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work," said Shook. Shook encourages everyone who comes in to vote to let Nichols know how much you appreciate the difficulty and complexity of her role as she strives to make early voting a simple and pleasurable experience for voters. "Please say 'thank you' to Irma when you come in to vote," said Shook. According to Shook, the U.S. Department of Justice has given their final approval for moving the voting precinct in Young Harris to Stephens Masonic Lodge on Highway 66. There will be plenty of parking available and signs will be posted to direct voters to the

proper voting location. Shook also wants voters to know that Logic and Accuracy testing on the Touch Screen voting machine will be conducted on Saturday, Oct. 27th beginning at 9:30 a.m. The process will be open to the public. If you have questions or concerns regarding the voting process, Shook encourages you to call her at (706) 896-6920. Early voting will continue through Nov. 2nd. Let your voice be heard by getting out and exercising your right to vote. Early voting is an excellent way to avoid those long lines on Nov. 6th.

## Festival...continued from page 1A

of life as it once was from local experts. There was enough delicious food available to feed a small army. There was something to please the palate of even the pickiest of eaters. Available for your dining pleasure were footlong hot dogs, fried catfish, fried green tomatoes, hamburgers, smoked trout, barbecue, fajitas, smoked turkey legs, and let's not forget the delicious and ever popular funnel cakes. If you went hungry during this event, you could only blame yourself. The craft booths were filled with some amazing hand-crafted items that you could only find at the Fall Festival. There were some very talented and creative artisans who were more than happy to share their stories and brag about their crafts.

Jill McConnell of Covington said, "We always come up for the Fall Festival. This is our family tradition. We make a trip up here because it's so beautiful this time of year in the mountains and we love the music shows and the Fiddler's Convention is our very favorite. We also enjoy walking through and looking at all the crafts. I have found some great buys this year."

June Axelbury of Donaldsonville seconded those sentiments.

"We drive for hours every year just to come to the Fall Festival. We rent a cabin on Sunnyside and enjoy the mountains and the lake. The Fall Festival this year was the best it's been. The kids really enjoyed the Flores Thrill Show. We watched it probably 5 or 6 times. It's just been a fabulous vacation and we will definitely continue to come back. We were disappointed that we couldn't get the red velvet funnel cakes, but there was so much other great stuff to eat that we got over it."

This was the general theme of the event. Picnic tables were full all 10 days as folks enjoy the delicious foods available and sat a regrouped from all the walking.

The Anderson Music Hall was packed out twice daily as folks had the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful entertainment two times each day for the price of one ticket.

There were many great performances including Aaron Tippin, the Bellamy Brothers, The Grascals, John Conlee, Connie Smith, the Quebe Sisters Band, and Ronnie McDowell.

There were also some amazing opening acts with Jim Wood and the Georgia Mountain Fair Band, Hiwassee's very own Stephen Phillips and Midnight Express, Blairsville boys, Trees Leaves, and the amazing magic show put on by Magician Mike Fuller.

There were also some very talented Gospel performers each Sunday during the festival with Interfaith Wor-

ship Services available to the public.

The Gospel performers included The Isaacs, Crystal River, The Nelons, The Florida Boys, The Palmetto State Quartet, and The Talleys.

Folks came out to worship and praise as they listened to the fabulous and very talented folks put a spectacular show.

One of the main highlights was the 2012 Georgia Fiddler's Convention with Kenny Lambert of Lawrenceville walking away with the title of Fiddlin' King after some very tough competition.

This was by far, one of the best festivals to date with its many attractions including the fabulous Fearless Flores Thrill show which was available twice a day throughout the Festival.

Hundred of folks flocked to see these daring entertainers ride in the 'Globe of Death', perform their aerial act, as well as the amazing thrill act. The audience also had the opportunity to have their picture taken in the Globe of Death with the Flores performers.

It was quite the attraction and everyone walked away with a sense of awe at what they had witnessed. Helicopter rides were available Oct. 17th-Oct. 19th.

This was a very popular event. Imagine seeing the beautiful fall colors from an aerial view.

Fairgrounds' General Manager Hilda Thomason said, people really enjoyed the wonderful fall season and beautiful North Georgia Mountains.

"We had great weather with very little rain. This always makes people happy," Thomason said. "I had so many positive compliments about this year's Fall Festival. Folks said they loved all the arts and crafts, the music shows, exhibits, the flower show, and of course the popular fiddler's convention."

Thomason said they are already busy planning next year's festival. She also wants to invite everyone to come out and enjoy the upcoming concerts at the Anderson Music Hall.

"The Anderson Music Hall is a great facility to have concerts in all year round as it is heated and air conditioned depending on the season," said Thomason.

Upcoming concerts and attractions include Percy Sledge, Clarence Carter, and The Tams on Nov. 3rd, George Jones on Nov. 17th, the Oak Ridge Boys' Christmas Concert on Dec. 1st, and Don Williams on Jan. 26th.

This is the legendary Jones' final tour and you won't want to miss it.

Mark your calendar and make plans to come out and witness these legendary performers as they bring their very best to The Hall for your enjoyment.

## Comfort Keepers thanks you



Comfort Keepers staff 1 to r: Dana Seabolt, Corinne Hanna, Misty Havard and Kayce Everett.

The owners and staff of Comfort Keepers would like to thank all those in Union and Towns counties who made our "Warm Coats Drive" a success. Comfort Keepers, partnered with Care South Home-care Professionals (thank you Carol Smith) and the Union County Nursing Home (thank you Olivia Bragg) who volunteered to be drop stations, and collected about 75 coats.

We have also received very generous donations of shoes and clothes from local merchant Cynthia Campbell, owner of "revive!" reflexolo-

gy & Natural therapies. Those donations will go to Stevens County and The Circle Of Hope, for victims of Domestic Violence.

With the help of Union and Towns County senior centers we will be distributing the warm coats to those in need. We are very fortunate to live in a community with such caring, giving people. Thank you again Union and Towns Counties residents!

Lisa M. Smith  
Community Outreach Coordinator, Comfort Keepers

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## Fiddle King...continued from page 1A

judges for their difficult, yet very professional task of selecting a winner from all the amazing talent that had performed for them.

He also thanked the sponsors, the Towns County Lions Club and Coca-Cola, for their support of the event.

Lastly, he thanked all the behind the scenes staff who had organized and "put it all together backstage."

Palmer encouraged folks to talk to their friends in the music community and get them to participate next year.

"We want to see them right here on this stage next year," said Palmer.

Earlier, the two-day Georgia Fiddlers Convention was more than just fiddling.

Some of the finest and most talented musicians and instrumentalists from throughout the Southeast stepped on stage to compete against other musicians.

This was not just a competition of instrumentals. There were Bluegrass bands singing and playing, buck dancing, and of course the instrumentals with some very fine picking going on.

The competition was

tough and the judges had a difficult task at hand as they marked their score pads and folks waited eagerly to hear the outcome of their tabulations.

There were many different categories and folks of all ages were there to show off their unique style of picking and performing.

The competition started at 7 p.m. Friday night and carried over to the following morning. Folks played their hearts out hoping to go on to the finals.

While many did not make it to the finals, they are to be commended for their amazing performances and are encouraged to come back again next year and give it another shot.

Jeannie Scoggins of Marietta said, "I come every year because I love Bluegrass music and there are so many talented people that show up to perform. It's just the best entertainment you can find for the price."

The many performers who made it through to the next round won in the following categories and went home with the title of State Champion in their category: Beginning Fiddle (age 15 and younger): 1st place, Emma

DeJarnette, Snellville; 2nd place, Jacob Johnson, Lincoln, AL; 3rd place, Jesse Lorios, Fayetteville;

Harmonica: 1st place, Wailin Wood, Nashville, TN; 2nd place, Rob Percy, Smyrna, TN; 3rd place, Etowah Adams, Dahlonega;

Buck Dancing: 1st place, Maggie Stephens, Monroe; 2nd place, Paul Shelnett, Woodland, AL; 3rd place, Emma DeJarnette, Snellville;

Dulcimer: 1st place, Rob Percy, Smyrna, TN; 2nd place, Nathaniel Samsell, Clarkesville; 3rd place, Chris Gray, Smyrna, TN;

Dobro: 1st place, Josh Hollifield, Ball Ground; 2nd place, Rob Percy, Smyrna, TN; 3rd place, Blake Muscott, Hernando, FL.

Old Time Banjo: 1st place, Etowah Adams, Dahlonega; 2nd place, Chris Gray, Smyrna, TN; 3rd place, Rob Percy, Smyrna, TN;

Mandolin: 1st place, Chuck Nations, Murrayville; 2nd place, Brian Stephes, Monroe; 3rd place, Matthew Taylor, Maryville, TN; 3rd place, Chris Gray, Smyrna, TN;

Banjo: 1st place, Weston

Stewart, Anderson, AL; 2nd place, Brett Cantrell, Cherry Log; 3rd place, Brian Stephens, Monroe; 4th place, Joel Thomas, Hilliard, FL;

Guitar-Flat Pick: 1st place, Brian Stephens, Monroe; 2nd place, Rob Percy, Smyrna, TN; 3rd place, Matthew Taylor, Maryville, TN; 4th place, Greg Fleming, Canton.

Guitar-Finger Style: 1st place, Julian Smith, Bowden; 2nd place, Brian Stephens, Monroe; 3rd place, Reath Blick-enderfer, Sun City Center, FL;

Bluegrass Band: 1st place, Flatline, Jasper; 2nd place, The Thomas Family, Hilliard, FL; 3rd place, Georgia Connection, Monroe; 4th place, The Gipson Family, Carnesville;

Junior Fiddler (age 59 and under): 1st place, Kenny Lambert, Lawrenceville; 2nd place, Chuck Nations, Murrayville; 3rd place, Alex Thomlinson, Dahlonega; 4th place, Chris Gray, Smyrna, TN;

Senior Fiddler (age 60 and over): 1st place, Mack Snoderly, Clyde, NC; 2nd place, Rob Percy, Smyrna, TN; 3rd place, John Andrews, Hiwassee; 4th place, Reath Blick-enderfer, Sun City Center, FL.



## Homecoming...continued from page 1A

was introduced as the 2012 Homecoming King, the crowd went wild with cheering, whooping, and tremendous applause.

Goodman said, "Awesome."

There was a tremendous turnout for the parade as people lined the streets with blue and white balloons, banners, and signs in support of the football team, homecoming court, and the school system in general.

The parade was escorted by Sheriff Chris Clinton at the lead, Elvis as Grand Marshal, Superintendent Melissa Williams, the TCHS Indian Football team, the 2012 Homecoming Court, the Towns County High School Indian Raider Band, the Towns County High School Cheerleaders, the Towns County Fire Department, and many, many more.

It was a spectacular sight to see all the participation and community support. Back at the school, a bounce house was set up for the kids, hamburgers, hot dogs, cotton candy, pop corn, and beverages were available courtesy of the athletic booster club with all proceeds going back to the booster club.

Rental Source of Hiwassee deserves a big pat on the back as they donated the bounce house, generators, lighting, and cotton candy machine. This kind of school support is what makes Towns County such a great place to be and Booster Club President Stephanie McConnell wanted to make sure they were recognized for their generosity.



The Queen and King and their 2012 Homecoming Court. Photo/Libby Shook

Parade Coordinator Amy Rosser said of the parade, "What a great event last night. The parade and community-wide pep rally was well received and I love seeing the support from our community."

"There are so many positive things that happen in Towns County and this is just one of the many examples of how this community shows support and generosity to our students," said Rosser.

Rosser wanted to recognize some of the key people who made the parade such a great success.

Thanks to Jacky Jones for

providing the vehicles, Joyce Moss and Sarah Morrison for organizing the homecoming portion of the event, the Towns County Booster Club, and especially to Melissa Williams for having the vision to start this wonderful tradition.

"I want to thank the community for providing everything necessary to make this a wonderful and successful event. A special thank you to the Towns County Sheriff's Office and the Hiwassee Police Department for providing traffic control and ensuring the safety of the community and participants in the parade.

Thank you to the Towns County Fire Department for participating in the parade and being on hand to make sure all were safe during the bonfire," said Rosser.

Rosser also wanted to recognize the administration and faculty of the Towns County School System.

"They deserve a big round of applause for going above and beyond for this event," said Rosser. Rosser and the school system are already looking forward to next year's 2nd Annual Homecoming Parade.