

# Market...continued from Page 1A

everybody grew gardens, everybody fed themselves.

"Now, the younger generation doesn't know where it comes from, because we've let them get away from it," Riley said. "My goal is to get back to that. I do a lot of work with the FFA, trying to get those hands in the dirt, so they'll at least know where the food comes from."

Additionally, Riley sees the Farmers Market as another way that the younger generation can see the process of farm to table produce.

Riley said that recently, the Towns County Farmers Market joined the "Georgia Grown" program. This is a statewide program that promotes farmers and agricultural products. Anyone can go to the Website - georgiagrown.com.

Once there, they can click on the link: "Farmers Markets," search for the Towns County Farmers Market, or for a Farmers Market in the North Georgia area. This is another marketing tool that can help travelers and vacationers find our Farmers Market, according to Riley.

Riley was quick to thank Commissioner Kendall for his support in getting the Farmers Market started.

He said that he and Mr. Kendall started discussing the Farmers Market concept for Towns County a couple of years ago and that the Commissioner has been very supportive ever since, because "he knows that this is helping the county."

There was something for everyone on Opening Day at the Farmers Market.

Michael and Haley Barrett brought tomatoes, zucchini, yellow squash, popping corn, and cauliflower to the Market opening day.

The Barretts completely sold out of their stock. In the future, they will have okra, bell peppers, potatoes and the following types of corn: bi-color, peaches and cream, and silver queen corn.

Chris and Mandy Swett from Wildflower Hollow Farm in Hiawassee offered Jewelweed Soap (good for soothing the skin after shaving), Black Walnut Cake, black walnuts, new potatoes, free range eggs, and smoked ham and cheddar muffins.

Chris Swett said they will offer more garden fresh vegetables, such as tomatoes, beans, sweet corn, and sugar snap peas as they come in.

He added that he and his wife are "very excited about the opportunity to sell their produce and hand made items at the Farmers Market."

Bob Lamm, Towns County Extension Leadership Committee member, brought some beautiful turnips to sell from his garden, as well as some carpenter bee traps that Farmers Market Chairperson Judy Caines said "are a must have around her house."

Caines said that she has about six of these traps hanging around the eaves of her home and catches five or so carpenter bees per trap per day during the nesting season.

Lamm said that he will be bringing "other produce to the market based on what grows." Lamm has 10 raised beds at home and said that he had to "bring the turnips to the Farmers Market to make room for the corn."

Steve and Patti Clark from Cupid Falls Farm, brought a family of Alpacas - a pair and a 7-week-old young alpaca. Farmers Market attendees young and old alike enjoyed the opportunity to pet and visit with these sweet and gentle creatures.

In addition, the Clarks offered alpaca wool socks and scarves, handmade lip balms, and handmade soaps such as honey oatmeal, orange patchouli and beeswax for sale. Cupid Falls Farm plans to alternate weekends at the Market with another local Alpaca Farm.

Towns County Extension Leadership Committee Member Maggie Oliver brought several fragrant herbs to the Farmers Market such as rosemary, chocolate mint, spearmint; Larkspur; nasturtium; and several varieties of lettuce that were grown in the Demonstration Garden right behind the Towns County Courthouse.

The produce from this garden is 100 percent organic, according to Oliver.

"All of the proceeds from sales go back into continuing the Demonstration Garden and toward Farmers Market operations," said Oliver, who added that she has also sold raffle tickets for rain barrels to benefit these causes.

Many vendors reported brisk sales, and Caines invited all to come out and see all of the vendors' wonderful offerings at upcoming Markets.

Meanwhile, all vendors said that they will be bringing different fresh vegetables to the Market as new crops come in, which resulted in the only bump in the road in the whole day - a spirited corn debate between Riley and Barrett.

Riley just plain insisted his corn will be better, while Barrett insisted his corn will prevail.

Riley laughed sarcastically and said that his corn is sweeter, genetically speaking, and can be eaten straight off the cob. Barrett just shook his head.

Be sure to return to the Farmers Market in July to help resolve this debate.

The Towns County Farmers Market is open Fridays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through the fall.

There is no fee for vendors and admission is free to the public.

# Shriners...continued from Page 1A

one of them has left there with a dry eye.

"We do all our fundraising out of love and these ceremonies can produce a large amount of donations, as high as \$50,000 in many cases. It is unbelievable how much money it takes to run these hospitals and we raise tens of millions of dollars annually across the nation to cover that cost.

"But, we couldn't do it without the help of towns like this where we can go and do our thing; raise money" explained Mullaly. "Every dollar we raise goes to help the children."

The children will not be the only ones that benefit from the annual visit, as many businesses around the City of Hiawassee and Towns County reaped rewards from the Shriners' visit.

Resorts and accommodations, restaurants, grocery stores, retail outlets and many small businesses got to feed on some needed revenue from the Shriners' stay and that really helps those businesses cover their annual expenses, not to mention the sales tax revenues to the city and county.

The event was a win-win for everybody, but mostly for the children who receive care at a Shriners' Hospital.

"We are so glad that the Shriners came back to Hiawassee again this year," Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis said.

"This Ceremonial brings a lot to our community and we try and make them comfortable by providing them with a nice area to meet," she said. "We welcome their visit when they come and we enjoy the time we get to spend with them as our guest," Mayor Mathis said while accepting thanks from the Potentate of the Yaarab Shrine, Chuck Pittman.

The Shriners were busy while they were in town. They opened the weekend with a



reception at 5 p.m. on Thursday night at the Ramada on Lake Chatuge with the main activities continuing over the weekend.

Friday morning, the annual charity golf tournament teed off at the beautiful Brass-town Valley Resort golf course. More than 60 golfers enjoyed the great condition of the course while helping out the worthy cause.

The Poker Run left the Ridges Marina at 11 a.m. and Lake Chatuge welcomed them with some smooth water and gorgeous scenery as the run raised more than \$8,340 to add to the donation kitty.

Friday night was the great feast and celebration at the Towns County Beach as the patrons and their guests enjoyed a Luau complete with live music from the Entertainer Unit, which included Jerry Braswell and James "Chief" Childers from the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds stage band.

Childers was honored by Potentate Pittman for his service and received the Crown of Honor for raising enough

money during his career to reach the required 175,000 points. Childers received a standing ovation.

The activities concluded on Saturday morning as the membership gathered in Anderson Music Hall for the actual Yaarab Shrine Ceremonial

At 2 p.m., they held their annual Parade complete with all the spectacles folks have come to expect from the Shriners' Parade.

Again it was all about the children as the character of the Shriners was demonstrated once more with their clowns and hilarious vehicles. They threw candy and interacted with the kids lining the parade route as their devotion to the children was on display.

Potentate Pittman took a minute at the Luau on Friday night to thank the Hiawassee and Towns County governments and their personnel, the Towns County Sheriff's Office, Hiawassee Police Department and the Towns County EMS and Fire and Rescue units for their assistance, friendship and

hospitality. "We come here for our gathering and we are treated so nice by everybody, the people, government, law enforcement, the EMS guys, and Fire and Rescue," Pittman said. "We love the lake, the area is just absolutely beautiful and we appreciate all that you do to help us in this endeavor.

"This is a serious time for us as we raise money, but it is also a time of fellowship and we couldn't ask for a nicer place than right here in Hiawassee to do that.

"Besides, where can we go and get a place like Lake Chatuge and her mountains as the backdrop for our activities," Pittman said. "On behalf of the children and their families who benefit from this coming together, and the membership of Yaarab Shrine, we say thank you to Hiawassee and Towns County. We love you and we look forward to returning here again in the future. Thank you and God Bless."

# Flag ...continued from Page 1A

County High School on State Highway 76.

Baptist Retirement Community of Georgia President Peggy Beckett was present to welcome everyone and deliver the opening statement.

Tom Jones, a resident of the park, gave the dedicating prayer and Ashley Watson sang the National Anthem to start the actual flag raising.

The North Georgia Honor Guard fired their weapons to demand the attention of everyone that the flag was being raised and to honor those who so bravely fought for our nation.

It was a moving tribute to the great Red, White and Blue, which now flies in the new park right above the Georgia Flag, the Christian Flag and



North Georgia Honor Guard dedicates a new flag last week at Hiawassee Park. Photo/Joe Collins

the MIA-POW Flag.

Hiawassee Park is a development of the Georgia Baptist Convention for adults over 50 years of age.

It is not limited to people

of the Baptist faith and is open to anyone who qualifies.

Phase I is complete and Phase II is under construction. These two phases contain 24 units total.

Phase III will be located across Highway 76 and will have as many as 36 units, of which approximately one third will be assisted living units.

It is becoming and will become a big contributor to the economy of Hiawassee and Towns County as the Phases become complete and the units filled.

The residents rent the units, which generate tax revenues, and they shop at the local business establishments, which boost private business.

It also provides work for the local citizens fortunate enough to get it.

The park and its residents are a win-win for the area and they showed their true colors last Friday as they honored our national symbol.

# CRCT ...continued from Page 1A

ers finished 12th, fifth graders finished 11th, sixth graders finished eighth, seventh graders finished seventh, and eighth graders finished seventh.

Towns took second place honors in fifth and seventh grade Science. The other grades didn't fair as well either. Third graders finished 10th, fourth graders finished sixth, sixth graders finished fourth, and eighth graders finished sixth.

Towns took first in fifth

grade Social Studies, and third place in fourth grade Social Studies. TCMS took top region honors in seventh and eighth grade Social Studies with region scores of 97.92 and 93.27 respectively.

Third graders finished 13th, and sixth graders finished sixth.

"The best news in the 2013 CRCT report is that more of our students are exceeding the standards," said State School

Superintendent Dr. John Barge. "Teachers are doing a great job teaching the more rigorous Georgia Performance Standards and they are to be applauded for raising expectations for all students.

"While I am pleased to see an increase in the majority of the exams, I am concerned about those where we saw decreases or no change at all," Dr. Barge said. "We began teaching the Common Core Georgia Per-

formance Standards this school year, and we know the curriculum and the tests are more difficult, so we must continue to focus on successfully implementing the new standards.

"We have been offering, and will continue to offer, teachers the necessary professional development to ensure they are equipped to deliver these new, more rigorous standards and to prepare our students for the next step," Dr. Barge said.

# BOE ...continued from Page 1A

Gibson has started a new club at the high school that has the enthusiasm and school pride spreading like wildfire. Gibson presented his vision for the future to the board with the announcement of his new Student Advisory Leadership Team (SALT).

"I handpicked 16 kids in grades 9 through 12 that I thought would be good leaders in this school," Gibson said. "I want their input and I value their input."

According to Gibson, the students discuss ideas and changes that they would like to see at the school. They met the last week of school and have set up meetings over the summer.

Dr. Darren Berrong's Middle School report was centered around the recent TCMS CRCT test scores. At the time, no scores were available from other school across the state.

"Without the comparisons, I have no idea what these numbers mean," Dr. Berrong said. "I don't feel like we did as well as we did last year, but we do have a new curriculum in math and reading.

"We have a large Special Education population in the sixth grade and that factored in," he said. "Out of 90 students, we have 12 students with disabilities, so that's a

very large percentage for that group."

Dr. Berrong continued by noting that seventh graders' numbers were "pretty good overall," and that eighth grade Reading teacher Julie Thompson and outgoing Social Studies teacher Pete Boyd continued to post some of the highest test scores in the state.

"The only student who didn't pass from (Thompson's) class is over at the Alternative School. They have never stepped foot in our building," Dr. Berrong said. "And in eighth grade Social Studies, Pete Boyd has done it again. His scores are ridiculous and should be number one in RESA again.

"I wouldn't want to be Connie Hobbs (Boyd's replacement), but she requested it," Dr. Berrong said.

In other business, the board voted unanimously to approve the \$11.624 million budget for Fiscal Year 2014.

The budget has been posted in the Towns County Herald and passed, as advertised.

"We've been working on the budget and it's been duly advertised," Williams said. She then opened the floor for questions, no one had an issue, and the budget was approved with the endorsement of all five board members.

Dorothy Samson and Vir-

ginia Hunter were approved as the BOE representatives for the Towns County Library Board.

Samson and Hunter will replace Irma Nichols, who has served her maximum of two terms, while according to Williams, Jane Farrell has indicated that she would like to be replaced.

Towns County High School students Joey Mitchell and Jonathan Barrett were named as substitute custodian summer helpers. The two will be helping out with the summer floor waxing that is taking place throughout the school.

Rodney Thomas, who came highly recommended by Towns County Head Football Coach Blair Harrison and Gibson, will serve as a community football assistant coach for the 2013 Indians' football season.

"He has experience working with the youth football and has helped out for several years," Williams said.

Brent Lance also came highly recommended by Gibson and Williams to teach science at the high school.

Lance was unanimously approved by the board for the 2013-14 school year.

The BOE's training plan for 2014 was passed and according to Williams, the nine hours that must be completed by the board will be broken

into three sessions. Analyzing student achievement data, curriculum and instructional leadership, and finance and budget training for the board will be the courses covered during the sessions next year.

At the end of the meeting, Williams took the board on a tour of the school to give them a first-hand look at the waxing job that was currently taking place.

"While Roy (Perren) is here, I want him to show us the Elementary School gym floor that is being replaced and I want everyone to take a look at the quality that our custodial staff is turning out," Williams said.

Changes are being made from every angle at Towns County Schools, and everyone from the students and teachers, up to the administration and the board is anxious to get the 2013-14 school year underway.

"I'm very pleased with the changes and the new staff that we've assembled," Gibson said. "I already have teachers asking me for keys to the school so they can get into their rooms and get to work.

"I'm excited about this upcoming year and we have a lot of good things happening," Gibson said.

# Lucy ...continued from Page 1A

has "lived a good, clean life."

"I have always tried to eat the right things," she said.

Lucy has enjoyed excellent health all of her life - the only setback being a heart attack at age 94. As a result, she takes one prescription. This is the only medication that she takes.

She has excellent hearing and requires no hearing aids or glasses. She has an ever-present twinkle in her lovely blue eyes, and a positive outlook.

Lori McClure, Director of Marketing, Brasstown Manor, said "Lucy is one of those special ladies that always has a smile on her face. I have known Lucy for several years and have

never seen her unhappy. She is a delight to be around. We are so blessed to have her at Brasstown Manor. Happy Birthday, Lucy! We love you!"

Lucy said she plans to have fun on her birthday. Additionally, she said that her son, Sal, won't tell her exactly what is planned for her special day, but he has said that there will be a "big party at his house, a big party at the church, and a big party at the Senior Center."

McClure added "and we'll celebrate here at Brasstown Manor!"

We hope you do live to be at least 110, Lucy. You are a rare gem, indeed.