

# Pageant ...continued from page 1A

that helped me enough. "This has already been a major blessing in my life, and I can not wait to see what the year has in store for me," Lindsey said. "Thank you, Towns County, for allowing me to represent you as Miss Georgia Mountain Fair. "You are truly wonderful," said Lindsey. The title of First Runner-up went to Hayley Spencer, Stephens County; Second Runner-up and Miss Congeniality went to Nicole Colombo, White County; and the Talent winner was Towns County's very own Bekah Medford, who gave a stellar performance of *If They Could See Me Now* complete with song, dance, and comedic style. Medford is a student at

YHC studying Musical Theater. "All the girls are superb examples of the wonderful people this area produces, and the judges definitely have their job cut out for them," said Victoria Neisler, Pageant Coordinator, Miss Georgia Mountain Fair 2010, and Admissions Counselor at YHC. The pageant was emceed by Jennifer Holloway of Atlanta. She was Miss Georgia Mountain Fair 1988 and reigned as the 1992 Miss Georgia. She now works for Bright House Networks as a Marketing Manager. The esteemed judges were Daniel Skahen, Atlanta; Elizabeth Casteel, Chattanooga; and Phyllis Johnson, Hiwassee.

# Sheriff ...continued from page 1A

organization of Georgia's 159 elected sheriffs and is organized into nine regions throughout the state. Towns County is in Region 3 which contains 22 counties and reaches from the North Carolina line, east to South

Carolina, south to Morgan and Green Counties, and west to Dawson and Hall Counties. Sheriff Clinton was honored during the sheriffs' association's most recent summer training conference held in Harris County.

# Pigs ...continued from page 1A

States and one Internationally. These little pigs are very famous and have appeared on TV with such greats as Johnny Carson and Jay Leno. Animal Planet and Wide World of Sports featured the little porkers where they were able to "ham" it up for the world. They were even covered in Sports Illustrated magazine. State and local fairs are not the only venues for these adorable little pigs. They are favorites at graduation parties, private affairs and bar mitzvahs.

"The Jewish people don't eat pork but they sure do like to see them race," said Ross with a slight chuckle. They travel to more than 125 different shows in a single year, which keep the racing pigs busy. Their next stop: the New Jersey State Fair, and then eventually back home to Florida where they will enjoy a well deserved break. Good luck little racers and we will see you next time you visit the Georgia Mountain Fair.



Robinson's Racing Pigs were a huge hit at the 2012 Georgia Mountain Fair at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

# Bust ...continued from page 1A

phetamine, an amount of pills, and an undisclosed amount of cash was found at the scene, sheriff's reports show. James Michael Dickert, 38, of Hiwassee, was arrested and charged with trafficking methamphetamine; possession with intent to distribute, and possession of methamphetamine, Towns County Detention Center records show. Dickert is currently on probation until 2018 for previous drug and gun charges, sheriff's reports show. As a part of most probationer's condition of release,

they must agree to waive their Fourth Amendment rights, as well as other conditions, according to Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton. This is in lieu of remaining in state custody in a prison, Sheriff Clinton said. Sheriff Clinton said his office remains committed to following up on any and all information related to illegal drug activity. "And this is another fine example of our deputies' dedication to protecting our community," Sheriff Clinton said. "They did their job."

# Elections ...continued from page 1A

to form a strong coalition," he said. "This is an important victory for citizens who defied the odds and through their tenacity and determination would not be defeated. "They have withstood everything the power structure could throw at them including the millions of dollars spent and the 'kitchen sink,'" Kendall said. "I am so very thankful they can go through the food check-out counter without being tripped off by this unnecessary tax." Other big questions on the ballot were the Post 4 and Post 5 election of board members for the Towns County Board of Education. In Post 4, Bob Gibby defeated Rodney Thomas 1,350 or 60.29 percent to 887 or 39.62 percent. Gibby has previously served on the BOE for 12 years. "I would like to thank Towns County voters for their confidence in me and their support," Gibby said. "I will always strive to do what is best for the students in Towns County. My agenda is simple, the best education possible for our students. "I ran again for the school board position because I felt we needed to make sure those selected would give their best, be a team player, and represent the schools to the best of their ability," he said. "That's what I plan to do." Incumbent Donna Hedden took the Post 5 win over

Penny Ledford with a vote count of 1,118 or 46.50 percent to 909 or 38.13 percent. Laura Diehl, who withdrew from the race, still accounted for 354 votes, or 14.85 percent. "I would like to express my appreciation to the community for placing their trust in me for one more term on the Towns County Board of Education," said Hedden. At press time, GOP candidates Doug Collins and Martha Zoller were "neck and neck" for the 9th District Congressional seat. With 19 of 20 precincts reporting, Collins led Zoller by 729 votes, 45,862 to 45,133. Roger Fitzpatrick took 17 percent of the district vote, garnering 18,717 ballots district-wide. Collins and Zoller are headed for a Aug. 21st runoff election. The following will square off in the Nov. 6th General Election: for sheriff, GOP Incumbent Chris Clinton and Democratic challenger Daren Osborn; for tax commissioner, Democratic Incumbent Bruce Rogers and Republican challenger Bill Kuykendall; for coroner, Democratic Incumbent Ricky Mathis and Republican challenger Tashina Eller; for Sole County Commissioner, Democratic Incumbent Bill Kendall and Republican challenger Steven Gerdes. See next week's paper for more election news in the *Towns County Herald*.

# Park ...continued from page 1A

ing and electrical, HVAC, and metal workers. "There's also a lot of glass and windows in this project as well as acoustical ceilings, painting, and a lot of miscellaneous items," said Goodyear. "We've got 75 to 80 percent of the subs sitting in this room right now; that's great." "Mark will be the main contact to see this project through from beginning to completion," said Goodyear. "The projected start date will be based on when the metal building gets here," he said. "We hope to have the building dried in by winter so we can provide winter work for local workers." Local contractors are in demand for this project, Wren said. "We are after the local people to do this job," Wren said. "Don't be discouraged

by something on the form that you may think disqualifies you. Call us. We can talk through it. We want locals." A tentative meeting has been scheduled for Aug. 30th at 10 a.m. at the Towns County Courthouse. The meeting will convene in the courtroom and bid packages will be available at that time. They will also be available electronically.

There will be an approximate two-week bidding time frame. Sept. 13th has been scheduled as the tentative date for accepting bids. Commissioner Kendall emphasized that the new Foster Memorial Park Recreational and Community Center will be "100 percent funded by SPLOST. This was the major project on that list. No property tax money will be spent."

# Sixty-Second Fair comes to a close

By Libby Shook  
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The 62nd Georgia Mountain Fair came to a close on Sunday with another successful year and 32,000 attending during the 10-day event.

Thousands of visitors walked through the gates daily to enjoy the "Giant Midway," the historic Pioneer Village and Craft Village, the many multi-talented performers featuring blue grass, country, and gospel music, the delicious assortment of food available each day, and who could forget the ever popular Robinson's Racing Pigs and Paddling Porkers. There was definitely something for everyone. "We had very good attendance and good acceptance of how we set up the fair, getting back to our roots. Everybody seemed very pleased with the set up," said Myers Banister, President of the Georgia Mountain Fair. There were folks that traveled from all over the Southeast and some from as far away as Michigan, Texas, and New York to visit all that is the Georgia Mountain Fair. John and Judy Halsted of Kalamazoo, Mich. enjoyed themselves immensely. "We have family in Stone Mountain and we try to coordinate our visit down here with the Georgia Mountain Fair being in town," John Halsted said. "Our kids are grown so we don't do the Midway anymore, but we love walking through the Pioneer Village. It seems like we see something



The Grant Midway was the place to be during the 62nd Georgia Mountain Fair. More than 32,000 visitors came to the Fair in 2012. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

new every time we are here." "The new park is a nice addition. We enjoyed the fountain and the beautiful landscaping. It was like a park within a park," said Judy Halsted. "We look forward to coming here with our grandchildren when they are older. I know they would have loved the pig races." Amanda Paisley and friend Will Cameron, both of Atlanta, said they had a blast at the Midway, but Paisley's favorite part was "looking at all the crafts and cool stuff for sale. "I must admit, that we both loved the funnel cakes,"

she said. "We had never even heard of red velvet funnel cakes before. They were delicious. We will definitely be back next year." Jessica Newly of Ellijay said that she liked that they had changed the gate price. "I come with my friends to ride the rides," she said. "We don't go to the concerts, so I think it is a good idea to just charge \$5 and then let people that want to go to the concerts pay the extra cost. With people being out of work and hurting for money, it makes it easier for teens and people with kids to be able to afford to get out

and have some fun here." Hilda Thomason, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' general manager, was a very busy lady and could be seen all over the fairgrounds almost daily. "I hope everybody had a good time at the fair," she said. "I want to remind everybody that we have a Fall Festival coming up in October with new crafts and new entertainment. We just want everybody to come back and join us." Thomason also expressed her thanks to the Lions Club and the many volunteers for all their hard work and dedication, and for another successful year.

# Phillips, Holmes talk Friendship Community

By Libby Shook  
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Guest speakers for the Towns County Historical Society for the month of July were Morris Phillips and Steve Holmes. They spoke to the approximately 75 guests regarding the Friendship Community. The two of them have a combined 142 years of experience in this community. Morris Phillips was born in the Friendship Community 76 years ago and has lived there all his life. His passion and love of this community is evidenced in his every word regarding this community. Steve Holmes says, "Morris knows a whole lot more about it than I do. He's lived there a lot longer than me. I've only been there 66 years." Both gentlemen were very entertaining and provided the listeners with some very interesting stories. "In 1940, with the building of Lake Chatuge, many changes took place in the Friendship Community," said Phillips. "Most of the people had to move to other communities because their homes were under



Morris Phillips, left, and Steve Holmes, have a combined 142 years of experience in the Friendship Community. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

water. The Friendship Baptist Church, the center of the community, was left on its little hill. But the membership dropped from 125 to 25. "There was talk about shutting it down, but we decided that if there was 25 people that wanted to worship there, then it would stay open," he said. As the people who stayed got used to their new surroundings and with folks moving into the community and building homes, several

names were suggested for the new community. "The name used most often was Friendship and that was what was decided on for a name for the community because that was the name of the church. It seemed appropriate," said Phillips. Phillips said that the first meeting of FCC was organized and originated at Friendship Baptist Church and that's where they held their meetings for the first two

years. "There and at Phillips Ham House," said Phillips. According to Phillips, prior to the organization of the Friendship Community Club in January 1954, no one knew where the boundary lines were located. "We worked hard that year and got a lot of things done. We were the fourth place winner in the North Georgia Community Development program sponsored by the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce Farmers' Club. We kept up the hard work and in 1957, we were listed as the top community of the year." This was the North Georgia Rural Community Improvement Contest with 133 communities represented. While Phillips was more vocal with opinions than Holmes, Holmes was very ready to voice his opinion on the subject. "I think Georgia is the greatest state in the United States. I think Towns County is the best county in Georgia, and I think Friendship Community is the best community in Towns County." He didn't seem to get any opposition from the audience either, as many of them were either from the Friendship Community, had lived there, or had family that lived there at some point in time.

# BOE approves agricultural education plan for FY2013

By Libby Shook  
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With public education taking a massive hit financially, local school systems look at creative ways to supplement their local budgets and keep the schools working effectively in spite of budget cutbacks. It is not always easy to get creative and find additional funding to take up the slack created by the financial shortfalls. One of the areas that has been hardest hit in the past few years is Career Technology Agriculture Education (CTAE). This program is an integral part of the educational career of each student. The Towns County Board of Education takes its commitment to the students of Towns County seriously and continues to apply for annual grants to ensure a well-rounded education for each student. At the July school board meeting, the Towns County School Board approved the Career Technology



Agriculture Teachers. **Ag Extended Year**, this grant covers the days the Agriculture teacher works above and beyond the regular school week/year. This is important as it helps offset, especially with built in calendar reduction days, the required extracurricular time the Agriculture teacher puts in after the school week/year is done. Towns County Middle School gets 20 additional days and Towns County High School gets 40 additional days. **CTAE Supervision**, this grant helps to cover the duties of the CTAE Supervisor and is intended to offset the salary of this employee. **CTAE Extended Day**, this grant covers the CTSO activities of the CTAE Teachers. **CTAE Perkins Program Improvement**, the Perkins Grant is tied to eight indicators: Math Academic Attainment, Reading/Language Arts Academic Attainment, Technical Skill Attainment, Student Attainment of Secondary School Diplomas, Student Graduation Rate, Secondary Placement and Nontraditional Participation and Nontraditional Completion.

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Money is used to support CTAE activities for the school system. **CTAE Professional Development**, this grant is a flow through amount to cover subscription to CTAE Resource Network, a professional learning program for the state. **CTAE PerkinsPlus Reserve**, this is a special application grant. The grant was written to cover the costs of required End-of-Pathway exams. It also covers the cost of substitutes for the Agriculture Teacher to take students to CDE events. **CTAE Apprenticeship**, this grant is structured to provide support for school-based and work-based learning linked to Post Secondary instructional programs. This grant gives students the opportunity to earn while they learn and helps ready them for the work force when they graduate from high school. "We are very proud of our CTAE program and I think we can compete with bigger schools because our teachers are dedicated to going that extra mile as well," said Williams.