North Carolina. Photo/Facebook

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
Editor

Blairsville – Save the date – Saturday, Oct. 14.

A Salute to America's Veterans Concert is scheduled for 6:20 p.m. at the Union County Fine Arts Center on that date.

The concert, sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Blairsville Chapter, features Sld Orr and The Tunnel Rats, who perform Vietnam era classic Bluegrass, Country Music and ballads.

Also performing, the Union County High School Chorus.

"(VVA President) Ray

Tiburksi and I were listening to a CD of the Tunnel Rats and we sat there and listened to it, and when it was finished, we said, 'we have to bring this to town,'" said Past VVA President Mike Priven. "That's how this concert started.

"We (VVA) were looking for another project to do to honor veterans, we knew we could use the venue (Fine Arts Center) for music," Priven said. "It just all clicked at once."

Priven said The Tunnel Rats are a unique collaboration of individuals from different decades whose paths crossed at a Bluegrass jam, changing their journey forever. Their

common love for music and desire to help others provided the energy and diverse input resulting in Vietnam: The Journey Continues.

"It is pretty much Bluegrass, Country Music, and ballads that (The Tunnel Rats) will perform," Priven said. "And, of course, the Union County High School Chorus will perform patriotic songs."

As for The Tunnel Rats, Libby Wilson is fulfilling a lifelong dream of writing songs, and performing in a Bluegrass band. As a talented songwriter, she paints a vivid and compelling picture with her

See Tunnel Rats, Page 6A

Bradshaw approves transportation agreement with Georgia DOT

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Now in its 10th year, the Towns County Transit continues to be uniquely positioned to help residents in need.

Too often, older or disabled residents don't have the transportation they require to venture out for doctor appointments or to buy groceries.

Enter Towns County Transit.

For just \$2 for the first mile, then 40 cents a mile after that, Towns County residents can go wherever in the county their errands might take them.

Each stop is \$2 and each trip home is \$2, with a trip to Blairsville costing \$6 each way.

The transit program features two 10-seat, handicap



Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw signing a contract with the state to continue providing the Towns County Transit System. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

accessible vans, and is available thanks to a matching grant program administered through the Georgia Department of Transportation, which acts as

a conduit for federal money to enter the county on a split local funding basis.

Towns County Sole
See Transportation, Page 6A

Early voting begins Monday in Hiwassee elections

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Early voting for the Hiwassee General and Special Elections will begin Monday, Oct. 16.

Early voting will continue each week for three weeks, running between Oct. 16 and Friday, Nov. 3, each day from 8:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Polls will be open during lunchtime.

Both early voting and Nov. 7 Election Day voting will take place inside the Towns County Board of Elections and Registration Office, which is adjoined to the Towns County Civic

Center just down from the Towns County Courthouse.

Nov. 7 Election Day voting will run from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All voting will take place on the county's voting machines.

Those interested in

voting on an absentee ballot will need to inquire at the Towns County Board of Elections Office.

Only eligible Hiwassee voters will be voting in this election, and the board office invites people to call ahead to

See Voting, Page 6A



An early voting sign outside the Towns County Courthouse during last year's election cycle.

Hiwassee highlights holiday plans in regular meeting

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The City of Hiwassee recently delivered letters to local businesses inviting them to participate in the yearly Halloween Trick or Treat Festival on the Square.

Mayor Pro Tem Anne Mitchell discussed those plans in the Oct. 3 regular city council meeting.

The event will take place on the evening of Halloween, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and local businesses will be setting up booths or tables with the dual purpose of advertising their businesses and handing out candy to costumed trick-or-treaters.

City Hall has promised a great fun, music, prizes and treats to mark the occasion, and as usual, there will be



Hiwassee Mayor Pro Tem Anne Mitchell. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

a costume contest for the different age groups: 0-2 years old, 3-5 years old, 6-8 years old and 9-10 years old.

During the Halloween event, the square will be closed

on three sides to safeguard pedestrians.

Mitchell briefly touched on the upcoming "Light Up Hiwassee," which is the

See Hiwassee, Page 6A

'Dope Man' speaks to drug court graduates, participants

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

BLAIRSVILLE – Drug court graduation ceremonies are always emotionally uplifting occasions.

There's renewed hope in the potential for normal lives post-addiction, and real tears are shed by the graduates, their families and friends, and by current participants in attendance who know that their time will come to graduate if



Tim "Dope Man" speaking to drug court graduates and participants on Thursday, Oct. 5, in the Union County Courthouse. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

See Ryan, Page 6A

2 Sections 20 Pages
Lake Levels
Blue Ridge 1,677.92
Chatuge 1,920.88
Nottely 1,766.89

Inside
Arrests 2A
Chamber 9A
Church 6B
Classifieds 8B
Opinion 4A
Legals 9B
Obits 7B
Sports 2B

Football
HOMECOMING!
Fri. Oct 13th
vs. Athens Christian
7:30 PM

United We Stand
See page 3B

Free Food Distribution
N. Mt. Zion Church of God
See page 6B

Fire and Smoke Alarm Boot Drive
Sat. Oct. 14th
See page 2A