

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Local Weather and Lake Levels

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Thur: Clouds | 88 60 |
| Fri: Clouds | 78 59 |
| Sat: Clouds | 81 60 |
| Sun: Rain | 83 60 |
| Mon: Clouds | 88 60 |
| Tue: Sunny | 86 61 |
| Wed: Sunny | 86 61 |



| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Upstream Elevation Predicted 05/25/11 | |
| Lake Chatuge | 1925.64 |
| Lake Nottely | 1777.05 |
| Blue Ridge | 1672.39 |

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Chamber Chronicles Page 10A

VFW Event

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7807 will host its annual Memorial Day tribute on Monday, May 30 at 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend as Towns County pays homage to its residents who served their country in the United States Military. The event will be held at Veterans Park in front of Towns County Schools.

Fireworks at Ridges Resort

The Ridges Resort and Marina will host its first Memorial Day event on Sunday, May 29th. The event features live entertainment starting at 6 p.m. with a Fireworks Display when darkness arrives. The public is invited to attend.

Community Meeting

The Harley Owners of Georgia Rally Community Meeting will be held on Monday, June 6th at the Anderson Music Hall, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Community merchants are encouraged to attend and participate. This is a great opportunity as ask questions for the upcoming HOG Rally in September. The meeting will be in the Lobby of Anderson Music Hall, June 6th, at 5:30 p.m.

Homeowners Meet

County residents are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Towns County Homeowners Association, Thursday, June 9th, at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 7 p.m. Four speakers will answer questions regarding important local topics. Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, Charley Kraus, Rick Stancil and Fire Chief Mitch Floyd will be the guest speakers. The group also will elect officers for the next two years.

The Class of 2011 is ready to walk the aisle on Friday

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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It's one of the largest graduating classes in recent memory at Towns County High School—80 graduates. The Class of 2011 is a big class for such a small school system.

That doesn't make watching them walk the aisle any easier for Dr. Richard Behrens.

The Towns County Schools Superintendent hates to say good-bye to his students, but he knows that it's a given each year. He's seen a lot of students come and go over the course of his 24-year educational career.

And this time, it's good-bye for the last time for Dr. Behrens, who retires this year after serving seven years as Towns County Schools Superintendent.

At 7 p.m. on Friday at the Bill P. Kendall Gymna-

sium, another outstanding group of TCHS seniors begin their life's adult journey. It'll be hard for Dr. Behrens to wave good bye to the Class of 2011 as the group concludes a dozen years of academic achievement.

Kids can certainly grow on you when you're a superintendent in a small town, especially on a campus as tightly woven as TCHS, Behrens said.

"Every year, it's always mixed feelings," Dr. Behrens said. "You're very proud of the kids for what they've accomplished. It's been a lot of hard work on their part.

"But, then, you're kind of sad that you have to say so long," he said. "They're all good kids. You watch them grow up and you not only know them, but you know their families as well.

See *Graduation*, page 17A



Towns County High School's Class of 2011 anxiously awaits Commencement Exercises on Friday in the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium on the school's campus. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

YHC awards \$1 million in scholarships

Twenty-three TCHS seniors have a chance to stay close to home

By Charles Duncan
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Twenty-three Towns County High School seniors are headed to Young Harris College bringing along approximately \$1,006,000 in scholarship money over a four-year scholastic career.

The group includes Valedictorian Jordan Moss and Salutatorian Ginny Rhoades.

Moss will join former Lady Indian standout Missy Conrad as a member of YHC's Lady Mountain Lions' basketball team.

Both Moss and Rhoades each received significant scholarship support toward their future college educations.

Clint Hobbs, YHC's vice president for Enrollment Management, said that TCHS students were a win-win situation for Young Harris College. TCHS students



Towns County High School will be well represented at YHC in the Fall as 23 students earned scholarships. Photo/James Reese

maintain better than a 3.0 Grade Point Average at YHC, Hobbs said.

"We at Young Harris College would like to thank your faculty and staff here at TCHS for turning out such outstanding students," Hobbs said. "They perform above the norm at the college level. On behalf of Young Harris College, I want to personally thank all that are associated with

Towns County Schools."

TCHS Principal Roy Perren was all smiles this Honors Day at the school's auditorium on Friday as one-by-one seniors walked to the podium collecting local scholarship dollars from local businesses and civic groups to help them in their college endeavors.

The auditorium was
See *Scholars*, page 18A

It's official: County will enjoy a new rec park

A lot of work still left to do following groundbreaking

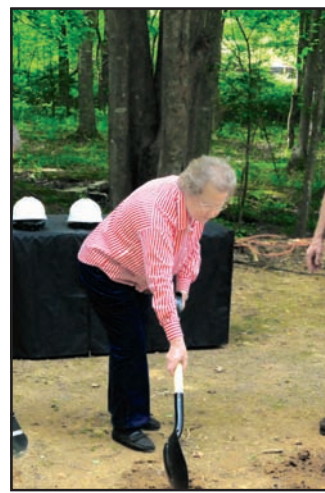
By Charles Duncan
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Nancy Broshears face was glowing on Friday as she looked around at what used to be the Foster Farm.

It was groundbreaking day for the soon-to-be constructed Johnnie and Ralph Foster Memorial Park on Mining Gap Road.

"As far as I know, nothing has been planted on this property since 1947," she said. "It used to be a farm. Today, we're planting a permanent recreation park for the people of Towns County for generations to come."

Broshears looked around, she remembered the days when she and her sister Johnnie, both who loved to fish, would go searching for spring lizards in the small



Nancy Broshears

branch on the property to use as fish bait.

"One day, Johnnie strayed away and started looking for spring lizards under the leaves underneath the bank," Broshears said. "I warned her that she bet-

See *Groundbreaking*, page 18A

Moss, Rhoades, Guss top students

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Watching the Towns County High School Honors Day event was somewhat reminiscent of being in attendance on Oscars Night.

Mid-way through the program, TCHS Principal Roy Perren approached the podium.

He was about to hand out the school's top three honors, Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Historian.

"The Valedictorian for the Class of 2011 is Jordan Moss," Perren announced to the overflow crowd inside the school's auditorium.

He followed with the announcements that Ginny Rhoades and Camille Guss



Jordan Moss, Ginny Rhoades and Camille Guss are the top three students for the Class of 2011. The three will lead their fellow seniors down the aisle on Friday at 7 p.m. in the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Towns turns out for Rabies Clinic



Kayla Hyatt gathers up Juliet, Romeo and Ziggy at the Towns County 4-H Rabies Clinic on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan
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The pets that were brought to the Annual Towns County 4-H Rabies Clinic had a pretty good idea something was up on Saturday.

They didn't seem too excited about the prospects of taking a needle full of rabies vaccine.

A fluffy gray and white tomcat howled like he was singing for his supper, though it was apparent he had a pretty good idea about what was about to happen.

See *Rabies Clinic*, page 17A

Kristofferson pleases Music Hall crowd

By James Reese
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If you didn't make it to the Kris Kristofferson Concert at Anderson Music Hall, eventually, you'll wish you had.

Kristofferson put on quite a performance, a one-man show to be exact, an event that delighted all those who attended.

"They say this show didn't sell very well," Kristofferson told the several hundred in attendance. "Well, it sure sounds like a sellout crowd to me."

The event could have been called Kris Kristofferson Unplugged. The artist, who has led one of the most interesting lives of any performing artist, sang 32 songs that he authored and, for the most part, made hits out of them with his own voice.

The former U.S. Army Ranger, who trained at Camp Frank D. Merrill in Dahlonega, has led an interesting life and that's probably an overwhelming understatement.

Kristofferson has written Grammy-Award winning songs recorded by artists such as himself, Janis Joplin, Elvis Presley, Ronnie Milsap, George Jones and Johnny Cash. Kristofferson was also a member of The Highwaymen, a performing group that included Cash, Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings.



Kris Kristofferson

His movie credits include the 1976 version of *A Star is Born* opposite Barbara Streisand; *Semi-Tough* opposite Burt Reynolds and the more recently, *Blade*, a four-part movie series, also starring Wesley Snipes. The iconic figure also was a Golden Gloves boxer, a West Point grad and a Rhodes Scholar, studying literature at Oxford.

Ultimately he joined the Army and achieved the rank of Captain. He became a helicopter pilot and gave up the profession to mop and sweep floors in Nashville in pursuit of a musical career. The move would eventually pay off.

Kristofferson presented the song Sunday Coming Down to Cash after landing a helicopter in his

See *Kristofferson*, page 18A

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