

Casino...from Page 1A

communities.”
 Casino games featured at the new facility include traditional favorites as well as the most popular slot games available on the market when the new casino opens.
 “The Cherokee County Casino will certainly bear the high standards of the Caesar’s name and brand,” said Gary Loveman, chairman, chief executive officer and president of Caesars Entertainment Corp. “We are an industry leader,

and we implement the full expectations of that status into every facility that we manage. Hopefully, that will translate into continued success for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the residents and other businesses of Cherokee County and the surrounding communities.”
 The casino will create an estimated 900 jobs and inject up to \$39 million in wages into the surrounding communities.

LOST...from Page 1A

“violates the separation of powers doctrine” (*Turner County v. City of Ashburn et al., 2013*).
 Therefore, a new Certificate of Distribution had to be completed and agreed upon by all parties working together to reach a rational compromise without the use of any judicial officer.
 This is exactly what Towns County and its municipalities did prior to Wednesday’s vote, and according to Stancil “all the cities and counties are in agreement...and everybody is pleased with the formula we have worked out.”
 Thus the upgraded version is “free from the taint of litigation” because Towns County and its municipalities made a concerted effort to rationally

and sensibly appropriate the LOST proceeds excluding the need for any judicial officer.
 So, with the motions made, the vote was unanimous in favor of adopting the updated resolution for the Distribution of LOST for the new tax for years 2013-2022 by the Hiawassee City Council.
 Once approved the resolution was signed by the council, and taken by Mayor Mathis to Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall’s office for an additional signature from the commissioner, before being formally submitted the State Department of Revenue.
 The City of Young Harris completed their resolution on Tuesday, as did Commissioner Kendall.

Fall Festival...from Page 1A

craftsmen and women who come to sell their products. From soap-makers to leather-workers, jewelers to metal artists, the craft-makers’ galleries sprawl along two fairground paths.
 Visitors can buy custom rings, leather bracelets, pottery, hand-made belts, custom clothes, and much more.
 One such craftsman is Jim McCurdy, owner of Ship in a Bottle. A maker of custom hammocks, McCurdy came to the Fairgrounds on his brother’s recommendation. He advertised an ultra-light, one-pound hammock in front of his booth, but he and his wife make hammocks of all types.
 The Ship in a Bottle logo has been featured on outdoor websites next to big names such as The NorthFace and Coleman.
 “We’re a mom and pop shop,” he said. “My wife does all the sewing and I do all the rope work. We’ll put our hammock up against anybody’s.”
 You might not expect the Fall Festival to draw craftspeople from thousands of miles away, but that’s exactly what happened in the case of Esther Garrison, an artist from Colorado who makes custom leather wristbands.
 She started working with leather art at age 7 and began to sell her products while she was a waitress at the Olive Garden three years ago.
 Her bracelets contain a strong nautical theme - pirate ships and stylized waves.
 This was her first time not only at the Fall Festival, but also in Georgia, and she was quick to say that she liked the mountains because she enjoyed the friendly atmosphere.
 “It’s nice here,” she said. “I like how everybody is so accepting.”
 In addition to the crafts,

visitors to the Fairgrounds have the opportunity to learn a little about what life was like in the Appalachian Mountains 100 years ago, before cell phones and Facebook.
 A moonshine distillery, smithy, cider press, and board-splitter were all set up for curious people to explore and learn about. The experts working here were more than happy to impart their old-time knowledge, and even let visitors taste or buy fresh cider from the press.
 Surprisingly, alpacas were also present. Visitors took the opportunity to visit the alpaca farm, buy genuine alpaca-wool garments, and learn about and pet the animals if they wanted.
 The Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show offered entertainment, education, and laughs.
 The action-packed and comedic show featured axe-throwing, log rolling, chopping, sawing, and tree climbing. The audience was an integral part of the show. People were invited to make guesses on, for example, how long it takes to split a log.
 The prize? Whoever was the closest to the correct time got “a chip off the old block,” which was a wood chip from the log.
 For those who got hungry during the spectacle, food booths were set up and ready to provide. Visitors could buy homemade apple pies, hot dogs and hamburgers, candy apples, and refreshing ice cream. Also present was Towns County’s own Food Pantry. The booth was operated by Phyllis Christine. The Food Pantry has been at the Fall Festival for five years. “It’s neighbors helping neighbors,” said Christine. “Every bit of profit goes straight to the food pantry.”

Speech...from Page 1A

two months to prepare for the speech preliminaries. They had their choice of several currently debated topics to choose from, such as the effectiveness of the Electoral College, the Christianity of today’s nation, the relevancy of the Constitution, Capitalism versus Socialism, and the need for a third major political party.
 The substantial subject matter is daunting for seasoned speakers, but these ambitious high school students rose to the challenge and delivered speeches that displayed talent, enthusiasm and strong convictions.
 The students clearly favored to answer the question, “Is America a Christian Nation? Why or Why Not?”
 Almost half of all of the preliminary speeches attempted to answer this question, with the remaining half tackling a variety of issues.
 In addition to topic choices, the students speeches varied in content and delivery style and it was up to the two different panels of judges to determine the quality and strengths of each speech which would dictate who would move forward to the finals at Young Harris College with the hopes of winning.
 According to Sam Fullerton of the Mountain Movers & Shakers who assisted the Towns County GOP with the event, “the 1st, 2nd, and

3rd place winners of the final competition will receive” scholarships from YHC and the presenters of the event as incentive for the students to develop and strengthen their abilities in public speaking.
 Dr. John Van Vliet, associate professor of Business and Public Policy at Young Harris College, and was the moderator for both preliminaries and was truly an advantageous addition to both events. Both preliminary events had a distinguished panel of judges.
 Judging during the first preliminary were Matthew Akins, GM & CEO of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Mitch Griggs, executive director of the Union County Development Authority, Dr. James Hale, a former YHC professor of English & History, Dr. Shaughan Keaton, assistant professor of Communication Studies at YHC, and Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley.
 The second preliminary was judged by Tashina Eller, Towns County Coroner, Jon Fullerton, co-owner and general manager of Jacky Jones GM Superstore, Fran Johnson, former president of Toastmasters International in Atlanta, Candace Lee, president of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce, and Heather Poole, a published author who attends YHC and majors in Creative Writing.

Fiddle...from Page 1A

Prizes were given in seven categories: mandolin, banjo, flat-pick guitar, finger-style guitar, bluegrass band, junior fiddle, and senior fiddle.
 When all categories were decided, there was to be one final fiddle-off between both top junior and senior fiddle winners, laying claim to the “Georgia Mountain Fiddle King” title.
 DeJarnette faced off against Murrayville’s Chuck Nation, a wiry veteran of the fiddle to determine who would wear the 2013 Fiddle Crown.
 Earlier, Nation claimed the title of Senior Fiddler and DeJarnette had claimed Junior Fiddler.
 As the judges listened to both musicians and took score, they arrived at a final decision once the music had ceased.
 If the Devil had made it down to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday, he certainly would have found himself without a chance against the competition in this year’s event.
 As the judges rose from their seats and handed their final call to Master of Ceremonies Barry Palmer, it was announced that DeJarnette, a 16-year-old from Snellville, was the best they’d ever seen.
 Many of the musicians at this event knew their opponents, even playing with them in the other’s accompaniment.
 Instruments were borrowed and used again in each other’s songs as if sharing the honors in the end.
 While it was a serious championship, good spirits were in abundance.
 As for DeJarnette, her musical roots run deep. She credits her parents with encouraging her to feel out her musical talents.
 “My parents kept the music all around,” she said.
 “This event is what drew me to Hiawassee,” said Palmer, emcee and a member of the



Chuck Nation of Murrayville finished second to Emma DeJarnette as Georgia Fiddle King. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Georgia Mountain Fair Band. “This is my favorite event. This is where my heart is. This is the thing I love to do most of all.”
 Palmer was especially excited about the younger musicians who were competing.
 “The crop that’s coming on is great,” he said. “You see the kids playing and it’s like ‘G-o-l-d-y, how much better can they get?’ Well, it’s just another step in the music.”
 At the end of the night, the winners of the junior and senior fiddler categories competed in a fiddle-off for the title of Georgia Fiddle King or Queen.
 For some, competing in the Fiddlers’ Convention is a long-standing tradition.
 For 34 year-old Maggie Stephens, of Monroe, who participated in the buck dancing competition and the Bluegrass band competition with her band Lost Horizons, she was 16 the first time she competed.
 “I’ve been coming here since 1996, when my husband was my boyfriend at the time,” she said.
 Even though she won the first place trophy in buck dancing last year, she was modest

about her chances in 2013.
 “You never know,” she said.
 Friday and Saturday were filled with music. On Friday, contestants competed in the beginning fiddle, harmonica, buck dancing, dulcimer, dobro, and old-time banjo contests.
 Newcomer Tyler Andall won for the old-time banjo.
 Jeff Parton from Blue Ridge, won the dobro contest and Smyrna, Tenn.’s Rob Percy took home the dulcimer prize, as he had the year before.
 Hiawassee’s very own Kris Berrong wowed spectators with his first-place buck-dancing performance. Johnny Rockmoore of Mansville, won first place in the harmonica contest.
 And 15-year-old Jacob Johnson of Lincoln, Ala. took home the trophy in the beginning fiddle contest.
 “It’s a lot of work,” Palmer said. “They spend months of preparation for this one moment.”
 On Saturday, Joel Whittingham from Bowling Green,

KY won first place in the mandolin contest.
 In the Bluegrass banjo competition, Westin Stewart from Anderson, Ala. won.
 Steve McCoy from Columbia, SC won in the finger-style guitar category, while Matthew Taylor from Maryville, Tenn. won the flat-pick guitar competition.
 Maggie Stephens’ band, Lost Horizons, won the Bluegrass band competition.
 DeJarnette won first in the junior fiddle category, and Nation won for the senior fiddle.
 The evening ended with a one-on-one contest between Emma and Chuck for the title of Georgia Mountain Fiddle King or Queen.
 Emma and Chuck were only allowed to play one tune apiece, and no trick tunes such as *Mockingbird* were permitted.
 The contest was short and succinct, each musician playing to the best of his or her ability.
 In the end, with a rendition of *Wild Fiddler’s Rag*, DeJarnette won the contest and the title of Georgia Mountain Fiddle Queen.
 Emma revealed that she had been competing with a fiddle or violin for about nine years, ever since she was a little girl.
 “My sister came here and I was sort of brought here when I was really little, and it sort of just something I’ve done since I started fiddling, and it’s really close to home and it’s just a really great contest,” she said.
 Emma also plays classical violin, which is much more structured than fiddle.
 “I love both,” she said.
 “Thank you so much,” she said in her victory speech.
 “I just wanted to say thank you to all of you guys, and thank you to my parents because they dragged me here and made me practice, and they gave me a fiddle and something I love,” DeJarnette said.

Wings...from Page 1A

wouldn’t be able to witness such a slice of history.”
 More than 100 people greeted the warbirds as they arrived at Blairsville Municipal Airport on Monday.
 The tour travels the country paying a lasting tribute to the flight crews who flew this glamorous planes.
 The tour also is a tribute to the ground crews who maintained them, and the workers who built them.
 The B-17 and B-24 bombers were the backbone of the American air effort during the war from 1942 to 1945.
 Gene Norman, crew chief for the Wings of Freedom Tour, said he was really pleased with the turnout.
 “The shows are what help to fund the foundation, and the admission price is actually a donation for the upkeep of the planes,” Norman said. “The tour is to honor all World War II veterans, and all veterans get in free, they don’t have to pay.”
 The tour flies 10 months out of the year, Norman said.
 “The tour has been in all parts of the Continental United States,” Norman said.
 The warbirds include a B-24 bomber, a P51 Mustang, and a B-17 Liberator. All three were at Blairsville



The North Ramp is where you’ll find the warbirds at Blairsville Municipal Airport. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Municipal Airport on Monday.
 “We’re really proud of the B-24, it’s the only flying Flying Fortress in existence,” Norman said. “It’s a combat veteran with the Royal Air Force and the Indian Air Force.”
 Dale Dyer, a 93-year-old World War II B-24 pilot, will fly on one of the Tours this week.
 It’s been 68 years since Dale Dyer has been aboard a B-24 Flying Fortress.
 Jayden Fernando, 5, of Blue Ridge, was on hand to witness history.
 His favorite part of the tour, “the fighting part, with the

take locals up in the air for a price, \$425 per person for the B-17 or B-24.
 The tour also features an opportunity to get some “stick time” in the P51 Mustang.
 The cost is \$2,200 for a half-hour, and \$3,200 for a full hour.
 The tour also features a simulated B-24 bombing mission once a year, Norman said. The planes come complete with “dummy” bombs aboard, Norman said.
 Each year, the tour begins in Florida and then heads up the West Coast, then heads East before returning to Florida each year.
 The Collings Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit educational foundation devoted to the organizing of living history events that allow people to learn more about their heritage through direct participation.
 The tour is in its 24th year and visits an average of 110 cities in more than 35 states.
 Since its start, millions of people have witnessed the B-17, B-24 and P51 Mustang up close and personal.
 The shows are from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday and 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, when it concludes.
 The tour’s warbirds will

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you won’t have to do a thing. You keep your plan. You keep your doctor. If your employer is providing you good health insurance, terrific, we’re not going to mess with it.”
 Some Americans have been dropped by their health insurance carriers because those insurance companies claim that can’t comply with the stringent regulations that accompany the Affordable Healthcare Act.
 As many have feared, “Obamacare,” in actuality is not delivering as originally touted by the President.
 According to Barrett, this is evident by the limited choice of plans and doctors in our area, and Barrett explained that statewide only HMOs will be offered.
 Choice is once again limited under the Affordable Healthcare Act. According to HealthCare.gov, every plan must include Essential Health Benefits, including maternity care and pediatric services.
 Although, a great benefit to have when needed, Barrett clarified that, yet again, the individual lacks choice because everyone has to obtain insurance that includes these benefits, even if that person is a single man without children.
 In addition, Barrett pro-

vided information that dispels the notion that the new healthcare reform would lower costs.
 Barrett pointed out that his personal cost is projected to rise from his current annual cost of \$4,080 to \$14,040 under the new healthcare law, almost tripling his costs.
 Others at the meeting echoed experiencing increases in their annual costs.
 As a result, a high number of taxpayers will opt not to enroll and instead pay the penalty fees.
 For those who opt out of coverage in 2014, when they file personal income taxes they will pay a penalty fee which is 1 percent of your yearly income, or \$95 per person, or whichever is higher, and according to HealthCare.gov, “the most a family would have to pay in 2014 is \$285.”
 This is significantly lower than some of the estimates calculating that the average family of four, with a yearly income around \$40,000 may be subjected to insurance premiums around \$8,600 per year, or about \$716 per month unless they qualify for a government tax credit subsidy.
 It seems that Obamacare is, as Barrett poignantly expressed, “a complete mess.”