

Parade...from Page 1A

parade.

"It's exciting in a way, to know that we've been here that long and we've done a lot of good service in this community," said King. "We've done a lot with the fair, but we do other things in the community. We've just purchased a new machine that we can use to do eye tests on children and adults.

"It's a test that we can tell whether or not they might need glasses, and then we can send them on to an eye doctor so that they can be checked. So that's something that we're going to be doing this year that we haven't done before."

Scott Woerner, who helped the 1980 Georgia Bulldogs secure their National Championship victory, was a VIP in the parade, and Madison Mueller, who was crowned Miss Georgia Mountain Fair in 2015, made sure to give a friendly wave to parade watchers Saturday.

Alan and Hollie, a couple out of Young Harris, parked twin chairs in the shade right in front of the newly painted gazebo on the Hiwassee Square.

The two have lived here full time for about five years, though previously they kept a summer home in the county for 40 years, and Alan said that he and Hollie have seen dozens of Georgia Mountain Fair Parades.

"We just love the atmosphere here," said Alan, after noting that they'd once-upon-a-time resided in Atlanta. "You couldn't pry us away with a crowbar. This is heaven to us."

As he does every year, Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton led the parade with this family, waving to residents while making sure everything went according to plan for the day.

"It's always a lot of fun," said Sheriff Clinton, just before leading the parade from Park Sterling Bank through town and over to the fairgrounds. "I especially enjoy watching the kids, they always have a good time. Of course, they enjoy candy, and people can throw candy in the parade."

"I think it's really good for the community. The Georgia Mountain Fair has done a lot for Towns County historically, and I think it's just a fun day."

Working the crowds for a summer fundraiser were Towns County Coach John Cornett and his Football Indians and Soccer Lady Indians – the Indians sold water and donuts, while the Lady Indians held a yard sale on the square.

"We've done some good teambuilding activities this year," said Coach Cornett on his football team, looking



Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton led the 2016 GMF Parade, as he does year after year, and he enjoyed the parade, too, riding with his family in the car.



The Towns County Lions Club is this year celebrating 75 years of service within the county. As such, the Georgia Mountain Fair decided to honor the club for its longtime dedication to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and Towns County generally. Aboard the float were Dr. Lanier Nicholson, TC Lions Club President Janice King, J.T. Wilson and Steve Holmes



Towns County Indian Walker Ross drives an ATV during the 2016 GMF Parade, selling water with the help of his fellow Indian No. 10. Football Head Coach John Cornett and his Indians are raising money during the fair, ahead of the Aug. 19 season opener in Hayesville.

forward to the season opener in Hayesville on Aug. 19. "I'd like to take our entire community over there, because to me, that's a big rivalry here – I'm still learning, but that's about community versus

community right there." Towns County sports fans can show their support by visiting Coach Cornett and his student athletes at their concessions booth during the Georgia Mountain Fair.

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a higher education but are financially burdened.

The tuition assistance would be available in conjunction with state or federal assistance available to an applicant.

"We have funding for tuition assistance, which is our primary focus," said Keith Krauth, Georgia Mountains Regional Commission's Mobile Training Unit Instructor. "This is an offshoot of that. Not only do we tell people about our tuition assistance opportunities, but we also help people go over resumes and search and apply for jobs online.

"The tuition program is a grant, it's not a loan. So if someone decides to go back to school, we would cover tuition, books, supplies, gear – basically everything except room and board for up to two years.

"There's also a stipend for transportation and childcare. What we do in the mobile units up here is, we look for public venues that people come to, so libraries, churches, soup

kitchens, basically anywhere that will allow us to park for a few hours.

"The library has been very accommodating for us. We're up here every other month and cover 13 counties. In Hiwassee, we usually see four to six people come out. We've had as many as 40 people come out at other locations, but it really just depends where we are."

There are no requirements to receive help from the mobile unit, aside from being in need of a job and feeling comfortable reaching out. The mobile unit serves the following counties: Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White.

Donna Dalton, Parental Accountability Court Coordinator for the Georgia Department of Human Services, can be found at the GMWD mobile unit at any given time, in any county. According to Dalton, the GMWD mobile unit is a great tool for the men

and women she works with through her program.

"This is a division of child support," said Dalton. "It's a program to remove the barriers that prevent people from paying child support, one of which being employment.

"I utilize the Workforce Development services for employment. My participants come, get on the mobile unit, apply for jobs, create a domain, and they can pull up all the jobs in the area, or even outside the area.

"It shows them the availability and the criteria, or they get information on how to go back to school. That's how I utilize this for my participants since we're over a broad region.

"Since they're not all right there together, we utilize the services that are convenient to the participants and bring them to the mobile units."

The mobile unit is open to the public, with no fee or age limit. The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development mobile unit will be at the Towns County Library next on Thursday, Aug. 11, from 10 a.m. 2 p.m.

Man killed on Highway 76 was from Clarkesville

**By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer**

Henry Davis Jr., 61, of Clarkesville, was killed in a collision with a wrecker on

Friday, July 8, on Highway 76 near Sunnyside Road.

Davis' truck pulled out in front of the wrecker, according to the Georgia State Patrol.

Services were held for

Davis on Wednesday, July 13, at Whitfield Funeral Home.

According to his obituary, Davis, a carpenter, was born in Toccoa and was of The Church of God Faith.

Humane Society Mountain Shelter monthly meeting

The Humane Society Mountain Shelter Board of Directors' meeting will be held the last Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Southern Bank and Trust in Blairsville.

Barrett...from Page 1A

Chambers turned in all of his paperwork the first day of qualifying on Monday, June 27, including his nomination petitions, and the elections board was able to verify his signatures that week.

Curtis turned in all of her paperwork on Friday, July

1, including her nomination petitions, which were verified the week of Friday, July 8.

As for Barrett, he turned in all but his nomination petitions on July 1, but did so by the Tuesday, July 12, deadline.

All three paid their qualifying fees.

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some way to give extra money to those people in our system who obviously don't make a lot of money to begin with," said Dr. Berrong. "This isn't a conversation that just happened a year ago.

"It's been happening for over a year. Looking at the surrounding counties that we have, I don't think there's a question of anybody in the school system that we're the lowest paid of anyone around here.

"Our teachers are paid lower than others as well as the non-certified staff that we have. Of the positions that we do have, which is about 13 or 14 positions that these 90 people occupy, without an increase in the pay scale, there are only two of those that are above the average of the counties around us.

"One of those is only above by one penny. So our staff members are not overpaid by any stretch of the imagination.

"The truth is, our students get served two hot meals everyday by these guys. They're driven to school safely every single day by these guys. They come to a school that is clean every single day because of these guys.

"The only thing I regret is that we haven't done it before now."

Also in the meeting, all three principals of Towns County Schools delivered enthusiastic reports, announcing that they are ready for the new school year to begin.

In Towns County Elementary School news, 54 kindergarten students are registered to start school this year, rounding out the

overall count of students for the elementary school at 417 students.

As of right now, the middle school has an enrollment of 234 students, and the high school has 340 students scheduled to start the new school year.

At Towns County High School, Young Harris College will be installing a distance-learning program, which will enable high school students to take college classes without the commute. This will allow juniors and seniors to possibly graduate with credit for four college classes already under their belts.

The first day of school will be Thursday, Aug. 4.

The Board of Education will hold next month's work session on Monday, Aug. 1 at 7 p.m., and the regular meeting will be Monday, Aug. 8, also at 7 p.m.

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legalties of recording.

However, with the Age of Technology came a different level of interaction with music that has opened the doors to a younger generation of fans.

"Our fan base is of the age where, like the majority, they're concertgoers, so our audiences have been pretty filled up all the time," said Yester. "We have fans who are people our age and a little younger, but also we're getting fans who are young people, which is really cool. I like that – they bring the LPs to get signed, and that's always really neat."

The Association formed after the split of the 11-man electronic folk group, The Men. Soon, the six men who formed The Association gained popularity, topping the charts with two songs from their first album, "Along Comes Mary" and "Cherish."

Since then, the group has been featured at countless festivals, on numerous television shows and even had one of their top hits, "Windy," appear on hit series "Breaking Bad."

In 2003, the band was inducted into The Vocal Group Hall of Fame, and just this year reached yet another

achievement with their induction into America's Pop Music Hall of Fame.

"It kind of came out of nowhere," said Yester, of the band's recent induction. "We were getting ready to go on stage about eight or nine months ago and our agent said, 'Hey, you guys were just nominated for the America's Pop Hall of Fame.'

"It was cool, and then the next thing I know, I get an email saying that we were inducted. It was really cool."

Fans can be sure to find tons of laughter and fun at The Association's concert on Saturday, with a lineup geared toward reminiscing and enjoying the one thing that always brings people together – music.

"The performing itself, that's the payoff for what we do," said Yester. "All the rehearsals and travels, and all the little things make up the major parts of what takes up most of the time, but the performing, that's the payoff."

"That's what we're all about. We were a performance group before we were ever a recording group. That's really what we were designed to do. That's where we have the most fun."

"The interactions with the people, especially when we start one of our hits, like "Never My Love" or "Cherish," and feel the audience's reaction, sometimes I get choked up so much that I can barely sing.

"It's the love of it, and it's the love of the interaction with the people. We almost always do a thing afterward where we sign autographs and take pictures. People that have seen us over the years tell us, 'Oh, I saw you guys back in 1968' – it's great stuff."

Also at the Georgia Mountain Fair this week will be The Gibson Brothers and Wyatt Espalin on Wednesday, July 20. Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, The Grascals, and Little Roy & Lizzy will be performing for Bluegrass Day on Thursday, July 21.

Jim Wood and The Georgia Mountain Fair Band, and Shenandoah will be performing on Friday, July 22. All music will start at 2 p.m.

The entrance cost for a day at the Georgia Mountain Fair is \$12, with free admission for children 12 years and younger. Fairgoers also have access to a discounted rate of \$33 for a three-day pass and \$90 for a Fun Fair Pass for all nine days.

All music shows are included in the cost of fair tickets.

Carnival...from Page 1A

of the Southern Baptist Associations in White, Towns and Union counties, said that the health and dental care has been going on every year for almost 10 years, adding that it takes a community of churches to get the job done.

"What we can't do separately we can do together," said Ivey. "Sometimes a project is too big for one church, and that's what an association ought to do."

Ivey has been on hand during the Hiwassee Baptist Association's outreach program, facilitating the local ministry by coordinating local leaders around providing health care and dentistry, as well as volunteers in supplying nourishing food and water to the migrant carnival workers.

Baptist Mobile Health Ministry of the Georgia Baptist Convention contracts for a minimal fee with local ministries a mobile dental lab complete with three chairs, keeping in mind migrant workers around the state.

A local dentist and/or hygienist then uses the lab to provide a wide array of dental services as part of that ministry to migrant workers.

Health care was provided last week to carnival employees through Dr. Kilee Smith of Serendipity Clinic and Physician Assistant Julia Murray with Synergy Health; and dentistry through Drs. Mike and Claire Worthy of Worthy Family Dentistry in Hiwassee, as well as Dr. Jason Ledford, also of Hiwassee.

When all is said and done and the carnival has packed up and moved on to entertain in another locale, more than 60 volunteers from local churches will have helped out in making the carnival workers feel welcome and cared for.

Wayne and Diane Nelson are two longtime Towns County firefighters, and they recently completed a basic EMT course for the fire department. They put their new skills to work doing the health pre-screenings for carnival employees, just before they went in to see the doctor or P.A.

Gary Poteat, Dwight and Gloria Wilson, and Dot Heard were just a few of the many volunteers helping out with the mission, taking Friday morning shifts the day of the fair opening. They



Tressa Thomas of Cameron, North Carolina, works in Katie's Big Popper making cotton candy, candied apples, nachos and cheese, and hand-squeezed lemonade. Thomas said she appreciated the free health checks, and that she wanted her boss, Katie, to know that she is "the best boss I've ever had."



Year after year, children line up to fly high in this high-flying swing ride. Photo by Lowell Nicholson.

stayed busy making sure the visitors to their mission were fed and provided for, and just generally kept them company.

"This is awesome," said a man known as "Country," a B&K Carnival employee who runs a children's game where every child wins a prize. "I got my tooth pulled, and I've got to go back and get another filling. I think it's awesome what they're doing. They're feeding us every day. I think it's pretty decent of them."

Another part of the ministry of church volunteers is providing water for carnival employees throughout the duration of the fair, as working in the hot sun all day can lead to dehydration, as well as

prepared shower kits and several lunches before the carnival leaves town.

"We do that for a couple of reasons," said Ivey. "One, it's just a way of sharing the love of Christ with folks. This is a kind of transient population sometimes – they're here for 10 days or somewhere else for 10 days, and they just don't have a settled place, so it's our way of just loving them where they are.

"But it's also – one of the ladies that really has been a big coordinator up to this past year, Toni Britt, she articulated it very well when she said that these folks are here taking care of our children, and we want to return that same care to them."