

Appointment...from Page 1A

chief for management evaluation. From 1983 to 1986, Powell held several positions with the U.S. Department of the Navy, including audit manager, senior management consultant, internal review officer, and auditor.

Powell works as an independent energy efficiency and renewable energy consultant to states, local governments

and industry. He is the owner and principal consultant for NORAVA Consulting. NORAVA Consulting provides a number of services related to energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives such as the identification of funding sources, liaison and partnership building with state and federal government agencies, development of funding proposal

documentation and support for project reporting and project management.

Powell ran unsuccessfully for the Georgia Public Service Commission in 2008.

Powell was the statewide Democratic candidate for the PSC. He won the primary election by getting 85 percent of the vote. He went on to win the General Election that

year by earning the majority of the vote, but not getting the 50 percent plus 1 required by Georgia law.

The Public Service Commission race and the U.S. Senate race were decided in the December 2008 run off.

Powell lost the run off election along with Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Jim Martin.

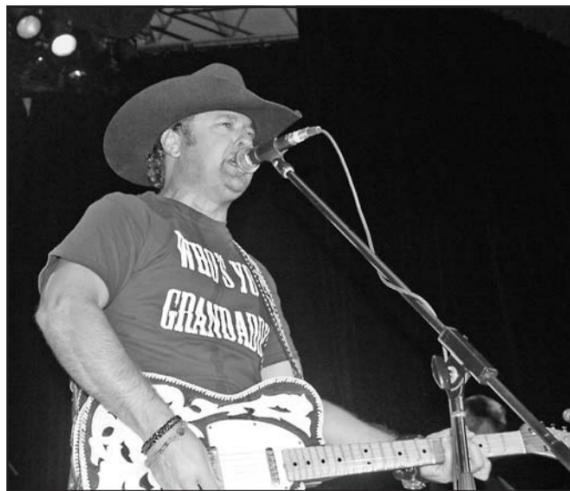
Granddaddy...from Page 1A

something happen here, and give back to my hometown.

"After all, this is where it all started for me years ago," he said.

Townsend hopes to conjure up his Granddaddy Jack McClure's mountain moonshine magic.

Selling moonshine is legal today, just as long as the government collects the tax revenue. The launch of Gran-



Tommy Townsend proudly wears a "Who's your Granddaddy" t-shirt during a performance at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/Todd Forrest

daddy Mimm whiskey products has been on Townsend's mind since January 2012.

McClure's moonshine recipe had been stored away in the family's memory for more than 40 years until Townsend brought it back to life.

On Jan. 25, 2012, Townsend announced his partnership with Georgia Distilling Company Inc. in Milledgeville to recreate and market his grandfather's original moonshine recipes legally for the first time.

Dubbed Granddaddy Mimm Authentic Corn Whiskey, and Peach and Apple brandies, these mountain spirits are produced on stills using the Jack McClure design, and shine is made in Georgia using Granddaddy Mimm's secret family recipe that originated in Towns County.

The back label on the whiskey bottle urges those

who partake of these spirits to "please drink responsibly and don't forget to tithe on Sunday."

Granddaddy Mimm is available for purchase at liquor stores around the South, but the closest location is in Ellijay. It hit store shelves in Georgia last September.

Jack McClure was an Appalachian moonshiner and local philanthropist from Young Harris.

The North Georgia Mountains are lush with stories of McClure's quality bootleg spirits, his charitable giving, and his self-delivered justice to those who crossed him.

Bluegrass icons Lester Flat and Earl Scruggs even enjoyed the famous brew a time or two when they were in the area according to Townsend.

McClure's career in

bootlegging began during the Great Depression and continued until his death in 1969 when he died of pancreatic cancer.

Townsend was only 2 years old when his 'infamous' grandfather died, but the stories of his 'shining days' lived on and the family stories of his grandfather sparked an interest in Granddaddy Mimm that could not be squelched.

"I began to question my mother, aunts, and uncles about the recipe," said Townsend. "With their blessing, I began the process of producing Granddaddy Mimm using the same recipe and the same simple ingredients with all the taste and tradition enjoyed by folks back in the day of Mimm."

According to Townsend, the nickname 'Mimmie' actually came from Terry Roberts, the first grandchild of Jack McClure. It was later shortened to 'Mimm' by the other grandchildren.

"Now that moonshine is legal, it's going to be a blast for me to carry on the tradition," Townsend said. "I've thought about it for several years of how cool it would be to run 'shine' because of all the stories I've heard about Mimm since I was a child."

"I've always liked outlaws and the folks that colored outside the lines a bit, so that's what motivated me to do this," said Townsend, the lead singer for Waymore's Outlaws, the former band of Outlaw Music legend Waylon Jennings.

"Now I can run it legally. I just have to pay the taxes on it," said Townsend.

Millage...from Page 1A



Lamar Paris

able to give a millage break is because of our SPLOST revenues," he said. "They pay for so much that ordinarily would have to come from the general fund budget."

A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. The value of county property is assessed at 40 percent of its value.

It's the second year in a row that Commissioner Paris has cut the county millage rate.

The BOE met last Monday afternoon to propose to keep the millage rate at 11.798 mills. It's the third year in a row that the BOE millage rate has stayed at 11.798 mills.

Mayor Jim Conley announced last week that the Blairsville City Council will keep its millage rate at 2 mills for city maintenance and operations budget purposes.

Mayor Conley said the city will do its part to keep taxes low.

"Nobody likes to pay taxes. Nobody likes to have their taxes increased. We have to face facts, the economy just doesn't warrant a millage rate increase," Mayor Conley said.

"People are hurting as it is. As a government, we just have to stay the course and keep costs in line as much as we can," he said. "We'll keep looking for ways to save the taxpayers' money."

The 2013 Tax Digest for Union County remains virtually unchanged from a year ago, Tax Commissioner Lee Knight said.

Overall, the tax digest is down \$461,400, Commissioner Knight said.

Once the ritual of locking in the new millage rates is complete, Commissioner Knight will deliver the county's Tax Digest, five-year tax histories and millage rate resolutions from local governments to the Georgia Department of Revenue.

If approved at the state level, tax bills will head to the printer and should be in the mail by around Oct. 16th.

The bills will be due by Dec. 20th as long as the digest and millage rates are approved on time by the state, Commissioner Knight said.

Union County must wait until millage rates are set statewide to see if they will continue to hold the spot as the fourth lowest millage rate

in the state.

Keeping taxes low is something that Commissioner Paris, the BOE and the Blairsville City Council take pride in.

"Well, if you're looking to relocate a business, the first thing you look at is the tax rate," Commissioner Paris said.