

Towns County Herald

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Thursday, March 12, 2009

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Showers 53 37
Fri: Showers 47 37
Sat: Showers 49 39
Sun: Showers 53 38
Mon: Showers 59 39
Tue: Showers 59 38
Wed: Cloudy 54 31



Upstream Elevation Predicted 3/09/09
Lake Chatuge 1918.38
Lake Nottely 1762.38
Blue Ridge 1674.47

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Relay for Life Variety Show

A variety show to benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life will be held on March 28 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at Cadence Bank, Seasons Inn, the Ga. Mtn. Fairgrounds or by calling 706-745-5588.

The event is hosted by the Towns and Union Counties Relay for Life Teams. Look inside this week's Herald for more information on the "Stars Shine for Cancer" benefit show.

Young Harris voters

A special election will be held on Tuesday, March 17 to decide who will fill the vacant seat for Young Harris City Council Post 6. The Young Harris City Hall can be reached at 706-379-3171.

New AA Office

Local members of Alcoholics Anonymous have opened a central office in Murphy, NC serving the tri-state area. The central office will serve as a contact and referral source for anyone dealing with alcohol related problems. The office is located at 444 East Hill St., Murphy, NC 28906. Office hours M-F 10 am - 4 pm, 24 hour telephone 828-837-4440

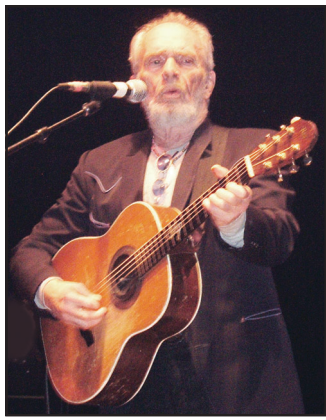
Cherokee Presentation

The Cherokee Indians played a significant role in mountain history. The Towns County Historical Society will sponsor discussions of myths about our local Native American heritage to be presented on Saturday, March 14, at the Senior Center in Hiwassee at 1 p.m.

The community is invited to learn about the way Indians of the area lived at this free presentation. Indian artifacts will be on display.

For more information call 706-896-1060 or go to www.townshistory.org.

Merle Haggard plays to sold out crowd at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds



By David Seckinger
TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD
tcherald@brmemc.net

The Okie From Muskogee and Grammy

Award winner played the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds last Saturday night to a packed house.

Many members of the Haggard family appeared on stage to perform classic country and rock favorites from Johnny Cash to Elvis.

Merle walked on stage to an appreciative crowd, who gave the living legend a standing ovation before he ever played a note. Upon entering, Haggard came out and took a long drink from a cup while hamming it up for all the audience members with cam-

era phones. As one audience member put it, "What was in that cup? Probably water. Could have been whiskey? Might have been wine?"

The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds was pleased with the sold out crowd. They are working with Columbus, GA, promoter Mike Blackwell to host another concert on March 13 with Sixties R&B performers Percy Sledge, Clarence Carter, and the Tams.

There is also a possibility that country music performer Josh Turner will play the fairgrounds soon.

City of Young Harris hears YHC rezoning request

The Young Harris City Council met Tuesday, March 3, 2009 for their Regular Meeting. Those present for the meeting were the Mayor, Andrea Gibby; City Council Members: Matthew Miller, Terry Ingram, Jennifer Mulkey, David Sellers and Donald Keys; the City Attorney, Cary Cox; the City Employees: Gary Willer, John Davis, and Shirley Jarrard; Planning Commission Member: Debbie Edwards and Meg Gring-Whitley; Clint Hobbs, Jennifer McAfee and Chet Roach, representing Young Harris College, and 25 members of the Young Harris College Government class.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Andrea Gibby.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Jennifer Mulkey, seconded by Tim Ingram to approve the min-

utes as recorded; all in favor. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** A motion was made by Jennifer Mulkey, seconded by Matthew Miller to accept the Financial Report; all in favor.

Council member Jennifer Mulkey asked the City Clerk to compare the end of February 2008 and the end of 2009 to gage LOST rev-

enues. This information was given to the Council.

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE APPLICATIONS: Young Harris College had applied for rezoning of the property located at 4900 Thomas Town Road, formerly known as the Arnold Keys property. A

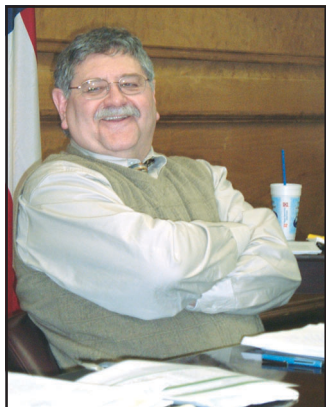
See YHCC, page 3



Mayor Gibby watches while Jarrard reads minutes.

Good news/bad news for Hiwassee council

City manager remains through 2011, Councilwoman suffers light stroke



City Manager Rick Stancil

By David Seckinger
TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD
tcherald@brmemc.net

The City of Hiwassee met at a regular Council meeting on March 3. Mayor Barbara Mathis, clerk Wylene White, city manager Richard Stancil, council members Janet Allen, Jay

Chastain Jr., Howard Cunningham, and Joan Crothers attended.

Councilwoman Annie Johnson was not at the meeting. Mathis said Johnson had suffered a light stroke. "We just hope she gets better real quick," said the mayor.

Council voted on personnel matters, as well as city business during the meeting.

Council went into executive session at the end of the meeting for their annual evaluation of employee, City Manager, Richard H. Stancil. Council came from behind closed doors to approve the extension of Stancil's contract through January 1, 2012.

Council approved hiring a part-time employee at

City Hall to fill in during an upcoming medical leave. Holli Kuykendall will work for \$10 per hour with no benefits.

Council approved renewing a contract with Hach Service for the inspection and calibration of the meters at the Water Treatment Plant, which will cost \$5,200. Mathis said that amount was a good price, and calibration is a state requirement.

Council approved spending \$2,750 to replace the city computer server.

Council approved a resolution Approving Adoption of the City Square Gazebo by the Towns County Tourism Association, Inc. or its designee.

See Stancil, page 2

2009 School Board Appreciation Week in Georgia

The Administration, Students and Staff of Towns County Schools would like to express their Appreciation to each Board Member for their Dedication, Commitment and Service to Our Community and Our School System.



Donna Hedden



Larry Kimsey



Emily Phillips



Michael Anderson



Bob Gibby

Drug party busted by police

Special to the Herald

On Tuesday, March third, TCSO deputies were dispatched to a residence on Ga. Hwy. 76 East in reference to a 911 hang-up call. Lt. Curt Donaldson and Deputy Derek Richards re-

sponded to the residence, with assistance from Hiwassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright.

When officers arrived, a male subject was seen with a contusion on his face, and

See Drugs, page 3

VFW honors two on state level



Riley and Lallement

By David Seckinger
TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD
tcherald@brmemc.net

Last December, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7807 held their annual awards dinner, where they awarded teachers, students, a police officer, a firefighter, and an emergency medical technician for outstanding service in 2008.

All of the local winners were then sent to compete at the state level. Two different candidates both won in their categories for state.

Emergency medical technician Michael C. Lallement and firefighter Frank M. Riley, Jr. attended the state VFW convention in Macon on Valentine's Day to accept their awards.

See VFW, page 2

Resolution near for Clay/Towns Authority property

By Charles Duncan
TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

A whirlwind day of meetings on Tuesday in Georgia and North Carolina was expected to bring some resolve to woes of the Clay-Towns Joint Development Authority.

First thing Tuesday, a meeting in Hayesville, N.C. where the Clay-Towns Authority was expected to vote to return 14 acres of Joint Industrial Park property to the Towns County Industrial

See CTDA, page 7

Local prisoners do rehab work for Towns County fire stations



Inmates have been doing repairs to Fire Station #4.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

By David Seckinger
TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD
tcherald@brmemc.net

Towns County Fire Chief Mitch Floyd is pleased with the rehab work done to Hightower Fire Station #4 by a group of inmates. He said the workers mainly re-

placed rotten boards in wooden decks and upgraded the lighting.

The chief hopes to have the workers help fix up problems with the five other firehouses in the county.

The inmate workers See rehab, page 2

Mystery player wins \$250,000

By David Seckinger
TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD
tcherald@brmemc.net

Who? That is what people in Towns County are asking. Who bought a lotto ticket at the Windy Hill BP convenience store in Young Harris worth \$250,000?

Store employees say the purchase was made during the last week in Febru-

ary, but neither the winner nor the lottery has let the store know who the winner is. The store gets a plaque for selling the ticket but no money.

So if anyone out there has a spouse who plays lotto and has been acting curious during the last week, you'd better keep an eye on 'em. You never know.

Under the Gold Dome

A weekly report by State Representative of Georgia's 8th District Stephen Allison



Most Georgians list transportation, education,

and immigration as some of the biggest issues facing our great state. This week the

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