

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, June 2, 2010

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Storms	78 61
Fri: Storms	80 60
Sat: Storms	84 64
Sun: Storms	86 64
Mon: Storms	83 60
Tue: Storms	80 59
Wed: Storms	79 57



Upstream Elevation Predicted 6/2/10	
Lake Chatuge	1926.20
Lake Nottely	1777.30
Blue Ridge	1687.40

INDEX

16 Pages

Arrests.....	7
Church/Obits.....	8,9
Classifieds.....	15
Editorial.....	4
Calendar.....	4
Legals.....	15
Sports.....	11,12
Television.....	6

Chamber Chronicles

Page 10

Barnes event canceled

A fundraising event for former Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes has been canceled. The event, scheduled for June 18 at the Tom Phillips Farm, conflicted with Barnes' campaign schedule. With Barnes unable to attend, the event was canceled.

Yard Sale

The Towns County Food Pantry will be holding its 2nd annual Yard Sale, June 4th and 5th. Items to donate to the yard sale can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1294 Jack Dayton Circle. If you are unable to get the items to the Pantry, please call (706) 896-4783. Proceeds benefit the Pantry.

Nursing Home needs help

Chatuge Regional Nursing Home would like to create a memory garden in front of the building for the residents and their families. This is a great opportunity to honor your loved one who is or may have been a resident of the nursing home. The nursing home needs perennial flowers for the project. Anyone who would like to donate a flower, please bring it to the nursing home.

Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will hold its free food distribution on Tuesday, June 8. The distribution will be held at the Towns County Food Pantry on Jack Dayton Circle from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. All that are in need of food assistance are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to pick up your food, please contact the Pantry at (706) 896-4783 prior to distribution day so that arrangements can be made to deliver your food. All clients and their personal inquiries are kept completely confidential.

Class of 2010 bids farewell to TCHS

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

The Class of 2010 is now in the history books.

Towns County High School seniors walked the aisle for the final time on Friday as a packed Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium wished them well in their future endeavors.

Class Historian Thomas Black, who also was named STAR Student, told his fellow classmates that he was proud to have been associated with each and every one of them.

"I'm proud to have been a member of the Class of 2010," he said. "It's been an experience, one that we'll share and cherish as long as we live. Thanks for the memories."

Class Salutatorian Amy Vardeman issued a challenge to her classmates.

"I dare you to be bigger than you are; I dare you to be strong; I dare you to think creatively," she said. "Most importantly, I dare you to make the most out of your time and live out your dreams."

Vardeman said that "time is what you make of it."

"Time is precious and everything revolves around it. We must treasure our special moments to live a better and happier life," she said.

Class Valedictorian Jeff Stewart told his fellow classmates to cherish their accomplishments and remember those who helped along the way.

"We cannot forget all the people who were there to help along the way, supporting and encouraging us," he said. "We have all been touched by our great teachers, friends and families."



Class of 2010 Valedictorian Jeff Stewart delivers his farewell address during Friday's Commencement Exercises at the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium at Towns County High School. Seniors walked the aisle shortly after 7 p.m. as they began a new life's journey. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

"We all have a purpose and a part to play in life," he said. "Many of us found our interests and talents right here at Towns County. Whether through academics, sports or clubs, we were all able to learn, participate and identify with

something. "One of the great things about being a part of a smaller school is that we were all important and given a chance to play our part," he said. "I'm truly grateful for the opportunities that all of us were given at Towns

County that we may not have received anywhere else.

"We were encouraged to try new things, think outside the box, and discover

See Grads, page 3

'Remember the sacrifice'



Heavy rains pushed Monday's Memorial Day Service inside Post 7807 where Lt. Cmdr. Chris Swett told a packed house that the day was one to remember the sacrifices of brave Americans. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Rain never stopped a war and it didn't stop Towns County's Memorial Day ceremony.

Garrett-Owenby Post 7807 simply moved the event inside the VFW Post off located off Georgia Highway 17/75.

As the rain pounded

down on the metal roof, the sound of the Star Spangled Banner could be heard through the VFW Post's open door. As the ceremony progressed, gunfire could be heard as the Honor Guard sounded the Rifle Salute in memory of those who gave their lives on the battlefield.

Taps, the 24 notes of

America's most famous bugle call, was sounded. The call, which brought tears to the eyes of the packed house at Garrett-Owenby Post 7807, brings to a close each day in a soldier's life.

Monday was a day to

See Sacrifice, page 2

Chili Cookoff events bring a crowd to Towns



5K runner Patty Bolhuis tries a sample of The Oaks chili during the annual Chili Cook-off in Hiawassee. The Oaks took Best Booth. Black Bear Chili took top prize. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

The annual Fire in the Mountains Chili Cook-off event served its purpose, raising funds for Towns County Fire Corps projects.

It also brought a lot of people to town, helping to make business owners in the city and county a whole lot happier. The sound of their

cash registers ringing was music to their ears.

For the most part, it brought out friendly cooking competition in the novice and not so novice of backyard chefs. This year's event featured the 5K Chili Chase.

"It's been a great event, it started off this

See Chili, page 12

MEC turns out 76 graduates

By Norman Cooper
Special to Towns County Herald

Hard work and dedication pays off, said Coley Williams, Class of 2010 Valedictorian for the Mountain Education Center High School.

"Many would tell us that high school is not that difficult and that our real hardships are ahead. And there is some truth in that," said Williams, of Young Harris, during the ceremony. "But I know each and every one of you has a unique story, a story of difficulties and hardships and struggle. All of you have struggled in your own ways, but all of us



Coley Williams

are here today."

Williams was named Valedictorian for the entire Mountain Education system in seven counties with more than 400 students. He was dual enrolled as a college student at Young Harris College, where he was selected into the honors program. He

was the recipient of the Sharp, Hope, Gache, and honors program scholarships and was named a Dotson scholar. He has played piano for 12 years and plans on pursuing advanced degrees in the field of law and technology. He attended a reception hosted by Gov. Sonny Perdue and his wife Mary to honor the valedictorians of Georgia.

Williams noted that teachers and mentors worked diligently to give students any assistance they needed and helped them to finish classes. He encouraged further education for

See MEC, page 2

Rains spare annual city holiday parade



Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby was thinking John Deere Green as she led the city's annual Memorial Day Parade. Photo Jessica Keaton

By Jessica Keaton
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
jessica.tcherald@brmemc.net

The City of Young Harris kicked off Memorial Day weekend with their annual Memorial Day parade. Spectators lined the streets in celebration of the beautiful weather and in memory of those who have died in service of their country.

Although it took a while for Young Harris police to cut off traffic on Highway 76, which is also known as Main Street, the parade eventually made its way through the city.

Automobiles seemed to be the theme of this parade. It was led by the blue lights of Young Harris police, followed by Mayor Andrea Gibby on a green tractor. The "Enchanted Valley" sign hung on the front of the green and yellow tractor. Gibby's dress matched the

yellow of the tractor, waving with her hand in the wind. She smiled at those who were watching the parade.

The red lights of the Towns County Fire department followed Gibby, honking their horns for the children on the sidewalks. Following the fire trucks, Turpin's Towing, located in Hiawassee, showed the crowd the price of drunk driving. The white Ranger was in shambles from the wreckage of an accident. A sign reading, "Don't Drink and Drive" was posted on

See Parade, page 12

BBQ judges use horse sense

By Jessica Keaton
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
jessica.tcherald@brmemc.net

Brasstown Valley Resort was the place to be this Saturday and Sunday. The Third Annual Horsin' Around Barbeque Showdown took place at The Stables this weekend with the promise of food, fun, and crafts.

The contest itself is a part of the KCBS, Kansas City Barbeque Society, which is the largest international organization of barbeque and grilling enthusiasts, were trained in the rules of KCBS competitions. Contestants compete for



Judges at the Horsin' Around BBQ event work hard to determine a definitive winner at the annual Kansas City Barbeque Society competition. Photo/Jessica Keaton

See Horsin', page 10

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

