

## Millage...continued from page 1A

gest has declined even further from 2010, meaning that a mill tax levy doesn't bring in what it used to anymore.

"Property is assessed at 40 percent; property values are down and naturally, that means we bring in less money for the same amount of millage from a year ago," he said.

One mill is equal to \$1 for each \$1,000 in assessed property value; Towns County assesses its property at 40 percent.

Commissioner Kendall said the county will continue to keep a tight lid on spending as the local

economy continues to recover from the worst economic times since 1933.

The commissioner tipped his hat to the Towns County Tourism Authority and local Chamber of Commerce for their tireless efforts in scheduling events to attract visitors, which are beginning to reverse the decline in sales tax revenues.

"This year's sales tax revenues to date show a \$60,000 increase over last year," Commissioner Kendall said. "These increased events and visitors also are giving a much needed boost

to the local restaurants, lodging facilities, and other local merchants."

The Towns County Board of Education recently approved its millage rate, which remained the same at 4.784 mills.

"The Board of Education whole-heartedly agrees with Commissioner Kendall, now is not the time to raise taxes," said Towns County Schools BOE Chair Emily Phillips.

The cities of Hiawassee and Young Harris followed suit by holding the line on their local governments' millage rates—2.270 mills and 2.493 mills respectively.

## Indictments...continued from page 1A

ments and reckless conduct, Towns County Superior Court records show.

Nowak is accused of providing Moore with methadone, which led to his death. According to the indictment, Nowak knew Moore would ingest the drug that led to the cause of his death, thus, the charge of felony murder.

According to the indictment, Nowak lied to Hiawassee Police Officer Arvel Walls by reporting that his prescription medications had been stolen on February 7<sup>th</sup>. According to Towns County Superior Court records, the drugs were not stolen.

He also is accused of lying to Towns County sheriff's Detective Lt. Brian Wilson by making false statements regarding his whereabouts on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>.

Nowak faces a charge of reckless conduct for disregarding a substantial and unjustifiable risk that his distribution of methadone to Moore and Marlana Regina Maney could cause bodily harm or endanger their safety contrary to the laws of Georgia.

Also, in relation to the death of Moore, Billy Joe Derreberry was indicted by the Towns County Grand Jury on three counts including distribution of a controlled substance, false statements and reckless conduct, Towns County Superior Court records show.

Derreberry is accused of distribution of oxycodone and morphine, both, Schedule II controlled substances, to Marlana Regina Maney, a 27-year-old resident of Murphy, NC, who was with Moore at the time of his death.

Maney spent two days in Intensive Care in relation to the consumption of the illegal drugs, Towns County Sheriff's Reports show.

Derreberry also is accused of lying to Towns County sheriff's detectives about the time of his departure from the residence where Moore and Maney were at when the alleged crime took place on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.

The reckless conduct charge against Derreberry comes from disregarding a substantial and unjustifiable risk that his distribution of methadone to Marlana Regina Maney and causing bodily harm and/or endanger her safety contrary to the laws of Georgia.

Towns County Superior Court records show that other indictments include:

Daryl Thomas Boykin, 41, of Clermont, and John Steve McDonald, 45, of Cleveland. Both were indicted for burglary and five counts theft by taking in relation to a burglary in Young Harris. Items stolen included a Cub Cadet utility vehicle; miter saw and stand; Troybilt pressure washer; high definition television projector; high definition satellite re-

ceiver and a muzzle-loader rifle.

Vera May Turpin, 50, of Lakemont, was indicted on charges of crossing a guard line with contraband; DUI; failure to maintain lane and open container.

Andrew James Webb, 33, of Hayesville, NC was indicted for terroristic threats, DUI, failure to maintain lane; open container.

Michael Paul Houston, 35, Hiawassee, was indicted for aggravated assault with a knife and battery.

Gregory Thomas Breitenbach, 31, of Hiawassee, was indicted on two counts burglary and three counts theft by taking. Breitenbach allegedly stole a black powder firearm, dining room chairs, a coffee table, a silver tone guitar, eight paintings, jewelry and other items that were reported stolen.

Antonio Juan Dela Rosa, 25, of Hiawassee, was indicted on two counts of aggravated battery in violation of Georgia's Family Violence Act and battery in violation of Georgia's Family Violence Act.

Heidi Michele Holcomb, 28, of Hiawassee, and Albert Lee Shelton, 47, of Hiawassee, were both indicted on charges of burglary and theft by taking in Hiawassee. Items taken: a Honeywell Safe and its contents.

## Midnight Express...continued from page 1A

self, that's what it's all about. We've got some good talent, Tony Ford, Caleb Garrett, Jeff Stewart and Kenneth Eller, we've got some sound."

Phillips also must include his prize position among those in the band. Young Evan Phillips, better known as "Little Elvis," can light up a crowd on his own.

"With Evan out there, it won't be long until I'm

looking for a job," Steven Phillips said. "He's on his way and he's making some sounds up there on stage."

Phillips also is a composer, having written or co-written numerous songs. He's got about a dozen or so on his latest CD. The one people yearn to listen to is *I Want To Be The Man*.

"I like Country Music, I like the music more than I do the money," he said. "You

have to have money to keep going, but I'm a music lover from the get go. I think you can touch people more through music than you can anything else in the world."

Steven Phillips and Midnight Express will be touching 1,500 fans with his music on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> in Franklin, NC, when he opens for Lee Greenwood at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts.



The band poses for a PR shot after last week's show at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/James Reese

## YHC Concert Band presents Music of the Masters: Past and Present

The Young Harris College Concert Band will present "Music of the Masters: Past and Present" in concert Friday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. in Glenn Auditorium of the Clegg Fine Arts Building on the Young Harris College campus. The event is free and open to the public.

"This is designed to be a very exciting concert that will blend some of the great music from the past with some of the best music from the present," said YHC Senior Instructor of Music and Director of Bands Mary Land.

Under the direction of Land, the 54-member band will perform music from the mas-

ter composers of wind band literature, including Gustav Holst's First Suite in Eb and Vincent Persichetti's Pageant, as well as pieces by contemporary composers including John Mackey's Undertow and Eric Whitacre's October.

Assistant Professor of Music Leigh Miller, D.M.A., clarinet, will be featured in Clark's Tale by John Williams, a clarinet concerto with band accompaniment composed for the soundtrack of the 2004 film *The Terminal*.

Local Young Harris College students performing in the concert include Amber Adams, percussion, of Blairsville, GA, Allison Arnold, flute, of

Young Harris, GA, Eli Barrett, percussion, of Young Harris, GA, Chris Calloway, horn, of Young Harris, GA, Lisa Dear, flute, of Blairsville, GA, Sean Dorrough, euphonium, of Blairsville, GA, Landon Lovell, tuba, of Blairsville, GA, Ben March, trumpet, of Blairsville, GA, Melissa Murphy, flute, of Blairsville, GA, Jeff Stewart, trombone, of Young Harris, GA, Rocsane Tabular, oboe, of Hiawassee, GA, Jake Wentzek, tenor saxophone, of Blairsville, GA.

For more information, call the Young Harris College Division of Fine Arts at (706) 379-5182. NT/Oct19,A5/SH

## Early Voting...continued from page 1A

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> with the following exceptions: on Tuesday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, ballots may be cast from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In the Young Harris City Council Post 3 race, Incumbent Jennifer Mulkey will try to fend off the challenge of Deborah Edwards, the city's planning commission chair, and Stuart Miller, residence hall director at Young Harris College.

Also on the Young Harris ballot, whether or not residents want a \$10,000 homestead exemption from city ad valorem taxes and an

\$8,000 homestead exemption from county schools ad valorem taxes.

In Hiawassee, council members Joan Crothers, Pat Smith and Janet Allen were unopposed for their city posts. Also on the Hiawassee ballot, whether or not residents want a \$10,000 homestead exemption from city ad valorem taxes and an \$8,000 homestead exemption from county schools ad valorem taxes.

County voters will be asked to vote 'yes' or 'no' on whether they want an \$8,000 homestead exemp-

tion from county schools ad valorem taxes.

On all ballots will be a special election to fill the unexpired term of Jim Butterworth in Senate District 50. The non-partisan race offers Rick Austin, Curtis Burger, Mary Beth Focer, David Strickland and John Wilkinson as the replacement for Butterworth, who accepted Gov. Nathan Deal's appointment as adjutant general of the Georgia National Guard.

The General Election is on Tuesday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> and polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

## Campground...continued from page 1A

which begins April 1 and lasts through the end of October. A three-month deposit, or \$750 (sites located on Lake Chatuge run \$250 per month), was required. On April 1, \$1,000 is due to complete the transaction with the

County. Sites off Lake Chatuge called for a \$600 deposit (three months at \$200 per month) and \$800 due on April 1.

According to Towns County government, monthly rentals will be made

available in January, date to be determined, again, at the Courthouse. Primitive, weekly or nightly sites will be available by April 1 for a drop box payment system, located inside the campground.

## The Ridges...continued from page 1A

when we travel are now at our lodge."

Those amenities include gift baskets, and a travel log of happenings at The Ridges and in Towns County.

"These are things that weren't here when we got here; things that we enjoy when we travel," Alicia Jones said.

Together with Hooper, the Joneses have worked on the strengths and weaknesses of The Ridges and established a travel experience that visitors now thoroughly enjoy.

"We brought 2,200 people here from Europe, the United States and Canada here in the spring," Mitch Jones said. "The summer of 2011 was a focus on staff. It's been a consistent, thought out process. We didn't come in making wholesale changes. We've made some changes and

2010 compared to 2011, business is up 31 percent."

It's growing with the community and October has been the best October in the history of The Ridges Resort & Marina.

It's getting better with this year's Fall-A-Bration and Trunk-or-Treat event.

This year's event includes live music, barbecue, games for the children, hayrides and more.

The event also benefits the local chapter of the Future Farmers of America as the group raises money through sales of barbecue plates to patrons of the event.

"It's all about having the community come together as one for a fall celebration. We're one community together here," Hooper said.

Alicia and Mitch Jones will be on hand for the event and they're excited to be a

part of the Towns County community that has welcomed them with open arms.

"The success of The Ridges has nothing to do with Alicia and me," Mitch Jones said. "It's all about the people that you see day-in, day-out on these grounds. These people were here when we got here, they just needed a template to work from."

"We want to continue to grow with the community, we want the community to know that The Ridges is here for them, it's not just for tourists," Alicia Jones said. "We just thank the Lord above that we're here and that we have the people who work here that are working with us. We know that God gave us this and it's a blessing. It's like our home."

Come out Sunday and get to know The Ridges Resort & Marina from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## Fall Festival ...continued from page 1A

secutive nights.

Agnes Green, who used her Hoveround to navigate through the Music Hall, was proud to be at The Hall again in 2011. The retired educator from Lithia Springs (formerly Hiawassee in her younger days) can't remember the last time she's missed a Fiddlers' Convention.

"It's such an experience to sit up here and listen to all this good music," she said. "When my husband was alive, he loved to come here. He died four years ago on our 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. He would have loved to have been here in person tonight."

"But I'm satisfied he's got the best seat in the house tonight," she said. "He hasn't missed a note that has been sounded."

Thomason was disappointed about a local news report that indicated times weren't so good at the Fairgrounds.

She said that 2011 had been a good year and if that newspaper had come out to visit the Fall Festival, they would have seen for themselves that 2011 was a good year. Thomason said that she didn't know where the other newspaper got their picture, but she guaranteed that it wasn't during the Fall Festival, at least not while

the events were going on.

Thomason said that she put little faith in anonymous pictures and captions that make claims that can't be legitimately backed up.

"If someone doesn't have the backbone to put their name on their work, I don't pay any attention to their claims," she said.

She said that she didn't see any other news media at the events, but did explain that the Towns County Herald was there every day. Thomason invited anyone with questions about how successful the Fall Festival was to just take a look at the photos in the Towns County Herald.

## Fiddle King...continued from page 1A

for his competition, Sharon Wenson, of Dawsonville.

"That little lady that was up here tonight playing her heart out is quite a fiddle player," he said. "My hat is off to her."

Watts won playing *Hot Springs* before the band of judges. Wenson countered with *Ragtime Annie* for her title tune.

Just like Johnny in the Daniels' hit, Watts ultimately prevailed.

As legend has it, the tune about Watts came about while he was in

Marietta in a fiddle competition with Randy Howard, the man who has won more Fiddle King titles than any other. Watts topped him on this day and Charlie Daniels and company just happened to be in the crowd.

"I've heard that it's a song about a left-handed fiddle player from Alabama," Watts said. "If I be that fiddle player, I'm honored. Truth is, there aren't many left-handed fiddle players."

Joel "Taz" DiGregorio,

co-writer of the song, was killed in a car crash last week en route to perform in a concert in North Georgia with the Charlie Daniels Band. The concert was subsequently canceled.

Other state champions crowned at Anderson Music Hall on Saturday include Eli Rousy, finger-pick guitar, Highway 60, Bluegrass Band, flat-pick guitar, Jody Hughes, banjo, Jody Hughes, mandolin Jay Shuler, old time banjo, Kyle Jarrard, dobro Rob Pearcy, harmonica Rob Pearcy.



Dawsonville's Sharon Wenson finished second in 2000 in Junior Fiddle. Photo/Lowell Nicholson