

# Noise...from Page 1A

ciation also proposed that an 11 p.m. cut-off time be enforced 365 days per year.

Commissioner Kendall listened to Peterson as she spoke for the homeowners, and reminded them in attendance that, not only is Ramey Mountain being affected, "but also Red Bank, Young Harris Mountain, and Ridge Crest Circle."

Commissioner Kendall then reminded everyone that these establishments had local and state licenses, but the "local government could not pull the liquor license from the state." However, "it was possible that the state might pull a license if they were in violation of the county beer and wine sales ordinance," Kendall said.

In addition to the proposed cut-off time, the homeowners association also proposed a "70 decibel amendment," which would make 70 decibels the limit that the music coming from these establishments could play at.

However, Commissioner Kendall shook his head at that.

"It would be extremely hard to enforce because I went to the locations in question

and the adjacent road noise exceeded 70 decibel levels at times," Commissioner Kendall said.

Commissioner Kendall said that he was "tabling the proposed 70 decibels amendment," and indicated that he was "investigating" alternative ways to deal with this issue.

Commissioner Kendall said that he "wanted to protect homeowners," but wanted to ensure that everyone involved in the situation received a fair chance at trying to resolve the problems.

He suggested that the community leaders and business leaders come together and try to reach an agreement that everyone can live with.

Commissioner Kendall again said that he wanted to help the homeowners, but he also wants to be fair and follow up with this issue using the correct avenues.

He reminded those attending the meeting that the outside summer "music is at an end," and this will provide all those involved with additional "time to come up with a solution to this problem over the winter."

# Shakers...from Page 1A

money the U.S. Government may borrow.

That limit is established by law. The idea behind a debt limit is to try to restrain the politicians' natural tendencies to borrow from the future in order to spend in the present."

In order to clarify exactly what the debt ceiling is, Dr. Van Vliet explains in a very easy to understand manner that, a "deficit" is the difference between revenue and spending in a given year.

When the federal revenue exceeds federal spending, the U.S. experiences a 'surplus' rather than a deficit - the "debt" is the total deficits less the surpluses."

He further explains that "borrowing money to pay for deficit spending is legal until the debt ceiling is reached, and once the debt ceiling is reached, the government is not legally permitted to borrow extra money."

However, as the federal government has recently passed a "suspension" of the debt ceiling into law, the government is now allowed to legally borrow money to keep from defaulting.

As a proposition to getting the country's debt under control, Dr. Van Vliet suggests that the government needs to cut the corporate tax rates.

By doing so corporations within and outside of the U.S. would have incentive for making the U.S. their "prime destination" for building new corporations.

However, as it stands the U.S. places very high tax rates on companies, so instead of bringing money into the country, the high tax rates cause corporations to spend their money elsewhere.

Dr. Van Vliet uses Ireland as an example, and he ex-

plained that several years ago, "Ireland cut corporate tax rates to the lowest in the European Union" enticing an influx of companies bringing jobs and money into their country.

Almost "instantly, Ireland became the 'Silicon Valley' of Europe."

Dr. Van Vliet argues that currently the corporate tax rates in the U.S. are at such high levels that the nation is not receiving the tax revenues because corporations would rather keep more of their profits and invest in countries with lower tax rates, therefore by cutting the corporate tax rates in the U.S., corporation money would then flood into the American economy.

Further arguing that bringing in some money from corporations if the tax rate was lowered is a lot better than the economy receiving no money.

There is not an easy way to fix our budget problems to get the nation out of debt, and as Dr. Van Vliet states "the health of the American economy is a critical component of business matters, societal matters and public policy choices.

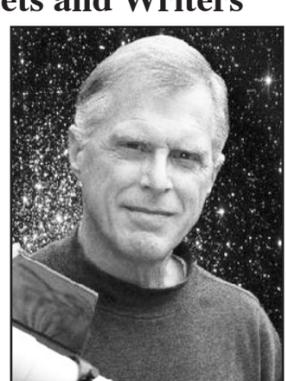
At the same time, business, societal and governmental issues all influence the state of the American economy.

The interactions are complex, frustrating and significant, he said.

Those in attendance for the breakfast meeting at Mary's Southern Grill in Young Harris were fortunate to receive a lesson on the debt ceiling by Dr. Van Vliet because of his matter-of-fact, easy to understand approach to conveying his message. Anyone who has heard him lecture, whether a student at the college, or someone in the community, is always treated with an engaging discussion.

# Coffee with the Poets and Writers

Coffee with the Poets and Writers, a monthly literary event held at Blue Mountain Coffee and Grill in Murphy, NC will feature Paul Schofield, author of the Trophy sci-fi series. Wednesday, November 13, at 10:30 a.m. he will speak and share his stories.



Paul Schofield

astronomy, a life-long hobby. The audience is invited to bring original poems or short stories and participate in an open microphone session that will follow Paul's presentation.

Those attending are invited to join the writers and poets after the event as we pull tables together and enjoy a social hour. Coffee with the Poets and Writers is sponsored by NCWN West. Contact Netwest Representative, Glenda Beall, at 828-389-4441 for information.

# X-Country...from Page 1A

on Ansley Vardeman defended her region title.

She ran for a first place medal with a time of 23.21 against some very tough Region competition.

It remains to be seen if she will repeat her First Place state finish.

The Towns County girls' team, the defending Class A State Champions, came in second to Trion. Close on their heels were Commerce and Gordon Lee.

"We will turn right around and fight this battle again," Ledford predicted.

The responsibility of beating Trion will fall on Ledford's number 3, 4, and 5 positions.

Instead of urging her runners to catch up to rival teams' runners, she tells them to catch up to each other.

"Those girls will pull," she promised. "I said, 'no one else on this course matters. You go get your family.' And that's what they do."

The teams travel to Car-



Defending Class A State Champion Ansley Vardeman. Photo/Todd Forrest

rollton for the state tournament on Saturday. The boys race at 4:15 p.m., and the girls race at 4:55 p.m.

If Coach Ledford was anxious for Region, it's a safe

bet that she'll be anxious for State.

But she also admits that she's done all she can to prepare her athletes.

All that's left is to perform.

"Nobody really knows the battle they fought this year," she said. "To say my heart is full is an understatement."

Last year, Towns County's boys' team did not move on. This year, Coach Ledford will be taking both her boys and girls to the State Championships in Carrollton.

The top four teams in each Region go to state, and in such a tough area, Ledford's boys have had to fight a long-running curse of missing the state tournament by one place.

"When the results came in, I had thought we would be in fifth," Ledford admits.

She had already prepared to concede gracefully. When the results came down, placing Towns County in fourth place,

Coach Ledford said she was speechless.

"In that moment I was so awestruck," she said. "I had nothing. When I get nervous, I talk. And I was completely speechless."

She noted that there's usually a discrepancy between the girls' results and the boys' results.

The girls usually come out on top, which makes for familial competition, but never ill-will between the two teams.

"As close as this team is, it's always sorrowful for the girls to see their boys not make it, but the boys turn right around and they love those girls, and they celebrate when they do make it on," Coach Ledford said. "The thing that was the most precious is, those girls jumped up off the ground, and the boys come running over to me."

She laughed. "You would have thought we'd won the Olympics - for a fourth-place team advancement," she said excitedly.

# Halloween...from Page 1A

to help with the event because they want to ensure that local children have a safe environment where they can enjoy Halloween.

Volunteer judge, Gale Eaton said that "this is my passion, helping with the kids" because this event "not only gives the kids a safe place to Trick-or-Treat, but is also very entertaining and the kids love it."

After the judges tallied up the votes for their favorite costumes, the winners were announced.

The envelope please - Winners of the birth to 2 years old category, First Place, Pierce dressed as a "Pro-Golfer;" Second Place, "Pebbles & Bam-Bam;" Third Place, Cassandra dressed as a "pirate."

Winners of the 3-5 years old category were First Place Cadence Garrett, dressed as a "Snow Princess;" Second Place Sophia, dressed as "La La Loopsy," and Third Place, Jade Love, dressed as a "Gypsy."

Winners of the 6-7 years old category were First Place, Eli and Zoe, dressed as a "Christmas Tree & Christmas Present," Second Place, Tyler, dressed as "Indiana Jones,"



Halloween on the Square in Downtown Hiawassee was fun for this young lady. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

and Third Place Jacob, dressed as "Jack Sparrow."

Winners of the 8-10 years old category were First Place, Ethan Stewart, dressed as a "Lazy Boy Recliner," Second Place, Vanessa Floyd, dressed as a "Barbie In Her Box," and Third Place, Holly Griffith, dressed as "Harley Quinn."

The winners had imaginary and inventive costumes, but many of the contestants and those in the crowd also sported some fantastic costumes.

Maddox, who is 3 years old, was dressed as a "homeless

child," whose costume came complete with a sign that said "will work for candy."

Braden Barrett, 5, came dressed as "his daddy," Lane who is 9 years old came dressed as "Tonto," Sara, also 9 years old, was dressed as "Scarlett O'Hara," and 8-year-old Devon Reece was dressed as a "werewolf," just to mention a few.

However, the costumes of choice also included several Duck Dynasty characters and many variations of pirates. Not to forget the more tradi-

tional choices of action heroes, such as Snake Eyes, Iron Man, Captain America, and The Green Lantern, clowns, cow-girls, fairies, and princesses.

Plus the scarier costume choices such as zombies, ghouls, and devilish characters from movies such as *Scream* and *Saw*.

The event drew a crowd of well over 1,000 people and was a tremendous success.

The success was due in part to the following volunteers and sponsors, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall's Office, the City of Hiawassee, Hiawassee Police Department, Towns County Fire & Rescue, Towns County EMS, Towns County Sheriff's Office, the local American Red Cross, Asiano's, Car Quest, State Farm Insurance, Mountain Water Sports, Fun World, Fieldstone Cinemas, Harvest Fellowship Church, Barrett Insurance, United Community Bank, Verizon Wireless Store, Goin' Postal, Hiawassee Realty, Bowl of Asia, Van Keith Insurance, White's Welding, Chatuge Regional Hospital, Churchill's Custom Cabinets, Mauldin Grading & Hauling, North Mount Zion Church of God, and Discover Church.

# Indians...from Page 1A

to play. "It is an honor to go to battle with you," Coach Harrison said.

Indeed, the Indians have hit the light switch and fully have a grasp of the Wing-T offense. They also are playing stingy defense.

They are making their first-year head coach a very proud man.

On this night, defense was the key as the Indians kept the Lakeview Lions at bay.

Cruz Shook, Jackson Noblet, Kyle Davis and Garrett Bradshaw played with heart the entire game.

Evan Keyes was a menace in the face of the Lions' quarterback.

Shea Underwood put the Indians on the scoreboard late in the second quarter to give Towns



Coach Harrison tells his troops he wishes they had 10 more games to play this season. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

a 3-0 lead at the half. Lakeview struck back early in the third quarter to take a 7-3

lead. It would remain that way until late in the fourth quarter when Noblet broke through the

Lions' defense to put up the first touchdown of the night for Towns County.

Underwood connected on the extra point, and the Indians were in control 10-7.

Defense, the story of the night for the Indians, held strong and fought off a Lions' late rally to clinch the season's third victory.

The Indians travel to Hebron Christian Academy on Friday night with hopes of securing a fourth win in the final five games.

Victory is never guaranteed, but, this Indians' squad is determined to take its game to the next level.

Finishing with a 4-1 flurry to end the season sets a strong precedent for Coach Harrison and his coaching staff.

The 2013 Indians have come a long way from Game 1.

# Union General reports scabies outbreak

Towns County Herald News Special

Union General Hospital's Infection Prevention Department in Blairsville reports that several cases of scabies have been identified locally.

According to the Clay County Health Department, a scabies outbreak is occurring in Clay County, NC.

In an effort to decrease the spread of scabies, Union General Hospital provides the following information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

**What is scabies?** Scabies is an infestation of the skin by the human itch mite (*Sarcoptes scabiei* var. *hominis*). The microscopic scabies mite burrows into the upper layer of the skin where it lives and lays its eggs. The most common symptoms of scabies are intense itching and a pimple-like skin rash.

Scabies is found worldwide and affects people of all races and social classes. Scabies can spread rapidly under crowded conditions where close body and skin contact is frequent. Institutions such as nursing homes, extended-care facilities, and prisons are often sites of scabies outbreaks. Child care facilities also are a common site of scabies infestations.

**What is crusted (Norwegian) scabies?**

Crusted scabies is a severe form of scabies that can occur in some persons who have a weak immune system, or are elderly, disabled, or debilitated. It is also called Norwegian scabies. Persons with crusted scabies have thick crusts of skin that contain large numbers of scabies mites and eggs. Persons with crusted scabies are very contagious to other persons and can spread the infestation easily both by direct skin-to-skin contact and by contamination of items such as

their clothing, bedding, and furniture. Persons with crusted scabies may not show the usual signs and symptoms of scabies such as the characteristic rash or itching (pruritus). Persons with crusted scabies should receive quick and aggressive medical treatment for their infestation to prevent outbreaks of scabies.

**How soon after infestation do symptoms of scabies begin?**

If a person has never had scabies before, symptoms may take as long as 4-6 weeks to begin. It is important to remember that an infested person can spread scabies during this time, even if he/she does not have symptoms yet.

**What are the signs and symptoms of scabies infestation?**

The most common signs and symptoms of scabies are intense itching, especially at night, and a pimple-like itchy rash. The itching and rash each may affect much of the body or be limited to common sites such as the wrist, elbow, armpit, webbing between the fingers, nipple, waist, belt-line, and buttocks. The rash also can include tiny blisters (vesicles) and scales. Scratching the rash can cause skin sores; sometimes these sores become infected by bacteria.

Tiny burrows sometimes are seen on the skin; these are caused by the female scabies mite tunneling just beneath the surface of the skin. These burrows appear as tiny raised and crooked (serpiginous) grayish-white or skin-colored lines on the skin surface. Because mites are often few in number (only 10-15 mites per person), these burrows may be difficult to find. They are found most often in the webbing between the fingers, in the skin folds on the wrist, elbow, or knee, and on the

breast, or shoulder blades. The head, face, neck, palms, and soles often are involved in infants and very young children, but usually not adults and older children.

Persons with crusted scabies may not show the usual signs and symptoms of scabies such as the characteristic rash or itching (pruritus).

**How did I get scabies?**

Scabies usually is spread by direct, prolonged, skin-to-skin contact with a person who has scabies. Contact generally must be prolonged; a quick handshake or hug usually will not spread scabies. Scabies is spread easily to sexual partners and household members. Scabies in adults frequently is sexually acquired. Scabies sometimes is spread indirectly by sharing articles such as clothing, towels, or bedding used by an infested person; however, such indirect spread can occur much more easily when the infested person has crusted scabies.

**How is scabies infestation diagnosed?**

Diagnosis of a scabies infestation usually is made based on the customary appearance and distribution of the rash and the presence of burrows. Whenever possible, the diagnosis of scabies should be confirmed by identifying the mite, mite eggs, or mite fecal matter (scybala). This can be done by carefully removing a mite from the end of its burrow using the tip of a needle or by obtaining skin scraping to examine under a microscope for mites, eggs, or mite fecal matter. It is important to remember that a person can still be infested even if mites, eggs, or fecal matter cannot be found; typically fewer than 10-15 mites can be present on the entire body of an infested person who is otherwise healthy. However, persons with crusted scabies can be infested

with thousands of mites and should be considered highly contagious.

**How long can scabies mites live?**

On a person, scabies mites can live for as long as 1-2 months. Off a person, scabies mites usually do not survive more than 48-72 hours. Scabies mites will die if exposed to a temperature of 50°C (122°F) for 10 minutes.

**Can scabies be treated?**

Yes. Products used to treat scabies are called scabicides because they kill scabies mites; some also kill eggs. Scabicides to treat human scabies are available only with a doctor's prescription; no "over-the-counter" (non-prescription) products have been tested and approved for humans.

Always follow carefully the instructions provided by the doctor and pharmacist, as well as those contained in the box or printed on the label. When treating adults and older children, scabicide cream or lotion is applied to all areas of the body from the neck down to the feet and toes; when treating infants and young children, the cream or lotion also is applied to the head and neck. The medication should be left on the body for the recommended time before it is washed off. Clean clothes should be worn after treatment.

In addition to the infested person, treatment also is recommended for household members and sexual contacts, particularly those who have had prolonged skin-to-skin contact with the infested person. All persons should be treated at the same time in order to prevent reinfection. Retreatment may be necessary if itching continues more than 2-4 weeks after treatment or if new burrows or rash continue to appear.

Never use a scabicide intended for veterinary or agricultural use to treat humans.