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Dailey & Vincent LandFest to feature Oak Ridge Boys, Bellamy Brothers & more

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Oak Ridge Boys, the Bellamy Brothers, Josh Turner and others will be performing at the "Dailey & Vincent LandFest In The Mountains and On The Lake 2019" at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds this weekend.

Running from Thursday, Sept. 12, through Saturday, Sept. 14, the annual event will also feature Flatt Lonesome, the Malpass Brothers, Terry Baucom & the Dukes of Drive, Primitive Quartet, the Chuck Wagon Gang, and, of course, Dailey & Vincent.

The three-day music extravaganza promises to bring smiles to the faces of thousands in North Georgia and will abound with talent.

Oak Ridge Boys singer Richard Sterban, now 76 years old, is excited about his long-running band's return to Anderson Music Hall on Friday, Sept. 13, at 9 p.m.

"We're on the road about 150 days a year," Sterban said. "There are several factors involved in our longevity. We've been doing this for almost 50 years, and I think one of the major factors is the friendship that exists between the four of us.

"Each guy in the group is different. Each guy brings something different to the table. But that is part of our appeal. That's what makes us special, I think. We actually pull together as a true team. We are a true brotherhood.

"Over the course of the years we have become the very, very best of friends. We actually like each other."

Changing gears, Sterban said the Oak Ridge Boys started out in gospel music. Then, in 1977, they recorded "Y'all Come Back Saloon," followed by about 10 hit singles up until 1981, when they recorded their signature song, "Elvira."

"Almost overnight we went from being a well-known country act to a household name," Sterban said. "Just that one song, it changed our lives. We're still seeing the results today of that hit record, 'Elvira.'"

Added Sterban, "We love doing what we do. Every night when we're on tour, we still look forward to taking our music live onstage to our fans and to our audiences. That has not changed over the years. We are still having fun doing this.

"And when you enjoy what you're doing, it makes it easy to do that. Even though we're not kids any longer, we

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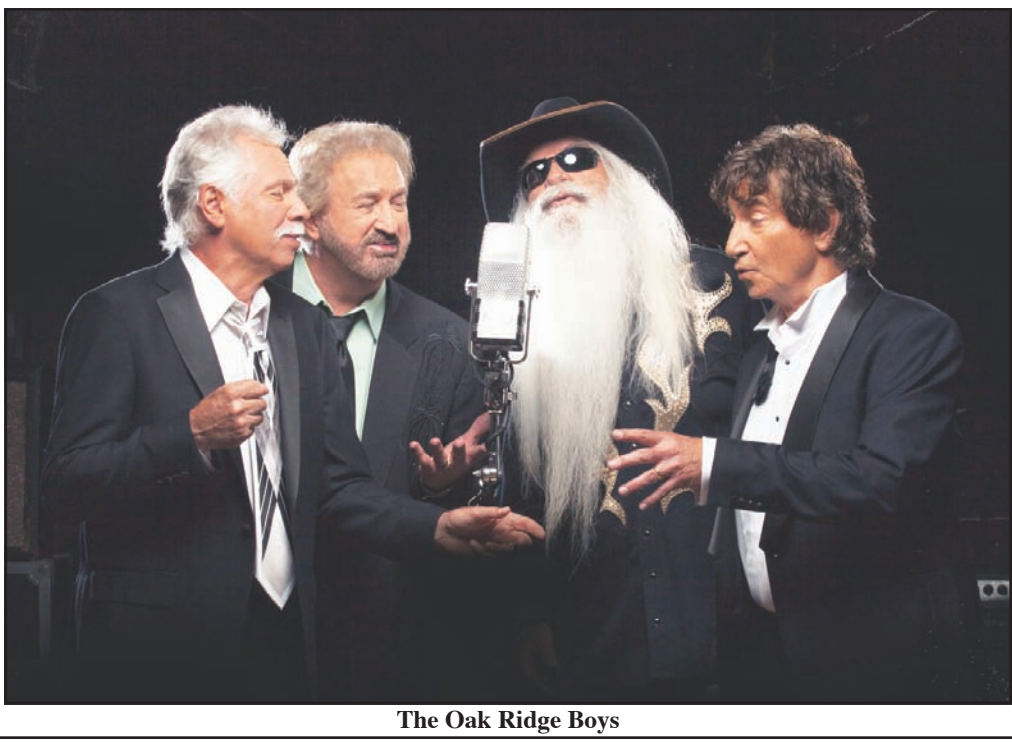

The Oak Ridge Boys

Grizzle celebrates 30 years with city; council approves fluoride referendum

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

On Friday, Sept. 6, members of the Hiawassee City Council, Mayor Liz Ordiales and city employees celebrated Water Department Manager Carl Grizzle's 30-year anniversary with the city.

That morning, the city unveiled the new street sign designating the road running out to the water department and sewer plant as Carl Grizzle Way.

Ordiales recently met with the Georgia Department of Transportation, which gave her the go-ahead to change the name of the road from MC Bear Road to Carl Grizzle Way.

"It means a lot," Grizzle said. "You know, after 30 years, you just go day by day and just keep doing everything – you don't expect nothing out of it. It's an honor. I have worked with a lot of great people over the years."

After the sign unveiling, everyone gathered for coffee and donuts.

"The city's biggest

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Hiawassee Water Department Manager Carl Grizzle posing with his newly installed namesake street sign on Friday, Sept. 6.

VFW Auxiliary launches Operation Care Package to serve those in service

Local VFW Auxiliary Members Rosemary Whalen, John Whalen, Susanna White and Melvin White promoting Operation Care Package in support of troops serving overseas.
Photo by Jarrett Whitener

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Often when soldiers are serving abroad, they don't receive the level of support they deserve from people back home, which is a problem that the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post 7807 hopes to address with Operation Care Package.

"What we are doing is sending these care packages overseas, and these are people that are out in the desert in forward units in combat situations," said John Whalen, senior vice president of the local VFW Auxiliary. "It is a welcome from home to let them know that we are still thinking about them."

Each box contains supplies such as wet wipes, drinks, snacks and other essential items that troops might need while serving their country in faraway lands.

Sending the care packages reminds the service members of home and that there are people who care about them and want them to return safely.

"It takes their mind off the war for a minute," said Rosemary Whalen, historian of the VFW Auxiliary. "They

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Chief Copeland, firefighters visit Towns County Daycare for Community Day

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Fire Chief Harold Copeland visited the Towns County Daycare on Wednesday, Sept. 4, for the Daycare's weekly Community Day.

Every Wednesday, the Daycare invites people who serve the community, like doctors, firefighters, police officers, paramedics and EMTs, to come and speak with the children about what it is they do and why they do it.

Last week, Copeland and several of his firefighters spent time at the Daycare educating the young students on fire prevention and fire safety.

Their presentation included a demonstration of what firefighters look like in their turnout gear, and they also went over steps to prevent fires.

Kids, especially the younger ones, may not be accustomed to the sight of a geared-up firefighter in the event of a fire emergency, Copeland said.

"A firefighter dressed in their fire suit with the mask on could scare little kids who are already dealing with a stressful event," Copeland said. "So, we like to educate them on the gear we wear and why we wear what we do, and tell them that we are there to help them, not to scare them."

The second part of the

See *Firefighters, Page* 8A

A couple of kids enjoying their time inside Fire Engine 1 at Towns County Daycare's Community Day on Sept. 4.
Photo by Chad Stack

UCSO Capt. Doug Loyd highlights community policing in weekly meeting

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Mountain Movers and Shakers hosted Union County Sheriff's Capt. Doug Loyd on Friday, Sept. 6, at the Sundance Grill.

"A little over 18 years ago, I started in law enforcement," Loyd said that morning. "Looking back, a lot has changed in this line of work, and law enforcement is a difficult job at this point.

"Used to be it wasn't so difficult. I mean, you still had a lot going on, but now, you have a lot of people that come against us because of the standard that we try to raise in the community."

Loyd started his law enforcement career at the Union County Sheriff's Office before transitioning over to the Towns County Sheriff's Office in 2008.

Union County Sheriff's Capt. Doug Loyd in the Sept. 6 meeting of the Mountain Movers and Shakers. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

He later returned to Union County after Mack Mason was elected sheriff in 2012, and they started working right away to upgrade the equipment, training, pay and staff there to better serve the county and make local law enforcement more of an asset to the community.

"When I say the equipment and the cars and everything was outdated and

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Fake Shriner arrested for alleged theft after collections at intersection

News Special
Towns County Herald

On Tuesday, Aug. 20, deputies with the Towns County Sheriff's Office responded to a complaint of a subject collecting money at the intersection of Georgia 75 South and US 76 in Hiawassee.

When deputies arrived on the scene, they spotted a male subject wearing a Shriner's Fez and a yellow caution vest with a bucket collecting money.

Deputies identified him as Tommy Erford Walker, 48, of Demorest. At that time, the subject told deputies he was a Shriner and that his post had sent him to that location. He also said he did not have his ID card with him.

Recently, the White County Sheriff's Office arrested Walker for collecting money as a Shriner at the intersection of Georgia 254 and Duncan Bridge Road.

At that time, White County was able to confirm with the Yaarab Shrine Temple that Walker was not a Shriner.

After being released on bond in White County on Wednesday, Sept. 4, Towns County deputies arrested and charged Walker with theft by deception in reference to the Aug. 20 incident in Hiawassee.

He remained in the Towns County Jail until he was released on bond on Thursday, Sept. 5.

The case will be forwarded to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Tommy Erford Walker

Body cam footage allegedly showing Walker impersonating a Shriner to solicit donations from unwitting members of the public in Hiawassee on Aug. 20.

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FOOTBALL BYE

SOFTBALL

Sep 11 @ Elbert Co. 5:30 PM

Sep 17 vs. Hebron 5 PM (SR. Nt)

9/11 NEVER FORGET