

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	78 54
Fri: Rain	76 55
Sat: Cloudy	81 55
Sun: Cloudy	81 53
Mon: Cloudy	78 53
Tue: Cloudy	76 54
Wed: Rain	74 49



Upstream Elevation Predicted 04/27/11	
Lake Chatuge	1923.29
Lake Nottely	1776.80
Blue Ridge	1661.31

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## Chamber Chronicles

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## Garden Tour

The Towns County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring its first Spring Garden Tour. The theme: Garden Rambles, A Tour of Mountain Gardens in Hiwassee and Young Harris. The tour will include self-guided of area gardens on June 4th and 5th. Tickets are \$10 each and are on sale now. Call (706) 896-4966 for details about the tour.



## Happy 155

## Towns County

A beautiful handmade quilt will be on display at the square in Hiwassee from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 14, at the annual Arts & Heritage Festival sponsored by the Towns County Historical Society. The quilt depicts events and items of interest in the past history of the county beginning with the Cherokees' Trail of Tears. Other historical items and pictures of schools and classes of long ago will also be on display in the gazebo.

Events begin at 11 a.m. with welcomes by county and city dignitaries, live music, gospel singing, square dancing, and poetry and old time stories will lead up to cutting of the birthday cake around 3:30 p.m. This will be followed by a performance of our own Elvis impersonator (Roy Perren). Don't miss this day-long event with all kinds of food, music and fun.



## After Hours

The Towns County Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours for June will be held at Deb Collins Signature Gallery and the Tangerine Frog on Thursday, June 16th.

Please plan to attend and don't forget your business cards. For details, call (706) 896-4966.

# Richard Behrens retires as Towns County Superintendent

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Dr. Richard Behrens decided several years ago that he would retire in Towns County.

He just didn't know he would be doing it so soon.

Dr. Behrens submitted his retirement letter to the Towns County Board of Education last week, a move that was reluctantly accepted by the five-member board.

Behrens had two years left on his contract as schools superintendent that he signed last year to stay on as the school's top educator.

"The Board was gracious enough to let me out of my contract," Dr. Behrens said. "It was a decision that took a great deal of thought. I love Towns County; I love the students and their families. I'll continue to do that, I just won't



Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens will retire from the school system on July 31. Photo/Charles Duncan

be superintendent."

Dr. Behrens has accepted a teaching position with Truett McConnell College.

"Truett McConnell contacted me about four weeks ago about a position; they made me an offer two weeks ago," Dr. Behrens

said. "I spoke to the (Towns County) Board of Education to discuss it with them and the Board was kind enough to let me out of my contract."

Dr. Behrens will begin working in Truett McConnell's elementary teacher preparation pro-

gram this summer. He'll remain with the Towns County School System until July 31.

"They've (Truett) had that program for a number of years," he said. "We've got two or three teachers in our system that have been through that program. I'll be working with that program this year, and next year, I'll begin working on the process of getting a middle school program started."

"I'll be working with that new program over the next few years trying to get that program headed in the right direction," he said. "I'm excited about getting back in the classroom."

Dr. Behrens came to Towns County eight years ago from the White County School system where he had been an administrator for a number of years. His first job here was as a high school principal, and year later, he was the BOE's top choice

to replace Randall Townley as the school's superintendent.

Dr. Behrens said the decision to leave the school system comes with mixed feelings.

"I love this community," he said. "I have wonderful friends here, nothing but wonderful things to say about this community. Sheri and I plan to stay the rest of our years here. We'd like to continue our ties here. I don't want to miss any football games. We want to continue to be a part of this community."

Dr. Behrens got his start in the education field in 1985 in the White County School System.

"I taught middle school for a number of years and then I went into administration there for several years."

See Dr. Behrens, page 16

## Easter weekend a blast for kids

Hundreds of hidden Easter eggs discovered in Towns County

By James Reese  
Towns County Herald  
tcherald@windstream.net

A full weekend of Easter activities took place in Towns County.

Churches throughout the community hosted Easter Services on Sunday in remembrance of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

On Saturday, hundreds of colorful eggs were plentiful at the 18th Annual Countywide Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by Towns County Parks and Recreation and United Community Bank.

The egg-hunters, children up to 9 years old, split into different groups – children ages 3 years and under and children ages 7 to 9 years old took to the ball fields in search of the more than 2,000 eggs hidden in the



It was a mad dash to find valuable Easter eggs on Saturday at the Towns County Recreation Ball Fields. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

See Easter, page 16

## Grand Jury indicts Towns man for murder

Nowak allegedly contributed to February prescription drug death

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

A Towns County Grand Jury has returned 10 true bills of indictment follow the April session of the Towns County Grand Jury.

Among those indicted is a Towns County man on charges that include felony murder in the February death of a 49-year-old Towns County man at his residence.

Terry Joseph Nowak was indicted last week on five counts that included murder, possession of a Schedule II controlled substance, false report of a crime, false statements and reckless conduct, Towns County Superior Court records show.

Nowak is accused of providing Daniel Clifton Moore with methadone,



Terry Joseph Nowak

which led to his death. According to the indictment, Nowak knew Moore would ingest the drug that led to the cause of his death, thus, the charge of felony murder.

Other charges against Nowak include distribution of a controlled substance, reckless conduct, false statements to law enforcement and false report of a crime, Superior Court

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## Chorus group returns from Boston

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Towns County High School's Chorus Director Chris Adams had a purpose in mind when he took his Jazz/Chorus ensemble Note-Ariety to Boston last week.

The group competed on stage at the Heritage Musical Festival in Boston and Adams wanted to open the group's eyes to the world outside of Towns County.

He wanted his students to get to know each other better; he wanted them to create memories and friendships.

"We were able to walk the historic Freedom Trail, we were able to sing the Star Spangled Banner in some pretty historical



Back row, left to right, Jeannie Bradley, Courtney Farmer, Cassie Buck, Celeena Corbin, Lydia Corn, Katie McConnell, Sarah Burch; front row, left to right, Kayla Olin, Erin Westberry, Brittany Boyer. Not pictured: Jessica Kilby

places," Adams said. "I hope the trip opened up a different part of their learning experience. I hope it made them want to travel more, see more of the world."

"Hiwassee is beautiful, it's a place that people want to come and see," he said. "For us, sometimes

See Chorus, page 14

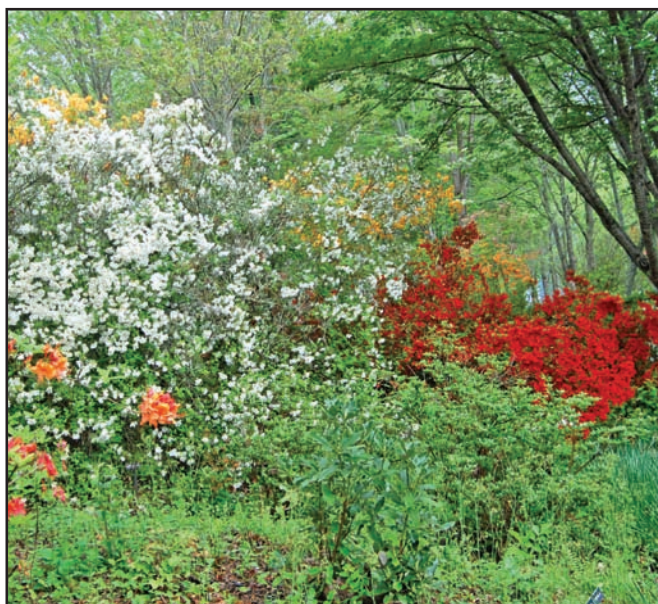
## Rhododendron Garden in bloom

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

It's that time of year again.

The Hamilton Rhododendron Garden is starting to bloom again at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

The garden sprawls along the hillside slope inside the Fairgrounds along the Southern shoreline of beautiful Lake Chatuge. It boasts more than 3,000 plants, including the only domestic yellow azalea in existence. Fred Hamilton, for which the



The Hamilton Rhododendron Garden is starting to bloom again at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Photo Lowell Nicholson

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## Gearrin tosses two scoreless frames in big league debut

Former YHC standout joins Atlanta Braves

By James Reese  
Towns County Herald  
tcherald@windstream.net

Former Young Harris College Mountain Lion Cory Gearrin's baseball career has come full circle – he's made it to the big leagues.

The journey has been a long one, from the tall, skinny kid pitching for Rhea County, Tenn.'s Eagles, to the maturing side-arm right hander pitching for Rick Robinson at Young Harris College, to the closer for Mercer University.

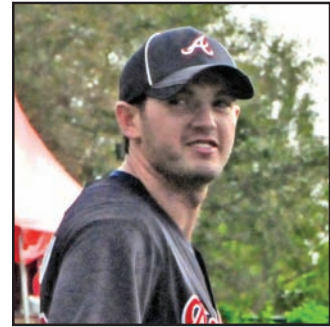
Today, he's in the bullpen for the Atlanta Braves.

Gearrin, now known to Braves' fans as the *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, made his Major League debut, pitching a scoreless ninth and 10th innings and keeping the Braves in the hunt for an extra innings win against the San Diego Padres early Tuesday morning.

Gearrin got Jorge Cantu to ground out to short, struck out Cameron Maybin and coaxed Jason Barlett to ground out to Braves' shortstop Alex Gonzalez.

In the bottom of the 10th, Gearrin got Chase Headley on a one-pitch groundout, struck out Nick Hundert on four pitches and got Ryan Ludwick on a comebacker to the mound.

Brooks Conrad pinch hit for Gearrin in the top of the 11th ending his night of



Cory Gearrin

work. Ludwick hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the 13th inning to win it for the Padres.

In 2007, Gearrin, a former Mountain Lion, was a fourth-round draft choice of the Atlanta Braves in the First Year Player Draft out of Mercer.

On Thursday, Gearrin, 25, who was pitching for the Braves at Triple A Gwinnett, got the call to go to the show from Atlanta Braves General Manager Frank Wren.

"Cory is awesome," said YHC Head Baseball Coach Rick Robinson. "Cory called me last night; he just got called up and is actually flying out as we speak to join the Braves in

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