

# Hiawassee Halloween on the Square

**Todd Forrest**  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

A jam-packed downtown provides plenty of proof that Halloween on the Square is becoming one of the most popular attractions in Hiawassee for trick or treating and family entertainment on All Hallows Eve.

It may break from the traditional Halloween ritual of going door-to-door, but according to most parents, Halloween on the Square is a safe alternative that's just as enjoyable.

"I like it because it's safe and they still get just as much candy as they would going door-to-door," said Laura Banister, who was attending with her family for the second time. "It also makes it easier because it's all in one spot."

Having it on the square also gives families that live in the country a place to go trick or treating, because in some cases, there's not that many doors to knock on in their vicinity.

"Where we live, we don't have a lot of neighbors, so having this on the square is a really great idea," said Laurel James, who brought her son and daughter.

Many local businesses set up booths or tables to dispense candy, and more importantly, bring a smile to the face of a youngster.

"We're just trying to give back to the community," said Barry Churchill of Churchill Custom Cabinets, who has been participating in the event for three years.

"I like (Halloween on the Square) because it's very community-oriented, and it's really great getting to see all of the kids out here having a good time," said first-time attendee Julia Stevens. "It brings out people that may not participate

otherwise, and they come out and have a good time. It's a family event so you can bring your entire family and you feel safe."

Also handing out treats was Peggy Eaton of North Georgia Dance Arts, and it's safe to say she speaks for everyone when she says it's all about the kids.

"I think this is a wonderful event for all of the kids that come out," she said. "The amount of candy that all of the vendors and businesses have handed out is amazing."

The event wasn't just about handing out candy – there was a costume contest as well, and it wasn't just the children



who dressed up, but some adults went all-out with their costumes as well.

For those that have yet to

attend a Hiawassee Halloween on the Square, do your best to make it next year. You won't be disappointed.



# BRMEMC...from Page 1

McCullough of Chattanooga. This audit was clean with no problems noted. The audit report will be placed on the website at some point in the near future for you to review. Security deposits are now based on one's credit rating. If you are a new customer and have a good credit rating, you will not be required to make a security deposit. Those residential members who have paid security deposits and have a good payment history for 24 months are eligible for a refund of the security deposit. A written request must be received in the EMC office for a residential member to receive the refund. While it may seem like a small thing, another change is that bills going to one address are now mailed in one envelope saving on postage.

Since the latest board election in September 2015, YOUR Board of Directors has hired a new attorney, Larry Ford of Hayesville to replace Larry Sorgen who resigned after more than 20 years of service. YOUR Board of Directors has appointed Ray Cook to

fill the vacant board seat from Cherokee County. YOUR board voted to change the policy which allowed board members to have interest free loans for heat pumps. Under the new policy a board member will pay the same interest rate as YOU the members for heat pumps purchased through the EMC heat pump program. YOUR Board of Directors is beginning the process of searching for a new General Manager for YOUR EMC. A search committee representing the membership, YOUR board, and the EMC staff has been appointed to select a recruiter and find suitable candidates for the General Manager position. Search committee members include: Bob Short, representing the membership; Mickey Cummings and Roy Perren, representing the board; Sheila Cook, representing EMC employees; and Larry Ford, the board attorney. While the annual audit was clean, YOUR board feels strongly that a forensic audit should take place before the new General Manager is hired. YOUR

board has appointed the finance committee to select an auditor to conduct the forensic audit.

YOUR board is aware that there are other items YOU the members want to see addressed. We are in the process of working closely with the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC staff to come up with the final cost of the Headquarters building. The staff has done an excellent job of putting this together and we hope to have a final bottom line figure to YOU the members soon. YOUR board will be meeting soon to develop a procedure to open up meetings where YOU the members can address YOUR board directly. We hope to have this process settled in time for the new year.

We are YOUR Board of Directors. Please feel free to contact us with your questions and concerns. YOUR board members are: Mickey Cummings, Charles Jenkins, and Greg Owenby from Union County; Ronnie Burch and Chris Logan from Clay County; Steven Phillips and Roy Perren from Towns County; Larry Williams from Fannin County; Ray Cook from Cherokee County.

# Veterans...from Page 1

engraved with new names.

"We have 15 new names added onto the wall of veterans who have passed away here in Towns County, and the widows of these veterans, they'll have a special place to sit at the ceremony. Then we're going to honor them, and they're going to see the names of their loved ones on the new monument wall. That's one of our projects," said Drummond.

After the opening ceremony, the ceremony will go on as it traditionally does.

"We're having our standard Veterans Day ceremony. We're going to have guest speakers. We're going to have the presentation of the names on the wall and the honored guests. We're going to

lay the wreath as we always do on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. We always lay a wreath in front of the main monument up there, where the flag is," said Drummond.

"There's going to be I think 55 or 56 of us veterans who volunteered to serve during the Vietnam War, and there is the new Georgia State Award certificate being handed out. That'll be done, and we're going to have a caravan supervised by the Towns County Fire and the Towns County Sheriff's departments, at which point we're going to have the presentation and the unveiling of the new Iwo Jima monument," he said.

The unveiling will be

attended by a large host of veterans from every branch of the U.S. military.

"We're going to have members of all five branches of the service for this presentation. We're going to have an indoor ceremony for the veterans. There's going to be special places for the veterans to sit with their families. We're going to have a special table for the World War II vets," said Drummond.

The Iwo Jima monument will be unveiled as a testament not only of the general company of veterans in Towns County, but specifically Bud Johnson and Todd Kimsey, both World War II vets who served in the Pacific Theater and witnessed the famous raising of the American flag at Iwo Jima.

# Hiawassee...from Page 1

4, Incumbent Allen had a total of 111 votes to Mitchell's 174 votes according to one tally sheet, while the other sheet reflected Allen having 110 votes to 175 for Mitchell.

For City Council Post 5, both tally sheets came up with balancing vote totals, and Ordiales defeated Incumbent Smith 166-124 votes.

The totals above reflect all early voting, Election Day voting, as well as absentee ballots that were mailed to City Hall.

A re-count is necessary to ensure that the tally sheets balance before voting materials and ballots are sent to the Secretary of State's office.

Mitchell is no stranger to elected office, having served 11 years on the Towns County Board of Education in the first

years that the board opened up to elections instead of members being appointed by the superintendent of schools.

"Hiawassee, thank you," said Mitchell. "You spoke, we listened, you voted, and now let's get to work and do something."

Nearly 45 percent of registered voters in Hiawassee turned out to make their voices heard at the polls, and both Mitchell and Ordiales were thankful for those who decided to exercise their voting privileges.

"I'm proud and I'm honored," said Ordiales on being elected. "The reason I wanted to run is, I love this place, and I see that in the last eight years that I've lived here full time, you can see the decline in the businesses, you can see

the decline in the way it looks. And I think it was the usual put up or shut up, and I felt like it was my responsibility to run for council and try to make a difference."

Berrong, who won by three votes against Crothers in the initial count before the re-count, is excited about the opportunity to serve his community.

"I just want to say thank you for all my supporters," said Berrong. "I want them to feel confident in me, and that I'm going to make the right decision for the people. I'm out for them – I'm a citizen, not a politician."

Only initial vote tallies were available by press time. Visit townscountherald.net for coverage on the Nov. 4 re-count.

# Indians...from Page 1

Champion on the boys side, as by all accounts the Towns County boys were going to need to beat Trion High School – which they did last year, and both teams have improved on the whole this year.

"This year's a different story," said Coach Ledford. "We've had assets that joined the team, and we're faster, our times are faster. For the girls as well, we've gained assets, but the other runners in the other areas are faster, too."

Coach Ledford has had a challenging season, battling through injuries and sharing her runners with other sports and clubs within the school.

"It's been a season unlike any I have ever coached, not just cross country, but in any sport in my whole coaching career, this

has been the most challenging," said Coach Ledford. "I'm talking college level, everything – this season by far has been the most challenging."

"When you have a team that's the elite as far as being the best students, then you have the whole Academic Team, I shared this year with the band, I shared this year with golf club. I had kids taking college classes. So every day, we had a cross referenced sport of, this child was here, this kid wouldn't get here until 3:30 because they're in a college class."

"We spread it as thin as possible, but I wanted to let them have the ability for the opportunity, and I kept telling them that it wasn't how we started, it was how we finished it, but we had to tie up these

loose ends and come together as a team. We had a lot of injuries that came in pre-existing, there was nothing we could do about it."

With both teams placing second in the Area Meet, Coach Ledford knows that the girls and the boys are underdogs heading into the State Championship this Saturday.

"Literally, it's between us and four other teams, we're pulling the same exact times, so that day will belong to not who has trained the most, but whoever wants it the most," said Coach Ledford. "Whoever wants to gut check and fight and take that title – it's going to be down to a matter of seconds that will actually separate and make the difference from second place, probably all the way down to fifth place."

# Iwo Jima...from Page 1

U.S. Navy, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall revealed the plans for the statue at the October County Commissioner's Meeting.

Johnson, Kimsey and Commissioner Kendall all signed a proclamation in the meeting, recognizing the men involved in the flag raising, the man who won a Pulitzer Prize for photographing the event, and the brave service members who fought at that bloody battle of Iwo Jima, as well as veterans of all American wars, far and wide.

"We here highly resolve that a grateful county shall not forget their noble deeds, and Al Garnto was commissioned to sculpt this steel memorial in their honor," read the proclamation. "Therefore, I, Bill Kendall, Commissioner of Towns County, do hereby proclaim and ordain that the flag shall fly over it 24 hours a day, reminding all and posterity of the supreme price paid for our freedom."

With the signing of the proclamation, and with the Veterans Memorial Dedication Program on Nov. 11, the sculpture will be finalized and dedicated to all veterans.

"As I look over this group now, I wonder how many of you folks I taught in school," said Kimsey. "I started my career teaching where Brasstown Manor is now, and I've gone a circle, I've gone back to Brasstown Manor."

"This gentleman standing behind me, I had him in class, I had him in coaching, and I'll

embarrass him a little bit, I've never met anybody that I actually thought any more of than Bill Kendall. It's not long ago that the veterans made him an Honorary Veteran."

Kimsey recounted some of his memories of the Battle of Iwo Jima, where his ship, the USS Pasadena, was anchored just offshore.

Johnson, also anchored within view of the battle at Iwo Jima, made a point to recognize those in attendance at that county meeting who were also veterans.

"This is what freedom is about," said Johnson in an emotional moment. "It's not so much about us who are survivors, but those who didn't make it back. Believe me, when we saw that – it still hurts, it still hurts, but this is what this is all about."

Both Johnson and Kimsey thanked Commissioner Kendall for his continuing dedication to those who have served, as well as to those perished in service to their country.

Also present for the signing were Walt Scott, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), and Scott Drummond, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.), and Garnto, the sculptor.

"This is a true honor for me," said Garnto, of Blairsville, in the county meeting. "I am a professional artist and kinetic sculptor. A kinetic sculptor basically makes sculptures that move. I harness the wind's energy to put my sculptures

into motion. I'm widely known for my Appalachian Sculpture Project, which is out of Meeks Park over in Blairsville. It's the largest kinetic sculpture exhibit in Northeast Georgia history at this time.

"But back to this – about a month and a half ago, Mr. Kendall approached me and wanted to know if I'd be interested in designing a monument around the raising of the Iwo Jima flag in World War II, which I was greatly interested in, and it was a true honor."

"Towns County has been very good to me over the years, from Young Harris College, which I was an alumni – I was an art major there. I went on to the Atlanta College of Art, Presidential Scholarship, then returned back to Blairsville and opened up my studio, and I've made my living solely from my art ever since."

The monument, which is 20 feet tall at its apex with a 36 foot base, was a massive undertaking for Garnto, as Commissioner Kendall asked that the sculpture be completed by Veterans Day, which would give Garnto a little more than two months to complete the project.

"I was like, I just don't see how we can get this done, but I definitely wanted to try, so we went at it," said Garnto. "We're right on schedule, so it looks like it's going to make it."

The statue was paid for out of Towns County's parks and recreation budget totaling \$20,000 for materials and labor.

# Band...from Page 1

This has been a good year overall. The marching band has gone to two competitions and has won them both.

"There was another one in Gainesville. It was the Lake Lanier Tournament of Bands. This year has just been rewarding for them overall because we've won our class at both competitions we went to," said Nolen.

The very nature of performing means that the band only had one shot to get their music right. Nolen made up for that fact by making sure the band was consistent in its practices, and that on the day of the performance they were in top shape for the competition.

"The kids are judged in three categories: music, visual performance, which is basically how they march and how uniform it is, and overall effect, which is the two kind of combined together. And out of those three categories, they are all combined and given an overall score. We scored just under an 81, which is about three points higher than anybody

in our class, which is pretty substantial," said Nolen.

The show was called "Epic," and in that theme, the band played three tunes, each from blockbuster movie soundtracks.

"They played the *Batman* theme, *Skyfall* from the James Bond movies, and *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*, the theme from that. For them I would say *Skyfall* is the most challenging. It was probably overall their favorite, and I told them at the beginning of the year that I honestly was debating whether or not to choose that for them, because it was challenging and it really stretched their ability, but I think it wound up being their favorite, and they did really well with it," said Nolen.

Each year, he tries to cater the show to the senior class, and since his seniors have displayed impressive leadership he thought that soundtracks from heroic movies would be fitting.

"I know a lot of our students and a lot of our band

members look toward the seniors and look up to them and respect them, especially this year, so they're kind of thought of as their own superheroes. So that spoke to the themes of this year as far as what we picked out," he explained.

Without having immediate access to the judges' scorecards, Nolen explained that he could only make at best an educated guess as to how his band was scored so well.

"I know from listening to most of the tapes. I think it was really the musicality that kind of separated them from the rest of the group in the class, because most of the comments we got had to do with how musical the kids were playing, and I think it was the level at which they played it and how well they did. It really sent a message, because they played it so well," he said.

"It was a great night for them, because with how big the competition was, there were 28 groups, and then again, it was a competitive class, and being rewarded for all that work, they only have two competitions a year, so it was great. Tears were shed, and they did really well, so I'm proud of them," he added.

# Fugitive...from Page 1

task force.

The street value of the illegal narcotics was \$800, and the handgun was stolen from Clay County, NC, according to the task force.

Nathan Christopher Rose, a 39-year-old man from North Carolina, was arrested at the scene and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute,

according to the task force, and Rose was transported to the Towns County Detention Center.

Davis has yet to be apprehended, but is wanted for possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute, possession of marijuana and possession of stolen property, according to the task force.

The Appalachian Drug Task Force is a multi-agency unit

that consists of the following sheriff's offices: White County, Lumpkin County, Towns County, Banks County, Habersham County, Stephens County and Rabun County, along with the Cleveland Police Department, the Georgia National Guard Counter Drug Task Force, the Department of Public Safety and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

# Young Harris...from Page 1

as a relative newcomer to the community, he would take the time to understand the needs of the city before setting an agenda that addresses those needs.

"The first couple of months, I want to put my ear to

the ground and figure out what people want and what their concerns are, and to really get a feel for the values of this city and the needs and demands of the council. So not a lot of active pushing things through

until I really understand what's necessary and what's possible and what's wanted," he said.

Jared Champion is an instructor of English and the director of the Writing Center at Young Harris College.

**Towns County Herald Classified Ads**  
**SELL SELL SELL SELL**  
**Call 706-896-4454 for more**  
**information**