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shake your hand and make you an honorary member of the WWII Association. We love you and appreciate you for what you've done for the WWII Vets."

Kendall recognized WWII Veterans who had "made the ultimate sacrifice." He read from a list of fallen soldiers who had died in service to their country.

"These men didn't make it back," he said.

Kendall and Johnson presented each honored Veteran with a copy of the signed Proclamation and a WWII ribbon and pin. The ones who could walk up and receive them did so and the ones who couldn't had them delivered to them.

"This is a WWII Ribbon and Pin; wear it with pride in honor of what you have done for this country," said Johnson.

How do you say 'thank you' to those who sacrificed so much for these great states that make up the greatest country in the world, the United States of America? Once you acknowledge how remarkable it is to have the freedoms and opportunities that U.S. citizens have and the sacrifices made for it, you must conclude that the legacy of all who have served this great country must be honored. The sacrifices of the men and women of the armed forces

are beyond measure. They paid with their lives and their youth to ensure that the United States remains a free and prosperous nation. It is important that these men and women, living and fallen, are honored and recognized for their service in the armed forces of the United States, especially the WWII Vets who are rapidly decreasing in number in this country.

Following the parade, the honored Veterans were transported to Anderson Music Hall where front row seats had been reserved for them for the 2 p.m. Marty Stuart Concert. He recognized them for their great service to this country.

The WWII Vets honored and recognized as the Grand Marshals of the parade include: Robert Crawford, Thomas Sullivan, Art Kiser, and Frantz Goring, U.S. Army Air Corps; Harold Nicholson, Vaughn Barrett, Martin Burrell, Leo Hesson, Lake Hogsed, Vance Nichols, Esco Wimpy, Carl Kimsey, Edwin Berrong, and Ernest Noblet, U.S. Army; David Wallace, Steve Holmes, Harold Kimsey, Tom Finklin, Clyde Adams, Phillip Paul, Leon West, Todd Kimsey, Carl Cooney, C.E. "Bud" Johnson, Jack Van-Nus, Martin Morrissy, and Joe Chastain, US Navy; Don Hawald, Joel Hatchell, and Thomas Reid, US Marine Corps.

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a nation," said Greenwood as he closed his magnificent show.

These stars of Country Music lit up the stage just as the Midway lit up the night sky at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

Anyone who attends these concert series will not

be disappointed as Townsend and Greenwood are examples of just how fortunate our area is to have the Fairgrounds and its Music Hall.

Thank you Lions Club for your tireless effort in bringing us the Fair and these fabulous performers.

Elections ...continued from page 1

Kendall has been an outspoken opponent of the tax, which would raise Towns County's sales tax to 8 cents on the dollar.

Kendall has organized the local fight against the tax because he believes it hits the poor where it hurts the most, in the pocketbook.

Local voters must decide if their 13-county Georgia Mountains Regional Commission district will approve a 1-cent sales tax to fund transportation projects over the next 10 years.

Opposition is stiff and mounting against the referendum.

At the recent Hall County Republicans meeting, participants voted 139-26 against the referendum in a straw poll vote, the Towns County Herald has learned.

The newspaper itself has come out against the referendum because of its potential impact on the poor and the disproportionate balance of power held by voters in larger counties in the district.

The Primary also will determine the Republican nom-

inee for the vacant 9th Congressional District seat.

Republicans Doug Collins, of Gainesville, Roger Fitzpatrick, of Cleveland and Martha Zoller, of Gainesville seek that honor.

Jody Cooley, a Hall County Democrat and former Gainesville City School Board member is unopposed and already has his party's nomination.

Also on the Democrat and Republican ballots, straw poll questions that are non-binding.

Early voting continues through this week. Precinct voting for the Primary is scheduled for July 31 and is scheduled from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. that day.

The Towns County Herald encourages registered local voters to cast their ballots in the 2012 Primary Election.

The newspaper will hold for the election results and go to press early Wednesday morning.

Visit our Website Tuesday night to view the results.

The Herald will have a special breakdown of the election in its Aug. 1st edition.

Parade ...continued from page 1

For a few minutes, you would have thought it was 1931 as more than two-dozen refurbished Fords rolled down the streets of Towns County. These cars were absolutely beautiful. The paint was so rich that it looked as though you could put your finger right inside the body of the car itself. New tires, chrome and engines that purred like a litter of kittens enhanced the moment these antiques passed by. Many other antique cars were there as well, along with some later model cars. They all had that showroom floor finish and were an absolute joy to see.

As 2-year-old Caitlin Cowart announced: "here come the horses!," actually what she saw first were some of the biggest and most handsome mules ever. Anyone who has an admiration for the hardest working animal in the mountains could tell that these mules were magnificent.

The mules knew they were being admired and they strutted their stuff as the parade rolled on.

Miss Cowart was correct because following the mules



The parade attracted thousands along Hwy. 76 in downtown Hiawassee. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

were 35 people on horseback.

It is always enjoyable to watch the grandeur of mounted horses and to wish that you were in the saddle. Horses and riders alike glided by like the waves of the ocean blue.

The parade ended at the Fairgrounds and that left the spectators wishing it could have

gone on.

From the start of the opening siren to the last horse bringing up the rear, the parade was exquisite. Hats off to all those who had anything to do with putting it together, but most importantly, lets remember the Grand Marshals of it all, the Towns County WWII

veterans. We can't thank them enough for what they mean to our country and to Towns County because without their sacrifice this parade would never have been possible.

As Lee Greenwood put it on the opening night of the Fair: God bless you veterans and God bless the U.S.A.

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they raced against the heat and humidity of the day.

They also seemed to be dragging their parents toward the wonderful smells of the various food vendors where they had the opportunity to purchase a wide variety of eats. One of the more popular booths with the kids and adults alike was the Lions Club's funnel cakes (regular and red velvet). They also were selling smoked turkey legs which seemed to be a big hit with the men as they sold out quickly.

Jenny Markum of Virginia Beach said, the funnel cakes are what makes the trip worthwhile.

"We especially like the red velvet, but we buy one of each and share them," she said.

Markum was there with her husband Jim and daughters Kayla and Meghan.

"I got to ride the horses," said a very excited 7-year-old Meghan, who had a mouthful of red velvet funnel cake as she spoke.

Another popular booth, also run by the Lions Club, offered fried catfish, sweet potato fries, cole slaw, and fried green tomatoes. There were so many delectable choices of food available including smoked trout, barbecue sandwiches, foot-long hot dogs, homemade soups, grilled hamburgers, and so much more. The possibilities were endless.

The trail that lead to the beautiful Anderson-Paris Park was definitely a worthwhile walk with its beautiful pond and fountain that shot up so high towards the sky, you might think you were in a city park except for the rustic music stage. That stage featured live performances daily, and is accompanied by mountain-made benches, gorgeous landscaping, and picnic tables to "sit a spell." It was designed if you needed to take a break from all the walking or just wanted to soak in the natural beauty of the area.

This same trail would eventually guide you to the Exhibit Hall with so many interesting items to peruse, including homemade quilts,



Music is in the air at Anderson-Paris Park and the 62nd Georgia Mountain Fair. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

books, jams and jellies, and a large selection of antique farm equipment that was such an important part of Towns County's heritage in this the agriculture belt. One could easily spend hours here.

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC also put on an exhibit and demonstration of electrical safety.

There was also the trail that meandered through the Pioneer Village where you felt like you had stepped back in time as folks had the opportunity to sample some old-fashioned churned ice cream, fresh squeezed lemonade, kettle corn, fresh pork skins, or fried apple pies.

They also had the opportunity to witness soap and hominy making, board splitting, and saw milling demonstrations. Pioneer Village also boasted an authentically recreated mountain town of days gone by with a one-room schoolhouse, a mercantile store, a corn crib, and a smokehouse. There were several mountain homes that had been relocated to the Pioneer Village and gave visitors a feel for the way it was "back in the day," as 14-year-old Jamey McCann of Nashville described it.

Pioneer Village allowed a glimpse into Towns County's rich cultural heritage and history as visitors walked the walk of days gone by.

The Craft Village included the work of many very talented artisans from around the country offering a huge selection of items including hand-fashioned

jewelry, baskets, furniture, art work, and knives.

A huge attraction was the many talented performers at the Anderson Music Hall with two shows daily. You had to admire the stamina that these very talented artists demonstrated as they gave their all in both shows.

Friday local legend, Tommy Townsend and Waymore's Outlaws put on a spectacular performance.

"He has quite a following," said Fairgrounds' General Manager Hilda Thomason. With about 2,400 tickets sold, that might be an understatement. Lee Greenwood also performed and touched the heartstrings of the general public with his famous *God Bless the USA*.

Saturday Liepers Fork, a Blue Grass band, opened for Marty Stuart. They offered a whole lot of 'pickin' and grinnin', as they demonstrated their fancy strumming skills on the banjo, mandolin, fiddle, bass, and guitar.

They are also very talented singers who brought great excitement to the stage when they performed *Jolene* and *King of the Road*.

Marty Stuart and The Fabulous Superlatives came out and wowed the crowd with their high energy entertainment and quick wit as they played and sang their way into the hearts of all their many fans. Stuart opened with *Skip a Rope* and *I'm Tempted*. He performed an awesome mandolin solo that

had the fans mesmerized. They performed Blue Grass, Country, and Gospel music and did The Hall proud.

Stuart also recognized the many WWII Vets that had front row seats for the afternoon performance. WWII Veteran Bud Johnson said, "This is the greatest thing anybody has done for us," while B.J. Davis (wife of WWII Veteran Webb Davis) said, "This is the first time I've ever been on the front row."

The GMF has always observed the Sabbath with their Sunday events and this year was no different. Jerry Goff brought an inspiring interdenominational message to all who chose to attend the 11 a.m. service and the afternoon provided the good old-fashioned Gospel sounds of The McKameys, The Primitive Quartet, and The Servers.

Each group brought their own unique sound of Gospel Music through their inspirational songs and folks responded with their hands raised high in the air in praise and worship.

A very fitting way to close out the Georgia Mountain Fair's opening weekend.

The Georgia Mountain Fair is a non-profit organization, a project of the Towns County Lions Club, Thomason emphasized.

"We want to thank all our hard-working volunteers and the Lions Club. We couldn't do it without them," she said.

For more information on upcoming fair events, check out their website at www.GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com.

Pinocchio was a smash hit



Denahi Sanchez of Hayesville as Pinocchio and Eloise Whisenhunt of Young Harris as Figaro

June 23 and 24, the Peacock Playhouse was filled with fun and hysterical laughter, as 29 children performed *The Amazing Adventures of Pinocchio and Friends*. The show was the grand finale of a 2 week performing arts camp, put on by Robbie Dernehl, a local children's director. This was the fifth summer in a row that Robbie offered the camp in this area, but the 1st year it was held at the Peacock Playhouse. Children came from Blairsville, Hiawassee, Young Harris, Hayesville, Warne, Duluth, and even Los Angeles, CA and Clearwater, FL, to be in this unique camp.

Palmer Mireille, the 2012 North Georgia Idol, starred as the Pink Fairy, Denahi Sanchez, 6 years old of Hayesville, starred as Pinocchio, Dustin Anderson of Hiawassee was Jiminy, and Zach Richter played a fantastic Grempe. They were joined by 26 other cast members aged 3 years old through 15.

"I was thrilled to be able to do it at Peacock," Robbie said, "because my goal is for children to experience all the aspects of real musical theatre, and there couldn't be a more ideal place to hold it."

The production is unique in Robbie writes the play to fit the children she has, so everyone has a speaking part. This year's show was mainly a Pinocchio story, with a little Toy Story flair, and a huge underwater scene with talking sea creatures, trying to help Pinocchio find his father. The two-hour show kept everyone's attention, young and old, and showcased many singers with 10 solos and three big group song and dance numbers.

Ms. Robbie is looking into the possibility of a Sleep-Away Camp for next year and would love to get feedback on this idea. If you attended the play, she'd also like any comments you may have. You may call or text her at 706-897-1041. NTJ0125.F35SH

Benefit for Charles Gibson

There will be a benefit for Charles Gibson on Saturday, August 11, 2012 to help with medical costs in his fight against cancer. The benefit will be held at Many Forks Baptist Church located in Gumlog. The benefit will begin with supper in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. Plates will be available for a donation. Then at 7 p.m. the church will open for a benefit singing. Donations will also be taken there. Special singers will be The O'Neil Family & Brighter Day.

Please come out for either or both events and help a brother in need. If you have any questions please call Ronnie Abernathy at 706-897-5369. NJ0125.Z6JCA

Benefit Turkey Shoot

August 4, 2012 a Turkey Shoot will be held for Troy and Linda Phillips to assist with medical expenses for cancer treatment. It will start at 9 a.m., seven miles south on 19/129 to Stover's Shooting Range. Everyone who enjoys shooting is encouraged to attend. NJ0125.Z6JCA

City, BOE work toward sewer improvements for Schools

By Libby Shook
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The City of Hiawassee is working with the Towns County Board of Education regarding Hiawassee's proposed Water and Sewer Improvement Project which will benefit both entities. According to City Manager Rick Stancil, "The City of Hiawassee will construct a minimum 200,000 gallon water storage tank, install water and sewer lines, and replace the water intake structure at the city's water treatment plant. These improvements are necessary to provide adequate water, sewer, and fire protection to new businesses and the Towns County School System."

The total project cost is \$1,030,000 with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) providing \$300,000 in an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant, One Georgia providing \$300,000, and the city providing \$200,000 in SPLOST funds. Towns County School Su-



Melissa Williams
perintendent Melissa Williams stated, "Plans are under negotiation to locate the concrete water tank on school property above existing water tanks."

The City will run a ten-inch water main from Highway 76 along school property to access the new water tank. The City will also install two additional fire hydrants for fire protection for the schools.

"There will be minimal ground disruption during the construction phase. The tank will be painted with school colors and school logo," said Stancil.

Both the Towns County School Board and the City of

Hiawassee are in agreement that the new tank is needed to ensure adequate water storage for fire protection and drinking water reserves for the schools as well as the Georgia Baptist Complex.

"These improvements to Hiawassee utilities will also encourage expansion of new and existing businesses including Chatuge Mountain Enterprises and the proposed Mountain View Apartments Multifamily Complex," said Stancil.

The combined water and sewer project will total over one million dollars with more than half funded by state and federal sources. Stancil reports that this funding will also allow the City to replace the current water intake at the Hiawassee Water Treatment Plant. This intake was originally installed as a temporary component which has now been in place for over thirty years.

There will be more information forthcoming as this is only Phase 1 of the negotiations between the City of Hiawassee and the Board of Education.