

Towns County Herald

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Thursday, April 30, 2009

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: T-Storms	76 54
Fri: T-Storms	76 51
Sat: T-Storms	75 49
Sun: T-Storms	70 50
Mon: T-Storms	76 52
Tue: Showers	72 50
Wed: Showers	72 48



Upstream Elevation Predicted 4/27/09	
Lake Chatuge	1923.28
Lake Nottely	1770.78
Blue Ridge	1683.21

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Gospel Singing

The Towns County Lions will hold a Gospel Singing at McConnell Memorial Church on May 2 from 6-9 pm. Performers include Cheerful Sounds, Hogsed Trio, Looking Up Trio, Hiwassee Opera Quartet, Masters Peace Quartet, & Wayne Hundley. A goodwill offering will be requested by the Lions Club Scholarship Fund.

Boating Safety

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will hold a boating safety course on May 2 from 8:30-12:30 pm at Fire Station #6 located near Sunnyside Road and Hwy. 288. The cost of the course is \$35 per person with family discounts available. For more info, call Bill Wendel at 706-379-6666

Food Drive

The monthly mobile food distribution for families in need will be held at North Mt. Zion Church of God on Friday, May 8 from 10am to noon. This outdoor food distribution will be held in the rear parking lot of the church, located on Scataway Road. We look forward to seeing you there!

BMW Rally

BMW Motorcycle Owners of Georgia annual Georgia Mountain Rally will take place May 1 - 3 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. We have about 23 vendors, and we would love it if the public would come visit with us and our vendors and then enjoy the band, Friday evening. There is no reservation for tickets for the band, it's \$10 at the door.

Promotion Day

The Towns County Promotion Day will be May 4 at 6:30 pm at the fairgrounds. Speakers include Elois Anderson, Clay Dotson, Carmolita Haney, Barbara Mathis and others. All county businesses are encouraged to attend.

Plans for construction of new substation nears completion

By Carl Vanzura
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

After many meetings and extensive studies by both the Tennessee Valley Authority and Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, plans for the new substation on Parcel 52 east of Hiwassee on Hwy 76 are underway.

"Over the past few years, the load of power served by the Woods Grove substation has grown considerably," said BRMEMC President Joe Satterfield. "We knew that we had to have another station to serve all the customers in this area."

The decision where to build the new substation was driven by several factors. First, a new substation lo-



Blue Ridge Mountain EMC crews install a new transmission line. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

cated in the load center of needed power will improve reliability by reducing feeder lengths by up to six miles for many customers.

Second, reduced See BRMEMC, page 5A

feeder lengths and lower load currents also contribute to lower losses. In this case, distribution losses will be

YHC breaks ground on Recreation Center

New facility features state-of-the-art fitness center and multiple basketball courts



Members of the Board of Trustees broke ground on Friday for a new 57,000 square foot recreation center that will open in the summer of 2010. Photo by David Seckinger

Special to the Herald

Young Harris College broke ground last Friday on a new 57,000 square foot Recreation & Fitness Center designed to serve the entire YHC Campus population.

The complex will include a fully equipped fitness center, an elevated track, a foodservice area/juice bar, three intramural basketball courts plus dance/aerobic rooms. It will also include an

NCAA regulation-sized basketball and volleyball court, locker rooms and office space for athletic coaches and staff.

Young Harris College is pursuing United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the project.

Construction of the \$15 million dollar project is expected to begin in July and be completed by Au-

gust 2010.

The Recreation & Fitness Center is the second of three major construction projects for the college. A new 200-bed residence hall will open in August. Later this year YHC hopes to break ground on a new Campus Center that will include a new library, student center and dining facilities.

All of the construction is part of the college's master plan to support the transition to a four-year institution.

Fine dropped against Clay-Towns Industrial Auth.

Commissioner Bill Kendall announced that an agreement was officially reached which he and the EPD had negotiated that would result in the State EPD eliminating the entire \$40,000 fine levied against the Clay-Towns Industrial Authority. The fine was passed on, along with the recent transfer of the property to the Towns Industrial Authority. Towns Authority Chairman Morris Phillips signed the EPD consent order last week.

The agreement states

that the County will stabilize the construction site which was abandoned by Colditz

Construction Company after being ordered to stop See EPD, page 5A



County Transit to get new bus via federal stimulus

By David Seckinger
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

Commissioner Bill Kendall held a special called meeting on Apr. 22 in an effort to purchase a new bus for the county, and the good news is the federal government is going to foot the bill.

County employee Jim Barnes has been working on a grant for the new bus, which is expected to cost \$73,300. Barnes said federal stimulus money will pay for the transportation, but the county has to act now to get the money because it is going fast.

The county began its public transportation program in February 2008 with the purchase of two busses. Both busses are the size of a small school bus and have wheelchair lifts on the side of the vehicles. Barnes said most of the passengers who

use public transportation are retired people who use them for medical reasons.

One problem with the current busses is the location of the wheelchair lift. Since the lifts are on the sides of the vehicles, there is not enough room in certain places in the county for them to operate easily. Therefore, the new bus

(which is a van with a high roof) will have its wheelchair lift on the rear of the vehicle, so it can back into tight places the other busses couldn't go.

Barnes said operating the busses is expensive, so the county is going to give one of its current busses back to the state, in order to operate at the same cost.



County employees Andrea Anderson, Jim Barnes, and Linda Hedden work on new bus grant. Photo by David Seckinger

Relay rally and Pages in the Park kick off spring events

By David Seckinger
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

Spring has come to the north Georgia mountains, and with it new life. It is a time of renewed vigor and hope. In keeping with the season, the people of Towns County are coming together for the benefit of those in need, as well as the common good. Last Saturday, the first Pages in the Park event was held at the Mayor's Park in

Young Harris. In association with Ferst Foundation with Childhood Literacy, the event was a book fair which emphasized regional children's authors.

Candace Lee, member of the Towns County Community Action Team, said they are trying to raise \$3,600 this year to provide enough hard back books for

See Spring, page 3A



Two kinds of winners: cancer survivors and cake walk recipients both enjoyed the Relay rally last Friday.

Chatuge Gun Club holds meeting



(L to R) Sheriff Clinton, Rep. Allison, John Case, Ed Jones, and NRA member Herb Landford Photo by Lowell Nicholson

By Lowell Nicholson
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

The Chatuge Gun Club held their annual meeting on Apr. 20 in the Anderson Music Hall. Club president Ed Jones said they have 450 paid members from counties including Towns, Union, White, and Clay. He said the gun club is in good financial shape, and they lease about eight acres from the Forest Service. Jones said the Chatuge Gun Club was the biggest gun club in north Georgia.

Special guests to the meeting included Georgia 8th District Rep. Stephen

Allison, who spoke about where gun rights are headed in the next legislature. National Rifle Association member Herb Landford also spoke to the group about the Second Amendment. He said there are four million law abiding citizens who own a gun today.

Catering for the meeting was provided by Brenda Swanson, and the Hiwassee Opera Quartet entertained the crowd. Two guns were given away at the meeting as door prizes.

Towns County Herald staff writer David Seckinger contributed to this report.

Clinton speaks to Lions Club

Special to the Herald

On Tuesday, Apr. 14, the Towns County Lion's Club held its bimonthly meeting at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Among the notable items on the agenda were the presentation of a 25-year Monarch Chevron pin to Arnold "Pete" Bradley, and the introduction of new members Cindy Bradshaw, Jimmy Rogers, Carol Fuller, as well as Alvin and Deborah Saylor.

The guest speaker for this meeting was Sheriff Chris Clinton who gave the club an update on the condition at the jail. He said a recent shake-down produced only a paper clip and a pen that were not suppose to be in the possession of prisoners. This stands in stark contrast to the shake-down performed shortly after Clinton took office where there were numerous items of contraband found. Additionally, Sheriff Clinton spoke on the "Marine Corps" style discipline being used at the jail. He said



Clinton

strict discipline and security are always at the top of the list. He described the discipline program in detail and said that since it's inception, not a single use of force on an inmate by an officer has

See Lions, page3A

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