

# Towns County Herald

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## Fall Festival continues through weekend at the Fairgrounds

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Georgia Mountain Fall Festival is in full swing at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, with plenty of crafts, demonstrations, games and entertainment for the whole family to enjoy.

The festival opened on Friday, Oct. 13, and will be running until Saturday, Oct. 21, offering a plethora of craft booths, multiple antique exhibits, live music and everyone's favorite Fairgrounds classic – the Pioneer Village.

Don't miss out on the Fall Festival's main attraction

this week, the Georgia Official State Fiddler's Convention, which begins on Friday, Oct. 20, and runs through Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Anderson Music Hall.

The convention will feature statewide fiddle, banjo, mandolin and guitar pros, all competing to win the titles of official Georgia State Champions.

From blacksmithing to quilting to log sawing, the Pioneer Village has come to life at the Fairgrounds with the spirit of Appalachia, celebrating the trades of those who settled the area so many years ago.

And for those who want to enjoy the beauty of native

plants before the cold show, the annual Flower Show is a must see. Presented by the Hiwassee Garden Club, the show opened last Friday at noon and will continue through the end of the Fall Festival and admission into the show comes free with entry into the Festival.

Each year, the Garden Club hosts two flower shows at the Fairgrounds, a juried show during the Georgia Mountain Fair in July and the Fall Show at the Festival. While the show during the summer has admission qualifications and involves several prizes, the flowers at the Festival are for pure enjoyment, and

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The 2017 Georgia Mountain Fall Festival is here, so head on over to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds this week and weekend! Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Whitehead crowned Homecoming Queen to Ledford's King

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Congratulations to Towns County High School seniors Hannah Whitehead and Cole Ledford, who were crowned Homecoming royalty last week in Frank McClure Memorial Stadium.

And as icing on the proverbial Homecoming cake, the Indians made Friday the 13th even more memorable with a big Homecoming Game win against Athens Christian School.

Standing next to her dad Michael and surrounded

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2017 Football Homecoming King Cole Ledford and Homecoming Queen Hannah Whitehead. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Zell Miller inducted into Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame

News Special  
Towns County Herald

Young Harris' most distinguished resident has added yet another title to his many lifetime accomplishments.

Former Governor and U. S. Sen. Zell Miller has been inducted into the 2017 Class of the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame.

The announcement was made by 2013 founder and president Col. Paul Longreer (USA-Ret) of Pine Mountain.

"The framed photos of this year's 17 inductees, together with those of the 66 previously selected members,

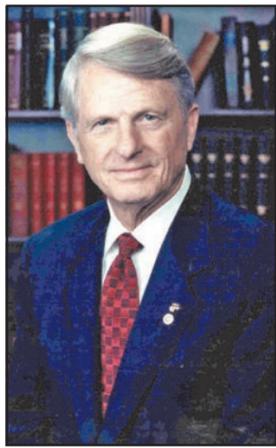
will be prominently displayed on the Heroes' Wall of the Floyd Building in the State Capitol complex," said Col. Longreer.

Having enlisted in 1953, Sen. Miller is profoundly proud to have served as a U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant. He is the author of a book entitled "Corps Values" in which he recounts the simple but powerful lessons he learned while in service.

Zell Bryan Miller was born in Young Harris where he and his wife Shirley still live in the "Rock House" that his mother built by hand.

Always a dedicated

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Zell Miller, Former Georgia Governor and U.S. Senator

## Hiwassee receives EMC response to franchise fee ordinance

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

In mid-August, the City of Hiwassee gave the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC 45 days to file its written acceptance of a recently passed franchise fee ordinance.

And the EMC has responded.

"BRMEMC will not agree to the proposed ordinance as written," stated EMC General Manager Jeremy Nelms in a written response dated Oct. 4.

In essence, the ordinance is the city's way of attempting to collect annual franchise fees from the EMC for its use of city Right of Way to run power lines and establish other infrastructure.

The ordinance imposes a franchise fee of 4 percent on gross sales of electricity within city limits, as well as a 5



Jeremy Nelms, BRMEMC General Manager

percent franchise fee on gross sales of cable and fiber services within the city.

In the letter penned by Nelms, he points out that "any franchise fee assessment levied

by the City of Hiwassee will be paid solely by the BRMEMC members residing within the City of Hiwassee," and that the fee will appear as a line item on each customer's bill.

One of the EMC says they object to the proposed ordinance is because, according to Nelms' letter, "it attempts to collect fees for calendar year 2017 when the ordinance was not in effect."

The ordinance, which was passed in a called meeting of the Hiwassee City Council on Aug. 11, states the following:

"The effective date of this ordinance is Dec. 31, 2017, and fees levied herein shall begin to assess on the first day of the month following the effective date," though those fees will be subject to residential, commercial and industrial rate schedules ... from lines located

See Franchise Fee, Page 6A

## BRMEMC will start holding open board meetings in November

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC's Board of Directors voted 5-4 during its Oct. 10 meeting to have open meetings that allow the membership to attend.

That process begins in November, with a meeting place to be determined. Board President Mickey Cummings said.

Open meetings was a platform for some, who are now directors, had promised as they petitioned to become candidates and solicited votes.

Larry Williams, Fannin County's sole representative on the board, told fellow board members that he ran on a platform for open meetings and transparency. He added that he was prepared to make a motion during the business portion of the meeting to vote on open meetings.

He did just that, including in his motion that the next meeting in November



BRMEMC Directors Ray Cook and Bert Rogers. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

be open to the public.

Roy Perren, the board's secretary, was asked if he got Williams' request.

"I did, and I second that motion," Perren said. "I too ran on a platform of open meetings."

In September, at the Annual Meeting, an amendment to the bylaws was proposed by former Towns County Republican Party

Chair Chuck Luca to require

the board to conduct business in open meetings. Likewise, it was given the seal of approval by the membership to place on the 2018 election ballot.

Williams argued last week that the board wasn't required to put that as an amendment, rather, they could put it to a vote on Oct. 10.

With a motion from Williams and a second by Perren, President Cummings

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## Towns County Schools get a visit from state school superintendent



L-R: Jim Melton, Richard Woods, Dr. Darren Berrong, Austin Fairless, Kevin Boyd, Erica Chastain and Erin Kelley. Photo/Lily Avery

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Georgia State Schools Superintendent Richard Woods and Ninth District State Board of Education Representative Kevin Boyd visited Towns County Middle School on Wednesday, Oct. 12, to take a look at all that

TCMS has to offer.

"We're here to serve you," said Superintendent Woods. "We're here for you and because of you. This is where it happens."

"This is the first time in three years that I've been here, so I'm excited to see what's going on with your students and at this school.

"We're seeing a lot of great things and we appreciate all of your hard work. Today is a chance for y'all to shine. I want to learn more about your school and, like I said, you guys certainly do have the best view in the state."

Two TCMS 8th grade students

See Woods, Page 6A

## Hiwassee woman killed in two-car crash in Blairsville

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

A 59-year-old Hiwassee woman died Friday in a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Georgia 515 and the Walmart intersection in Union County, Georgia State Patrol Cpl. Jason Bradburn said.

A white Ford Escape, driven by Jackalyn Gale Garrett, 59, of Hiwassee, was attempting to turn left onto Georgia 515 (Georgia 2) East from Walmart, Cpl. Bradburn said.

The accident happened approximately at 2:54 p.m., Cpl. Bradburn said.

"The Ford Escape failed to yield the right of way and traveled into the path of a Jeep Grand Cherokee, driven



A drive-by picture of the Friday, Oct. 13, fatal car crash at the turn in to the Blairsville Walmart on Georgia 515. Photo/Facebook

by Zachary Luke Moss, 23 years old of Blairsville," Cpl. Bradburn said. "The Jeep Grand Cherokee struck the

Ford Escape on the driver's side door area with the front of the Jeep.

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Blue Ridge	1,676.96	Opinions	6B
Chatuge	1,919.50	Legals	7B
Nottely	1,764.97	Obits	5B
		Sports	2B

**Football**  
Friday, October 20th  
@ Commerce  
7:30 PM

**9th District Announces Heating Help For Elderly**  
See page 2A

**Free Food Distribution**  
N. Mt. Zion Church of God  
See page 4B

**Towns County Schools Flu Clinic Oct. 25th**  
See page 2A