

McDowell top fiddler...continued from page 1

feeling," McDowell said. The 2009 Fall Festival concluded Saturday night with the Georgia Fiddler's Convention at Anderson Music Hall, warming plenty of hearts with many, although instrumental, strings attached. More than 20 musicians, including McDowell, ranging from ages 10 and up were at the top of this year's musical joyride as four judges decided who would be the best of the best. Prizes were given in seven categories: mandolin, banjo, flat-pick guitar, finger-style guitar, bluegrass band, junior fiddle, and senior fiddle. When all categories were decided, there was to be one final faceoff between both top junior and senior fiddle winners,

laying claim to the "Georgia Mountain Fiddle King" title. McDowell faced off against Campobella, SC's Richard Bain, a wiry veteran of the fiddle to determine who would wear the 2009 Fiddle Crown. Earlier, Bain claimed the title of Senior Fiddler and McDowell had claimed Junior Fiddler. Bain took the Senior Fiddler award with a touching interpretation of "Those Endearing Young Charms," an 18th century waltz. Bain has been playing music for more than 10 years now. When asked what inspired him to pick up the fiddle, he said simply, "I retired." As the judges listened to both musicians and took score, they arrived at a final decision

once the music had ceased. If the Devil had made it down to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday, he certainly would have found himself without a chance against the competition in this year's event. As the judges rose from their seats and handed their final call to Master of Ceremonies Barry Palmer, it was announced that McDowell, a 16-year-old North Carolina native was the best they'd ever seen. Many of the musicians at this event knew their opponents, even playing with them in the other's accompaniment. Instruments were borrowed and used again in each other's songs as if sharing the honors

in the end. While it was a serious championship, good spirits were in abundance. As for McDowell, his musical roots run deep. He credits his parents with encouraging him and his sister Emma to feel out their musical talents. "Our parents kept the music all around us," he said. "I knew all the instruments by the time I was 3 years old. My fiddle teacher is probably one of the greatest teachers around, Arvil Freeman, he's out of Weaverville, NC. Teaching is kind of his legacy. That's why I'm where I am today in terms of performing." Visit the Web at georgiamountainfairgrounds.com for a complete list of all winners in each category.

Butterworth honored in Young Harris



Left to right, Sheriff Chris Clinton, Rob Murrury, Sen. Jim Butterworth, Darrell Barrett, Katie Norris and Alicia Rogers.

YOUNG HARRIS - Excitement echoed through the Enchanted Valley on Saturday morning as Republicans, Democrats and Independents gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of State Sen. Jim Butterworth, who represents the 50th District, which includes Towns County.

Butterworth led talks with Georgia Power that have successfully resulted in lowering of our Georgia Power controlled lakes that have created jobs for citizens throughout the surrounding communities. His efforts have created new jobs from incoming industries throughout North Georgia. He is working with parents, educators and our local school system to provide world-class educational opportunities for Towns County school children. On Sept. 29, Sen. Butterworth spoke of Sen. Bill Heath spoke of Sen. Butterworth's bright future, saying his speaking ability, powerful negotiating abilities and staying power will bring many benefits to the Towns County region in the near future. Chairman Darrell Barrett organized the breakfast honoring Sen. Butterworth. All hats are off to him.

Homecoming 2009 at TCHS...continued from page 1

The theme of Breast Cancer Awareness was impossible to miss as the group of anxious, extravagantly dressed young ladies stood with their proud fathers and grandfathers. Each of the men proudly sported a pink ribbon as part of their formal attire, respectfully advocating the understanding that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Ledford, the coordinator of the half-time event, also is Town County High School's Cross-Country coach. "After giving them a selection of different themes they could choose from, they all thought of options that had

meaning behind them," Ledford said. "October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and that's the one they chose. "They've worked very hard at raising money, selling T-shirts, and maintaining good academic standing," Ledford said. "They've devoted themselves to the cause while raising so much awareness. Every year we try to have a theme that gives back to the community." The evening concluded on a down note as the Indians dropped the Homecoming game 15-0 to the Georgia Military Bulldogs.



Homecoming queen Amy Vardeman poses with the nine lovely ladies that make up the 2009 TCHS Homecoming court. Photo Jim and Lisa Bryant

H1N1 vaccine not here yet...continued from page 1

novel H1N1. Until a vaccine has been developed, our best course of action is to take steps to prevent the spread of illness in our childcare centers and schools - not just novel H1N1, but any kind of virus. Westfall recommends these everyday actions to ensure that parents and their children stay healthy:

- Do not send your child to school with a fever. Keep children with flu-like illness at home so they don't infect others.
- Sick children should not return to school or participate in any activities putting them in contact with others until their fever has been gone for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze (using your sleeve is good). If you use a tissue to cover coughs or sneezes, throw it in the trash after you use it. Teach your children to do the same.
- Avoid giving children (18 years of age and younger)

aspirin and products that contain aspirin. Aspirin has been linked to Reyes Syndrome.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective. Be a good role model for your children.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Have your family - including your children - vaccinated against regular seasonal flu.

Behrens said he has learned during recent discussions with state public health officials that the 2009 reported cases of H1N1 virus actually are decreasing. "Apparently, the virus peaked early in September," Behrens said. "We have anecdotally been told that we've had a couple of cases. We haven't had a medical person tell us this. "The state does continue

to see some serious cases," he said. "We're told the vaccine is available now, but it hasn't gotten here. The public health officials tell me that the shot is not a live virus; the spray is however. "There telling us that if we see a child that has a runny nose, and they're experiencing some breathing problems, that we need to recommend that child to a hospital," Behrens said. "The school nurses are watching very carefully." A Homeland Security seminar on the H1N1 virus is scheduled for Nov. 4 at Reinhardt College in Waleska. Dr. Betsy Kagey, deputy director for the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Georgia Department of Community Health, will address first responders, the college community and residents from throughout the region on the H1N1 Virus during the seminar, held at the Falany Performing Arts Center on the Waleska campus.

The Hall...continued from page 1

for *Hillbilly Rock* by telling them they reminded him of his aunt, who always wanted him to pair up with good friend, Travis Tritt, again. He smiled as he began the song, letting the crowd know it was one of his favorites too. Patty Loveless brought the audience into her living room with the setup of the stage. The look was very comfortable, complete with felt-covered stools, warm lighting, and an old jukebox in the background. The band was sitting in a semi-circle, open to the audience. Loveless performed many Gospel and mountain-inspired tunes, but perhaps the most emotional moment was when she sang "You'll Never Leave Harlan Alive", referring to her Kentucky family of coal miners. However, she picked up the mood with her hit, "Blame It On Your Lyin', Cheatin' Heart."

Earl Thomas Conley

quickly revealed he wasn't feeling very well on account of cold, but it didn't affect the energy of the show. Big hits including "Angel In Disguise" and "Heavenly Bodies," which he dedicated to the ladies of Hiawassee, were part of the show. A very unique act was also part of the performance: the bus driver. His performance was stellar and the audience begged him back on the stage. Thursday was a very special day for ETC, as his fans call him: his birthday. Gifts were given to him by his fans, along with the gift of "The Birthday Song" performed by the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Audience choir. In short, the festival proved not only to be a big hit for its arts, crafts, and food, but the musical acts as well. The 2009 Georgia Mountain Fall Fest will not be one that is soon forgotten.