

# Festival...from Page 1A

give participants a chance to test their favorite exhibition design.

Split into 13 different categories and classifications, the Show is given a theme each year to inspire horticulture enthusiasts to get creative with their representations and floral arrangements, and this year's entrants sure did have fun with it.

"The theme of the show this year is 'Let Me Entertain You,'" said Frances Dyer, Hiwassee Garden Club President. "Anyone can enter any of our shows, but this one isn't judged. It doesn't cost anyone anything to enter the show. This is just a way to promote the Garden Club and let people take a look at some beautiful flowers while they're here."

After stopping in to see the more than 100 gorgeous blooms and blossoms, patrons can mosey down through the Fairgrounds to check out all that the dozens of crafts vendors at the festival have to offer this year.

One such vendor, Ellen Speed of Clayton, is selling her recycled soda can magnets, jewelry and more. And her unique spin on classic items makes the perfect gift, just in time for the holiday season.

Speed, who has been selling her homemade designs at the Fall Festival for four years, started making these interesting crafts 10 years ago and, as they say, the rest is history.

"It was just a light bulb moment," said Speed. "I just started doing it, making things to give as gifts during the holidays and for birthdays and stuff. Then, one day, I started thinking that maybe someone would want to buy some of this stuff, so I tried selling it and luckily it worked."



Patrons of the Fall Festival Flower Show stop to smell the roses on Friday, Oct. 13. Photo/Lily Avery



The 2017 Fall Festival has a tiger show... Oh my! Photo/Lowell Nicholson

As for the Fall Festival, it has become a yearly staple for Speed each year, not only because of the good business, but also for the good company and inviting atmosphere that comes with spending time at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

"I love the venue," said Speed. "It's a really nice venue and the people are so nice. The customers that come through are super laidback and friendly. It's just an all around good time."

Speed can be found at the Fairgrounds through this Saturday, or through her Etsy

shop at [loda.etsy.com](http://loda.etsy.com).

Along with the unique offerings of the Pioneer Village, the Flower Show and the craft vendors, helicopter rides are available on the weekends for only \$20. The rides show an exclusive perspective of the beautiful North Georgia Mountains and the Fairgrounds that can only be seen from high in the sky.

And be sure to check out the Neger's Tigers, featuring 12 Bengal Tigers and two White Tigers, at one of the three daily shows during the festival.

# Miller...from Page 1A

public servant, he retired from the U. S. Senate in 2004, having served since 1999.

He is a former two-term governor and spent 16 years as lieutenant governor.

The HOPE Scholarship and Pre-Kindergarten Programs he created as governor remain in service today, offering expanded educational benefits to our youth to better prepare them as they become adult

citizens of this great country.

According to Hall of Fame Board Chairman Col. Rick White (USA-Ret), nominees must have ties to Georgia and qualify in one of three categories: valor for heroic action in combat; outstanding achievement while in service; or significant local, state or national contributions after leaving active duty.

"This year's honorees

will be inducted at the Fifth Annual Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame Ceremony and Banquet at 6 p.m. on Nov. 4 at St. Luke Ministry Center, 301 11th St. in Columbus," Col. White said. "This annual event is open to the public, and I encourage all interested Georgians to attend."

For reservation details, visitors may access the Hall of Fame website at <http://www.GMVHOF.org>.

# Woods...from Page 1A

Erin Kelley, had the honors of guiding the tour through the middle school, stopping to show Superintendent Woods and Boyd some favorites among students, such as the robotics lab and the middle school art room.

TCMS Principal Erica Chastain, Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong, Towns County Board of Education member Dr. Kilee Smith and Towns County Public Library Branch Manager Debbie Phillips joined the tour as well as Superintendent Woods and Boyd visited classrooms and spoke to students about their education, what they were learning and, most importantly, if the students were enjoying their time at school.

Afterward, Fairless and Kelley were given the unique opportunity to have one-on-one dialogue with Superintendent Woods, with anything and everything school and education related up for grabs.

"I want to give you a chance to give your thoughts," said Superintendent Woods. "If there's something that we, at the DOE (Department of Education) can do to help you, let me know. We really are here to serve."

"I've already been to several schools and this kind of gives me a good glimpse of what's going on in the schools across the state. This is your chance to voice your opinion and share your concerns."



State School Superintendent Richard Woods in the Towns County Media Center on Wednesday, Oct. 11. Photo/Lily Avery

"You, as young folks, if we could help improve your opportunities, what would be something we could do. Or, if there's something that you really love and don't want to be taken away, let me know about that as well. I want to know so I can help as best as I can."

Fairless and Kelley, who are both band members, shared their mutual appreciation for the fine arts opportunities that are available, not only at TCMS, but throughout the entirety of their careers at Towns County Schools. According to Kelley, the various fine arts programs unite the students in ways that standard academic courses often do not and that she thoroughly appreciates having access to such education.

"I think it brings a lot of groups of people together that normally wouldn't be friends,"

said Kelley. "A lot of us really enjoy it."

Superintendent Woods, who regularly advocates for the arts within the schools, added that he found that creativity often denotes high levels of academics and he hopes to continue to promote the arts throughout the state.

"Thank you so much for your hospitality," said Superintendent Woods. "But the dialogue doesn't stop here. My office is always open. If any of you can think of anything, or even your peers, that I can do, please feel free to reach out. I want to extend that invitation to both the faculty and the students."

"Without all of you, I wouldn't have a job, so it really comes down to you. I want to hear from you. Your input is extremely important."

# Early voting continues in Hiwassee General and Special Elections

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Early voting for the Hiwassee General and Special Elections began on Monday, Oct. 16.

Early voting continues this week, and runs weekdays now through Friday, Nov. 3, each day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Polls will be open during lunchtime.

Both early voting and Nov. 7 Election Day voting will occur inside the Towns County Board of Elections and Registration Office, which is adjoined to the Towns County Civic Center just

down from the Towns County Courthouse.

Nov. 7 Election Day voting will run from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All voting will take place on the county's voting machines.

Those interested in voting on an absentee ballot will need to inquire at the Towns County Board of Elections Office.

Only eligible Hiwassee voters will be voting in this election, and the board office invites people to call ahead to check if they are a registered Hiwassee voter.

There are five candidates running for office in the Nov. 7 Hiwassee General Election,

though Amy Barrett is running unopposed: Liz Ordiales and Barry Dearing for mayor; Barrett for Post 1; Incumbent Jay Chastain Jr. and Patsy Owens for Post 2.

For the Nov. 7 Hiwassee Special Election, which is running concurrently with the General Election, Ann Wedgwood and Nancy Noblet are each vying for the Post 5 Hiwassee City Council seat.

The Post 5 seat is part of a special election because whoever is elected, instead of the usual four-year elected term, the winner will fill the remaining two years of the term of former Hiwassee City Councilmember Ordiales.

# Homecoming...from Page 1A

by friends in front of a big Homecoming crowd during the game's halftime, Whitehead reacted with pleasant surprise when she heard her name announced over the loudspeakers as 2017 Football Homecoming Queen.

"This is kind of crazy, I didn't expect it - I'm super happy," said Whitehead, moments after receiving her crown from 2016 Football Homecoming Queen Kristen Henson.

Whitehead has enjoyed an extremely successful high school career, playing multiple sports and being part of several school clubs. She is a state champion cross country runner to boot, and a four-year member of a five-time consecutive state champion Lady Indian Cross Country team.

When asked what she will miss most about high school, Whitehead said, "All the memories that I got to make and all the friends that I made. That's what I'm going to miss."

For her fellow seniors, she added: "I'm just so happy that I got to grow up with you guys. It's just so exciting. Thank you very much."

After she graduates in the spring, Whitehead will work on building her future at Georgia State University.

As far as predictions for the upcoming GHSA State Championship Cross Country race, Whitehead made Coach Jeannie Ledford proud with her answer.

"We're working our butts off right now, and that's all I can say," said Whitehead. "That's what we're going to do, we're going to work hard."

Cole Ledford received his crown the night before the Homecoming Game, during the 2017 Homecoming Carnival, and he, too, said he was surprised to have been voted by his peers as Homecoming King.

"It's just a really cool feeling to be King, it's something to be proud of," said Ledford, who can also be proud of his performance during the 2017 Homecoming Game.

The game ended in a too-close-for-comfort victory of 28 to 27, thanks to what amounted to a game winning extra point block by Ledford. Plus, he made a crucial interception of an Athens Christian pass to completely break down some late-game Eagles momentum.

"Even though they got up by two touchdowns, you just can't give up, you've got to keep on fighting, try to make a difference in the game," said Ledford. "So, that's what I tried to do, to block the extra point, because I knew if we blocked that extra point, we still had a chance to come back and win."

The Indians have three



L-R: 2017 Football Homecoming Princess Sara Beth Hobbs, 2016 Football Homecoming Queen Kristen Henson, and 2017 Homecoming Queen Hannah Whitehead. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



The 2017 Homecoming Carnival on Thursday, Oct. 12, was a huge success thanks to great support from parents, the community, the schools and students. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

games left in the season, including a home game versus Commerce on Friday, Oct. 20, and Ledford hopes the community continues to turn out and support the team.

"Just believe in us," said Ledford. "We'll find a way to win, we'll put all of our effort into winning. We just want our fanbase and our school system to believe in us."

Ledford plans to attend North Georgia Technical College after high school graduation, before transferring to Kennesaw State University, potentially to study web design.

Sara Beth Hobbs also received a crown on Homecoming Night, as she was selected by her peers to be the 2017 Football Homecoming Princess.

Her mom, Dr. Connie Hobbs, is principal of the high school, and she was ready on the sidelines with her camera to take pictures of her daughter, who will soon graduate.

"I had everybody take care of my football duties and my principal duties so that I could be a mom tonight," said Dr. Hobbs. "I didn't know anything about it, so I was just as shocked."

Dr. Hobbs would like to thank everyone who attended the Oct. 12 Homecoming Carnival, which was a huge success.

"I really appreciate

everybody coming out, we had a great turnout, the track was full," said Dr. Hobbs. "If anybody enjoyed it, those little elementary kids absolutely had a blast."

"I just thought it was a great community time for fellowship, everybody getting together and just having a great night together."

The seniors also got to take part in a Homecoming Dance on Saturday, which rounded out several straight days of fun Homecoming festivities, including Spirit Week activities at the school.

North Mt. Zion Church of God handed out blue "Go Indians!" tomahawks to all the fans on Homecoming Night, and the theme of the Homecoming Game was a community "Blue Out," which encouraged fans to dress in blue to show their support for the team.

The 2017 Girls and Boys Football Homecoming Courts were composed of 10 senior girls and 10 senior boys:

Sara Beth Hobbs, Hayley Stowers, Jenna Cole, Taralee Arrowood, Hannah Whitehead, Sarah Bastian, Kyra Tallent, Lori Cox, Brooke Barrett, Tori Cox, Luke Woody, Aaron King, Cole Ledford, Andy Chambers, Taylor Osborn, Harold Cox, Jeremy Mays, Chase Williams, Zach Davenport and Logan Cowart.

# Franchise Fee...from Page 1A

on the streets, alleys and public places of the city during the calendar year 2017."

Nelms' other stated objection deals with the imposition of multiple fees on shared infrastructure.

"Further, the additional assessment of charges for fiber and cable consumers amounts to double taxation since the facilities used to provide that service are the same ones used to provide electric service," according to his letter to the city.

The EMC has prepared information for the public in anticipation of questions concerning the new fees, which will be paid for by EMC customers inside Hiwassee City Limits, including residential, business and industrial accounts.

"The franchise tax fee being levied by the City of Hiwassee will be paid solely by the roughly 1,000 plus BRMEMC Members residing or doing business within the City of Hiwassee, as it applies to all residential, commercial and industrial accounts located within the city's jurisdiction," according to the internal material.

"This franchise tax fee will show up as a separate line item on members' monthly electric and broadband statements," the information continues. "Should a member have any questions or concerns about this new franchise tax fee, please have them contact the City of Hiwassee directly at (706) 896-2202."

Continues the information: "BRMEMC must pass along this new franchise tax fee to the citizens of the city for two primary reasons. First, BRMEMC does not have sufficient funds set aside to pay for these new franchise tax fees in our budget."

"Second, if BRMEMC paid these fees out of its

general budget, and did not collect them from those located within the city, our member-customers located outside the City of Hiwassee (even those located in NC counties) would be unfairly charged for franchise tax fees associated with delivering services in an area in which they are neither located or responsible to financially support."

The City of Hiwassee received Nelms' letter last week. When reached for comment, Hiwassee Mayor Pro Tem Anne Mitchell said the city was in the process of preparing a response with the city attorney.

As previously reported, the franchise monies will go into the city's general fund to be available for improvements around the city.

Though thus far uncommonly applied to the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, franchise fees are extremely common around the state.

# Crash...from Page 1A

"After impact, both vehicles came to a rest in the crossover of Georgia 515 (Georgia 2)," Cpl. Bradburn said. "Ms. Garrett was pronounced dead at the scene. Mr. Moss was transported to Union General Hospital with minor

injuries."

Funeral arrangements for Garrett were incomplete at press time, according to Max Cochran, of Cochran Funeral Home.

Cochran Funeral Home of Hiwassee has charge of arrangements.

# S.A.F.E. announces... "Remember My Name" Ceremony

On Thursday, October 19th at 7 PM at the Nottley Marina in Blairsville, GA, there will be a candle light vigil and ceremony honoring the 96 victims and counting who lost their lives this past year in the state of Georgia.

Please join us for this candle light vigil and ceremony, honoring each victim. We will pay tribute and honor

them as we pledge to continue our fight against domestic violence.

The 96 victims are the documented cases of deaths by domestic violence, there are sadly, more. Together we can make a difference. Please come out and show your support to the victims and the families affected by domestic violence... NT10018215CA