

Moore...from Page 1A

"In other words, the stream could be not up to snuff because of the fish and other aquatic life are not what they should be under natural conditions.

"So, many times the work that we're doing is repairing our fish community rather than dealing with human uses."

Another point of concern this year is the low levels of rainfall, something that has a great effect on the overall sustenance of the waterways within the basin.

Due to the extreme drought most of the Hiwassee River Basin has experienced this year, quality concern for the waters have increased, something Moore attributes to the low quantity of rainfall.

"Drought brings a whole host of other issues to the watershed," said Moore. "It's not just a quantity issue but the quality of the water that is exasperated when you're in a drought situation."

As of right now, there is no definitive answer to solve this problem. Moore suggests water conservation and to pay close attention to



Attendees of the 2016 State of the Water prioritized which issues were most important to them concerning the Hiwassee River Watershed.

neighborhood water bodies. If there appears to be a problem with the waterway, residents should contact the HRWC or local government officials to express concern.

As it stands, there are 55 active sites within the Upper Hiwassee River Basin that are being sampled and monitored by volunteers involved in the Adopt-a-Stream program throughout the various communities.

Anyone interested in helping collect samples should contact Moore at the HRWC.

Volunteers and monitoring are essential to the cause.

"Freshwater is only 3 percent of all the water on earth," said Moore. "Of that 3 percent, only 0.3 percent is in rivers, lakes and streams.

"The reason the coalition exists, our mission, is to sustain good water quality in those rivers, lakes and streams. We're so reliant on that and it's such a small percentage of all freshwater resources. It's important to remember that and take care of the water we have."

Drought...from Page 1A

all the way around the fire that we would not expect the fire to go past," said Toppins. "That line could be a natural break that the fire wouldn't normally pass, like a stream, for instance. Or it's a line that we've created by removing all the fuels - that can be just raking the fuels out of the way, even."

Added Toppins: "What they're doing now is called mop-up mode, and it's where they're just making sure that that line is staying clear. And if there are any fires at all, they're getting those out, but otherwise it's pretty much just making sure that they're maintaining that perimeter and letting that fire burn out within that 3 acres."

As far as a timeline goes, the fire could take days or weeks to fully burn out, due mostly to the steep terrain and amount of woody debris in the area, and should be highly visible in Union, Towns and

surrounding counties.

"It's not an area that we have done prescribed fire in the past, where we would have removed a lot of the fuel loads, because it's in a congressionally designated Wilderness Area - it could burn for a little while," said Toppins. "But it would be something that we would monitor and keep an eye on."

In the forested wilderness of the North Georgia Mountains wildfire can strike at any moment, especially in times of extreme drought like the present - which is why the Chimneytop Mountain wildfire isn't exactly surprising.

The Rough Ridge wildfire in Fannin County, started by lightning, has burned 1,224 acres as of Oct. 30, and if the wilderness is dry enough to spread wildfire across hundreds of acres from lightning, it is extremely important to safeguard against human activity that can cause

wildfires as well.

In mid-October, the U.S. Forest Service declared fire restrictions for the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests, to be imposed between now and Dec. 31.

"Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire outside of developed recreation areas is prohibited," according to a USFS release. "Fires must be confined to receptacles designed for fire, which are metal fire rings in developed campsites.

"The potential for wildfire activity is very high across much of Georgia, where severe to exceptional drought conditions are being experienced. Commercially available fuel stoves (camp stoves) are excluded from this restriction."

Along with fs.fed.us, Toppins recommended homeowners, especially those with national forest for backyards, to check out firewise.org to find out more about home fire prevention.

For Coroner, Harold Copeland, Republican.

For County Commissioner At Large, Cliff Bradshaw, Republican; Nathan Hughes, Democrat; and Henry Chambers, Independent.

Special Election for County Board of Education Post 2 (to fill the unexpired term of Cliff Bradshaw, resigned), Stan Chastain and Chad Houser.

The ballot will also feature four proposed state constitutional amendments asking for a "yes" or "no" vote each.

Due to printing deadlines, General Election results will be available in a special insert located inside the Wednesday, Nov. 9, edition of the *Towns County Herald*.

For next-day election coverage following the Tuesday, Nov. 8, General Election, check the website at www.townscountyherald.net.

Full election results and coverage will also be available in the Wednesday, Nov. 16, edition of the *Towns County Herald*.

Voting...from Page 1A

Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority or other entity of this state; valid U.S. passport ID; valid U.S. military photo ID; valid tribal photo ID."

Along with presenting a valid photo ID, voters will need to fill out a voting form that will be provided to them prior to casting their ballots.

The following candidates will appear on the ballot:

For President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, with his vice presidential running mate Michael R. Pence, Republican; Hillary Clinton, with her vice presidential running mate Tim Kaine, Democrat; and Gary Johnson, with his vice presidential running mate Bill Weld, Libertarian.

For U.S. Senate, Incumbent Johnny Isakson, Republican; Jim Barksdale, Democrat; and Allen Buckley, Libertarian.

For Public Service Commissioner, Incumbent Tim Echols, Republican, and Eric Hoskins, Libertarian.

For U.S. Representative in 115th Congress from the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, Incumbent Doug Collins, Republican.

For State Senator from 50th District, Incumbent John K. Wilkinson, Republican.

For State Representative in the General Assembly from 8th District, Matt Gurtler, Republican.

For Judge of the Probate Court, Incumbent David Rogers, Republican.

For Clerk of Superior Court, Incumbent Cecil Dye, Republican.

For Sheriff, Incumbent Christopher Clinton, Republican; Brandon Barrett, Independent; and Linda Curtis, Independent.

For Tax Commissioner, Incumbent Bruce Rogers, Democrat.

Ivy Mount Cemetery to host upcoming 'Grave Affair'

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer
History is not only for the living and now residents can learn all about it from the graveside of Historic Ivy Mount Cemetery with the special event "A Grave Affair at Ivy Mount," on Nov. 11, 12, 18 and 19.

In conjunction with the Towns County Chamber of Commerce, the Licklog Players, Peacock Performing Arts Center and community volunteers, the Historic Ivy Mount Cemetery is offering an event to remember with a reenactment tour of the cemetery. Visitors can enjoy two hours of pure historic bliss as area amateur actors portray Ivy Mount residents, sharing anecdotes and stories from the lives of those who once inhabited Towns County from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s.

"This summer, Jerry [Taylor] and I were contacted by the Chamber of Commerce who was looking for a place to do a cemetery tour," said Jason Lee Edwards, Towns County Deputy Historian. "Obviously, we had the perfect one in mind and began getting things together for 'A Grave Affair at Ivy Mount.' We wanted something that would be fun for everyone, but also respectful of the people buried there.

"To this end, I have written scripts for 11 people buried there, and local actors and volunteers will be portraying those individuals. The scripts include personal details about the deceased person, but they also contain a great deal of general local history."

To Edwards, this event is more than just one of historical importance, but of ancestral as well. Edward's family, his great-great-great grandfather Henry Brown, established the cemetery in November of 1845 when Brown was buried on the plot of land that is now known as Ivy Mount.



The Towns County Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Ivy Mount Cemetery, will be giving a reenactment tour of the historic cemetery on Nov. 11, 12, 18 and 19.

Brown and his family relocated to the area from North Carolina in the fall of 1837 and built a homestead on the now graveyard property. When Brown was on his deathbed in 1845, he requested his burial location be along the pasture fence line and his family did the same, creating a family mausoleum of sorts.

As the years passed, the house and property were eventually sold to the Ivy Mount Mining Company, though the Brown descendants continued burying their loved-ones on the land alongside Henry Brown.

However, by World War II, the cemetery became irrelevant and a rare place for anyone to be buried, leaving the majority of the gravesites as direct Brown posterities, either by blood or way of marriage.

Although many family members and locals attempted to maintain the upkeep of the cemetery, by the 2000s it had fallen to hands of time with broken headstones, sunken graves and debris.

"A group comprised of mainly me, Jerry Taylor and Lisa Maxwell Taylor began a project to clean up and maintain the cemetery," said Edwards. "As

part of this, Jerry Taylor and I meticulously researched the unmarked graves and were able to figure out who most of the people buried there are."

Eventually, with the help of donations from Brown descendants and historic grounds enthusiasts, the group was able to purchase new markers for improperly marked gravesites and restore the cemetery to its former glory.

Now, the Friends of the Historic Ivy Mount Cemetery are excited to share this restoration with visitors and the people of Towns County.

"Ivy Mount Cemetery is a microcosm of Towns County of the 1800s and early 1900s," said Edwards. "It is the resting place of hearty early settlers who tamed the wilderness, strong women who had to make their way in difficult situations and also both Union and Confederate veterans of the Civil War."

Each of the four evenings will hold two tours, one at 5:30 p.m. and another at 7 p.m., with a limit of 35 people per tour. Tickets for the event are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and can be bought at the Towns County Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner...from Page 1A

commissioner.

"When he was elected, he put Towns County on the path to our current \$3 million surplus, despite the crash of 2009, and he pushed a referendum that would not allow the county to fall into debt again, which passed," said Floyd. "On top of improving our economy, he has also promoted the wellbeing of our citizens to a remarkable level. By the end of his second term, Foster Park was under construction, paid for by a SPLOST passed earlier.

"Interstate 3, which would have been a highway disaster from nuclear waste from Savannah, not to mention tearing through what we know as Hiwassee, was defeated. And, he lowered taxes.

"Please put your hands together for the Sole Commissioner of Towns County, my grandfather and my personal hero, Bill Kendall."

While Commissioner Kendall shared brief anecdotes from his time as superintendent of Towns County Schools, as well as his experience participating in multiple elections, his primary focus was the future of Towns County after this year's election and his subsequent retirement.

"To be successful in a political office, when the election is over, let it be over," said Commissioner Kendall. "Those in office should work in a bipartisan way when it's all said and done."

Though he recognizes the inevitability of change, Commissioner Kendall urged those in attendance to understand that a small county cannot run like a large county.

According to Commissioner Kendall, it is important to uphold the beliefs and culture of county natives and to keep that ideal in mind when moving forward.

Commissioner Kendall also highlighted several



Kaylee Hamilton, a fourth-grader at Towns County Elementary, sang "God Bless the USA" in Friday's meeting at Mary's Southern Grill.



TCHS 10th-grader Kendall Floyd introduced Commissioner Kendall, his grandfather, that Friday.

achievements from his twelve years in office, including the prevention of Interstate 3, adoption of building regulations to restrict the erection of high-rises, an increased homestead exemption to \$10,000, Foster Memorial Park completion, a nepotism policy within county positions, and an ordinance giving custody of the Old Rock Jail and Presley Post Office to the Towns County Historical Society.

Also this year, Commissioner Kendall shared his plan for a Christmas lightshow at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds that will run from Thanksgiving until the New Year.

"During the winter months, the tourism sales tax really drops down," said Commissioner Kendall. "So we're starting something this year. I put \$150,000 of Hotel/Motel Tax to start a lightshow at the Georgia Mountain Fair that will be similar to what goes on at Lanier Island.

"Next year, we're going to start phase two of that. I've

put in the budget \$50,000 to match a \$100,000 grant.

"In this lightshow, we're going to emphasize that this is Christmas."

Of all Commissioner Kendall's many accomplishments and accolades, the one he considers to be the most important is the recent county park on Bell Mountain. This last month, the park was officially opened to the public and has been placed under the protection of the Historical Society.

"I think the most significant thing that I've been able to do since coming into a public office, and the longest lasting thing, will be the Bell Mountain County Park," said Commissioner Kendall.

"This will be something that the county can build on over the years. I appreciate this opportunity you all have given me to serve Towns County all these years.

"Thank you - it has been an honor to serve you."

Wealth of Talent at the Peacock on November 12th

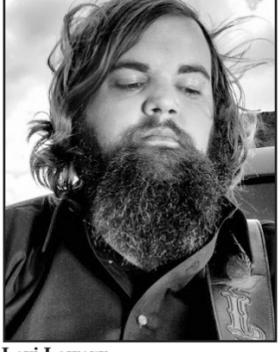
This is the fourth year for Rob Tiger's Song Writer Showcase. Tiger has spent hours finding just the right combination of talent so that the evening is enjoyed by all. This show may be the best one yet.

We have brought back Jessica Campbell, a singer-songwriter who captivated our audience with her songs about life and love in the Bible belt. She is now the mother of a beautiful daughter and co-wrote a song that was featured on the hit ABC show "Nashville".

Jessica is joined by a former member of the Zac Brown Band and kin to fiddler Gid Tanner of the famous "Skillet Lickers". While he doesn't want to be a superstar, he wants to be the guy who's going to hang out with all night long.

Austin Coleman grew up right here in Hayesville, NC, to the sounds of southern rock, classic rock, and folk-country music. His inspirations span from vintage artists such as the Eagles, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Bob Seger to a more modern variety such as Jason Isbell and Band of Horses. These influences are among many that have helped shape the folk/American sound that shines through in his writing.

Our host and guide, Rob Tiger is well-known for his music and great stories, he also spends tireless hours helping the Peacock and this community,



Levi Lowery



Jessica Campbell



Austin Coleman



Rob Tiger

preserving our heritage and the history of Western North Carolina, especially Clay County. His songs provide a glimpse into our past along with sending a message to all. We are very fortunate to have him as a neighbor and a friend to our area.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.peacockperformingartscenter.com, at the theater box office 301 Church St., Hayesville, NC or Tigers Department Store on the Square in Hayesville. You may also call 828-389-2787. See you at the show!

Burglary...

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can help by keeping an open eye and reporting suspicious activity to 911, such as parked vehicles outside closed convenience stores, paying special attention to the hours between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m.

For business owners, they are advised to keep low cash in their stores, and to make regular deposits by the close of business each day.

2017 Season Packages on sale now for Peacock Performing Arts Center

Laurel Adams, Resident Artistic Director, and Jim Kumas, Entertainment Director have lined up an extraordinary season of programming for 2017 at the Peacock Performing Arts Center in Hayesville: six concerts, four Songwriter Showcases, and 4 plays all in various packages and in time for holiday gift-giving.

The Main Stage Concert series offers The Sock Hops, Mac Arnold, Legacy Motown Review, Sentimental Journey Orchestra, The Return (an astounding Beatles tribute band) and, returning for a sixth year, "It's A Wonderful Life" - all wrapped up as an Early Bird special for \$133.65 and a regular package priced at \$148.50.

The very popular Songwriter Showcase series of 4 concerts, hosted by local Rob Tiger, is again being offered as a package

for \$48.

The final package is for the Theatrical Season offering a Neil Simon comedy, "The Sunshine Boys", the hit musical, "Man of La Mancha" (the story of Don Quixote and his "Impossible Dream"), our over-the-top comedy, "Don't Dress for Dinner", and, wrapping up the season, "Deathtrap", the play made into a film starring Michael Caine and Christopher Reeve. The Early Bird special is \$60 and the regular package is \$65.

All packages are available as of November 1; Early Bird specials are good through Dec. 31. Call 828-389-2787 for information 10 - 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, or visit us online at peacockperformingartscenter.com. The Peacock is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

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Call 706-896-4454 or tcherald@windstream.net