

# Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 80 Number 36

Thursday, July 16, 2009

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: T-Storms	80 62
Fri: T-Storms	79 61
Sat: T-Storms	79 57
Sun: T-Storms	79 57
Mon: T-Storms	81 60
Tue: T-Storms	81 60
Wed: T-Storms	82 62



Upstream Elevation Predicted 7/13/09	
Lake Chatuge	1924.82
Lake Nottely	1775.36
Blue Ridge	1685.84

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## Humane Society

The Humane Society Mountain Shelter board meeting will be held on July 23 at 5:30 p.m. at Cadence Bank in Blairsville.

## Spaghetti Fundraiser

The Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259 in Hiwassee will have a fundraiser spaghetti supper on Saturday July, 18 from 2-5 pm. \$5 per plate. The dinner will be held at the Towns County Senior Center next to court house. Call 706-835-8611 or 706-896-9021. Some tickets will be sold at the door.

## Water Quality

Having Growth & Water Quality Too: Watch the video "Working Together for Responsible Growth" and discuss the challenges we face with Callie D. Moore, Executive Director of the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, Inc on Saturday, July 18 at 2pm at the Moss Memorial Library in Hayesville, NC. For more info, call 828-389-8401

## Driver Safety

There will be an AARP Driver Safety Course at the Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris on August 6 and 7 (Thursday & Friday) from 9:30am to 1:30pm. The new enrollment fee is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-AARP members. All participants must register before August 6. For more information and to enroll please call 706-3792140 or cell 706-781-9527

## Cooling Assistance

The Low Income Heating Assistance opens Aug. 3 to those 65 years and older and home bound income eligible households. Phone calls to schedule appointments will only be accepted August 3. Call Ninth District Opportunity beginning at 9 a.m. at 706-896-4783. For more information, see the full article in this week's Herald.

## 'It's a miracle' recent TCHS grad survives crash

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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Eighteen-year-old Matthew Kerr doesn't remember much about what happened on Friday. In fact, he can't even remember his first helicopter ride.

However, when he walked out of Greenville Memorial Hospital in Greenville, SC on Saturday morning, the recent Towns County High School graduate was feeling lucky to be alive.

Prior to his first helicopter ride, Kerr was driving his red Ford Escort and preparing to pull out of Georgia 288 near Macedonia Baptist Church onto Georgia 76 shortly before 2 p.m.

Eyewitnesses say he looked both ways to check for oncoming traffic before he attempted his turn. For some reason, Kerr didn't see

an 18-wheeler headed in his direction. He was T-boned in the driver-side of the Ford Escort by the huge truck and knocked unconscious. Towns County Emergency Services workers used

the Jaws of Life to cut Kerr out of his vehicle. A lifeflight helicopter was summoned to fly Kerr to the trauma center at Greenville Memorial.



Recent TCHS graduate Matthew Kerr stares at his mangled red Ford Escort on Saturday as family members look over the wrecked car and take pictures with their cell phone cameras. Kerr survived a crash at Georgia 288 and Georgia 76 on Friday when the Ford he was driving was T-boned by an 18-wheeler.

## Centennial Run a success for Bank of Hiwassee



The Centennial Celebration run through the city was a big success. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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The Bank of Hiwassee continued its Centennial Celebration with a weekend of community activities.

The run through the city featured some familiar

names in the Winner's Circle. Ellie Parton finished three minutes ahead of her TCHS Cross Country teammate Amy Vardeman to claim the 5K Run title for the female 15-19 age group.

Parton and Vardeman's high school coach Jeannie Ledford claimed first place in the female 30-34 5K run. Brooks Smith finished three minutes off Ledford's winning pace. The men had some familiar names as well. Gary Anderson outlasted TCHS girls' basketball Coach Jim

See Race, page 5A

## Conlee, Gatlin Bros. headline 59th Georgia Mtn Fair

By Charles Duncan  
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All roads lead to Hiwassee as the historic Georgia Mountain Fair kicks off its 59th year of family fun, music and true mountain atmosphere.

Often described as the "ultimate day trip," the Fair, which runs from Wednesday through July 25th, offers first class musical performances, fun carnival rides, unique attractions and a glimpse into Northeast Georgia's rich history and culture.

Each year thousands of visitors from near and far flock to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in Hiwassee to experience all the excitement and nostalgia that the historic event has to



Thomaston resident Donald Birdsong prepares the Kettle Korn and Pork Skins booths for the fair. Photo/David Seckinger

offer. The Fair, annually sponsored by the Towns County Lions Club, provides something for every member of the family.

This 11-day event has become an annual tradition for many people. From car-

nival rides and educational demonstrations in the Pioneer Village to entertaining musical performances, agricultural and antique shows,

See Fair, page 3A

## City of Young Harris Monthly Council Meeting

The Young Harris City Council met Tuesday, July 7, 2009 for their Regular Meeting. Those present for the Meeting were the Mayor Andrea Gibby; City Council Members: Matthew Miller, Terry Ingram, David Sellers, and Donald Keys; the City Attorney, Cary Cox; the City Employees: Gary Willer, John Davis and Shirley Jarrard; Young Harris College Representatives: Cathy Cox, President, Jay Stroman, Jennifer McAfee and Clint Hobbs; and Stephens Lodge Representatives: Paul Shook and Richard Nichols.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Andrea Gibby.

A motion was made by Matt Miller, seconded by David Sellers to approve the minutes as recorded; all in favor.

A motion was made by Matthew Miller, seconded by Terry Ingram to accept the Financial Report; all in favor.

**SECOND READING OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP OF YOUNG HARRIS:** The Council heard the Second reading of an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map of the City of Young Harris, that would change the zoning of the property included in an application by John Cochran to rezone 2.2 Acres on Highway 66, across from the old City Hall, from Residential to Special Business. A motion was made by David Sellers, seconded by Donald Keys to adopt the ordinance; all



Young Harris water superintendent Gary Willer

in favor.

**SECOND READING OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER/SEWER RATE ORDINANCE:** The

See YHCC, page 5A

## County is on its own in search of sewer capacity

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Hiwassee City Manager Rick Stancil says that city leaders have advised him the city will spend no money within the county to provide sewer service within the county.

That's because without financial help from the county, Towns County Water Authority and or the Towns County Industrial Development Authority, the city will not proceed with grant applications for federal stimulus monies to expand the sewer capacity.



Mathis  
City leaders including Mayor Barbara Mathis, See Sewer, page 5A

## Man dies in tree cutting accident

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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The Rev. Ricky Burrell was laid to rest last week at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Cemetery in Hayesville, NC.

The Rev. Burrell, 51, a native of Hiwassee, died July 8 near his home on Scataway Drive in Towns County. The Rev. Burrell was the victim of a fallen tree, according to Towns County sheriff's reports.

The Rev. Burrell's death was ruled accidental, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The Rev. Burrell, son of the late Rob and Cindy Arrowood Burrell was born Tuesday, February 18, 1958 in Hiwassee. He was a

member and pastor of Saved By Grace Full Gospel Church in Hayesville, NC.

Survivors include his wife, Eunata Loftis Burrell of the home, son & daughter-in-law, Shannon & Jennifer Burrell of Hiwassee, brothers, Oscar Owenby, Arvil Owenby, Artis Owenby, Artis Owenby, and Rex Burrell of Hiwassee; sisters, Angelo Addis of Cornelia and Sheila Mathis of Hiwassee; grandsons, Dylan Burrell and Devyn Burrell, both of Hiwassee.

The Rev. Bill Trotter and the Rev. Kenneth Pilcher officiated.

Cochran Funeral Home of Hiwassee had charge of the arrangements.

## Fun World's success defies flat economy

By Charles Duncan  
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In 2004, a cultural phenomenon was born in the foothills of the Northeast Georgia Mountains.

It was the vision of its owners to build a family-oriented paradise where children of all ages could come and experience good, clean, wholesome family fun.

Aptly named Fun World at Fieldstone, the delightful 84,000 square-foot environment quickly became a main attraction for the Hiwassee community. Soon, Fun World became a major draw for families from Tennessee, the

See Fun World, page 3A



Keith Gilbert of Jasper celebrates a birdie on the indoor mini-golf course last week at Fun World. Gilbert brought the whole family from Pickens County as a surprise summer retreat.

Photo/Charles Duncan

## Rock and Roll High School

By David Seckinger  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

said chorus teacher Chris Adams convinced him to

See Elvis, page 7A

Rock and roll may be dead, but Elvis Presley is still alive and well in the heart of Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren.

"I was born in the 50's and grew up in the 60's when Elvis was big," said Perren. "But I really wasn't a big Elvis fan."

However, Perren has had a lifelong love of singing. He said when he was younger that people told him he sounded like Elvis.

"My hair was really black then and I was a lot skinnier. I looked a little bit like him, sort of a vague resemblance. So I started doing him occasionally, just having fun with it."

Perren said he eventually hung up the sequined one piece jumpsuit and stopped doing the impersonations. His hunk-of-burning-love hiatus ended soon after he came to Towns County High, where he once again stepped into the shadow of the king. Perren



TCHS Principal Roy Perren recently performed as Elvis on the Square in Hiwassee.

Submitted photo

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

