

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Sunny	69 42
Fri: Cloudy	72 45
Sat: Cloudy	77 55
Sun: Cloudy	79 52
Mon: Rain	81 54
Tue: Cloudy	80 54
Wed: Sunny	75 54



Upstream Elevation Predicted 05/04/11	
Lake Chatuge	1924.13
Lake Nottely	1776.14
Blue Ridge	1665.78

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Vince Gill

On Friday, May 6th, Vince Gill will be center stage at Anderson Music Hall and bring many of his more than 40 career hits as a solo artist to Hiwassee. The show starts at 7 p.m. and about 700 tickets remain available. Ticket prices are \$47, handling included.

Gill, who began his career in Bluegrass in the 1970s, and later became a pop star as a member of Pure Prairie League, is best known for his heart-wrenching solo ballads that led him to the top of the Country Music charts beginning in 1983. Since then, Gill has charted more than 40 County Music Billboard hits, brought home 18 Country Music Association awards to go along with 20 Grammy Awards, more than any Country Music male artist in the world. He's also sold more than 26 million albums.

For more details about the availability of tickets to the Vince Gill Concert on Friday, May 6 at Anderson Music Hall, call (706) 896-4191.



Green Egg Fest

Get ready for the first Hiwassee Green Egg Fest, scheduled for May 20-21 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Stroll through the Fairgrounds, sample and experience wonderful egged food, while chatting with cooks about their recipes and techniques. You'll soon learn why the Big Green Egg is the Ultimate Cooking Experience. Everyone attending the festival, including cooks and tasters, must pre-register online at www.mountainegg.com. The authorized Green Egg Dealer for Hiwassee is Hiwassee Hardware & Building Supply. The festival is sponsored by the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Towns County Tourism Association and Crane Creek Vineyards. For more details, call (706) 896-4191.

CB&T Hiwassee Branch to close its doors July 28

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Community Bank & Trust has been through a lot. The crunch in the Banking Industry took the 110-year-old lending institution to its knees in early 2010.

The Cornelia-based bank was closed Jan. 29th, 2010 by the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance, which appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as receiver. To protect the depositors, FDIC entered into a purchase and assumption agreement with South Carolina Bank & Trust, out of Orangeburg, SC.

Community Bank & Trust of Georgia's 36 branches, including the one in Hiwassee, opened as Community Bank & Trust, a subsidiary of SCBT the



Community Bank & Trust at 232-B Chatuge Way will close its for the last time on July 28. Photo/ Lowell Nicholson

following day.

Founded in 1900, one of the oldest financial institutions in Northeast Georgia was going through some critical changes. At the time, the bank's future in Hiwassee appeared safe in the aftermath of SCBT taking control of the local reins.

More than a year passed and the local branch was still open and satisfying its customers.

Nevertheless, things can change in a hurry in today's banking market. Customers in Hiwassee discovered that on Monday after receiving a letter in the mail.

On Thursday, July 28, at the close of the business day, the banking center at 232-B Chatuge Way in Hiwassee will be closing.

The Hiwassee Branch is consolidating with the CB&T branch in neighboring Clayton, in Rabun County, according to a letter that was distributed to CB&T Hiwassee customers via the U.S. Postal Service.

According to the letter from CB&T Hiwassee's Vice President and City Executive Juanita Shope, the decision was made after extensive study and careful consideration.

"As a valued customer of Community Bank & Trust, we want to make you aware that on Thursday, July 28th, at the close of business, our banking center located at 232-B Chatuge Way in Hiwassee, will be closing," according to Shope's letter

to CB&T Hiwassee customers.

"Our first priority is to ensure that Community Bank & Trust is a sound and profitable bank so that we can continue to serve the banking needs of Northeast Georgians for many years to come," Shope wrote in the letter to her banking customers.

"Any account(s) you may have with us will be transferred to our Community Bank & Trust office in Clayton, located at 174 Hwy 441 North," she wrote. "This is the closest location we have to our Hiwassee office."

The news comes as a shock to customers, especially since CB&T had been so visible in the Hiwassee and Towns County community. In September 2010, the bank celebrated the 110th

See CB&T, page 15A

Pioneer Park completion: 30 days

Anderson-Paris Pioneer Park to be dedicated July 14 at Fairgrounds

By Charles Duncan
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Elois Anderson and Dick Paris, two community icons, will soon be immortalized as the completion of Anderson-Paris Pioneer Park nears, said Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason.

"Everyone is pitching in," she said on Monday. "This truly has been a community effort. From financial donations, to volunteer labor to even the Cub Scouts coming out to become a part of this historic occasion."

The committee that organized the Anderson-Paris Day at Anderson Music Hall last November found a way to pay a lasting tribute to two community icons with the development of Anderson-Paris Pioneer

See Pioneer Park, page 15A



Local Cub Scout Pack 407 recently earned Community Service Badges by helping at Pioneer Park. Front Row, left to right, Matthew Spellman, Dylan Walls, Nathan Medley, Matthew Ledford, second row, Trevor Bradley, Calvin Holton, Nicholas Bradley, Blythe Smith, third row, Jami Holton, Will Holton, Hilda Thomason, Kendall Floyd, Tami Bradley. The Pioneer Park will be dedicated on July 14 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

GA 515 Open House on Thursday at YHC

Meeting schedule from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at YHC Old Gym

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Georgia Department of Transportation engineers will be busy this week as they host two public information open house meetings in Blairsville and Young Harris.

The topic of discussion involves the \$32.3 million proposed widening of Georgia 515/U.S. 76 from Young Harris Street in Blairsville to Timberline Drive north of Young Harris.

The Blairsville Open House was scheduled for Tuesday afternoon at Haralson Memorial Civic Center on Wellborn Street. No details were available at press time.

An identical open house is scheduled from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday at the Old Gym on the Young



Commissioner Bill Kendall

Harris College Campus. Towns County Sole Commissioner urged residents to attend the hearing.

"These proposals mark a potentially significant change to the way Towns County could look in the future," Commissioner Kendall said.

GDOT engineers and consultants will be on hand Thursday to discuss multiple

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Ramp Fest: 'Southern Fried Fun'

By James Reese
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If you just happened to notice an oniony smell along the Hiwassee River on Saturday, don't think you were imagining anything.

The second annual Rampin' on the River Festival was in high gear at Hiwassee Trout Lodge as more than 200 people gathered to celebrate the traditional rites of Spring with a plateful of ramps, ramps and yes, more ramps.

Organizer Susan Wyman was thrilled with this year's turnout.

"This is part of our mountain heritage and a part of our lives here in Towns

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Scotty Fain demonstrates his unique ability to cook ramps at the second annual Rampin' on the River Festival at the Hiwassee Trout Lodge on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Rabies Clinic, Saturday, May 21 in Towns

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Rabies is on the rise in North Georgia and the vast wilderness that helps make up Towns County more than likely has its share of rabid wildlife.

The Annual 4H Rabies Clinic jumps into full swing Saturday, May 21 beginning at 9 a.m. at Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital. Local veterinarians will be welcoming dogs and cats of all shapes and sizes to receive rabies shots for just \$10. Distemper shots for dogs are \$13.

See Garden, page 15A



Jessica Duckworth and Axel attended last year's 4H Rabies Clinic at Young Harris Elementary. Photo Lowell Nicholson

Zell Miller to deliver YHC Commencement Address May 7

Special to Towns County Herald
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Saturday, May 7, will be a big day for Katie Dyer of Hiwassee, Ga., but perhaps a bigger one for Young Harris College. That's when Dyer will walk across the stage at the College to receive her bachelor's degree in biology.

The commencement marks the private school's 125th anniversary and achievements, including its recently expanded academic offerings. Alumnus, former Georgia governor and U.S. Senator Zell Miller, '51, will serve as keynote speaker on the historic occasion.

This year's graduation ceremonies will also provide a sense of accomplishment for the College and President Cathy Cox. Just four years into her presidency, Cox will confer the first four-year degrees in nearly a century.

After making history this May as a member of Young Harris College's first class of graduating seniors, Dyer will head to Augusta in the fall to begin a new chapter of her life at the prestigious Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU) College of Dental Medicine.



Zell Miller

Dyer experienced firsthand Young Harris College's four-year transformation. While she originally intended to move on to another College after two years, her plans changed when YHC announced the arrival of a bachelor's degree in biology.

"No other college I visited felt like home to me. Within mere weeks of completing my associate degree, I knew after prayer that my heart was with YHC—this was my niche," Dyer said. "I knew right away that YHC was expecting a lot

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

