

# Towns County Herald

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Storms	86 66
Fri: Clouds	88 64
Sat: Clouds	89 65
Sun: Clouds	86 66
Mon: Storms	86 66
Tue: Storms	85 65
Wed: Sunny	87 67



Upstream Elevation Predicted 7/28/10	
Lake Chatuge	1924.40
Lake Nottely	1774.10
Blue Ridge	1673.20

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2 sections, 20 Pages

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## Chamber Chronicles Page 11A

## Benefit Yard Sale

A huge yard sale at Friendship Community Clubhouse adjacent to Hawg Heaven is scheduled for Aug. 13-14. The event will take place from 8 a.m. until noon, rain or shine.

Proceeds benefit Operation PUP and the Whiskers Project. PUP is a local nonprofit animal advocacy group that assists families to spay and neuter their pets. It also provides educational programs in responsible animal care.

The Whiskers Project is a program that traps and spays or neuters feral cats. Please come out in support of these community service groups. For more details call (888) 496-2387 or (888) 872-9330.

## Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will hold its free food distribution on Tuesday, July 27. 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 assistance are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to pick up your food, please call (706) 896-4783 for more details prior to distribution day. This allows us to make arrangements to deliver food to you. All clients and inquiries are kept confidential.

## Diabetes Workshop

Chatuge Regional Hospital will host a Free Diabetes workshop at the hospital on Thursday at 6 p.m.

Call now about this free workshop: (877) 532-4545 to sign up. Space is limited.

Being told that you have diabetes can leave you with many questions. Have your questions answered by a diabetes expert. Work in Groups for a fun, interactive learning experience. Learn the importance of checking your blood sugar and what the results mean.

Get the answers to very important questions.

# Best crowd in 15 years greets Ga. Mtn Fair

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason was brimming with enthusiasm on Monday and with good reason.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Georgia Mountain Fair has been a huge success with crowds packing the Fairgrounds and Anderson Music Hall.

"Our opening day crowd was the best we've seen in 15 years," Thomason said. "The shows have been packed with the exception of Thursday. The numbers were down that second day, but they've been incredible since."

With the economy still in a state of unrest, Thomason didn't know what to expect when the gates opened on Wednesday.

Much to everyone's surprise, people turned out in

numbers that haven't been witnessed since 1995.

Suddenly, the Georgia Mountain Fair once again is a sought out venue for family entertainment.

"It's good family fun and it always has been," Thomason said. "I think with the economy still recovering, families are looking for good, affordable entertainment without having to travel a great distance."

A Towns County Herald survey of cars parked at the Fair indicates many of the patrons at this year's event are from Towns, Union, Rabun and Fannin counties. Numerous other vehicles sported Florida license plates; also, many vehicles bore license plates from North Carolina and South Carolina. There were a few plates from Texas, Virginia,

See Fair, page 3A



The Scrambler was a popular ride during the first week of the Georgia Mountain Fair held at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in Hiawassee. Large crowds have returned to the Fairgrounds. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Neisler claims 2010 Fair crown



Miss Georgia Mountain Fair 2009, Miranda Carballo crowns Young Harris College's Victoria Neisler as 2010's Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Monday night at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Lisa Davis  
Towns County Herald  
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Victoria Neisler, 20, a student at Young Harris College, was crowned the 2010 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair on Monday night. Through-

out the year Victoria will serve as an ambassador for the Georgia Mountain Fair during select events.

Jessie Carballo, 17, of Murphy, NC was named First runner-up. Second runner-up went to Brittany Lee, 18, of Marble, NC. The con-

testants chose Brittany Lee as "Miss Congeniality." The talent segment of the competition went to Victoria as she recited a monologue on *All About Maggie*.

Nine young ladies

See Miss GMF, page 7A

## Early voting for Aug 10th runoff begins Aug. 2nd

By Charles Duncan  
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Towns County voters must head back to the polls Aug. 10 to decide who will face former Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes in November.

Former Secretary of State Karen Handel was the top GOP vote getter in the July 20 gubernatorial race. Former 9<sup>th</sup> District U.S. Congressman Nathan Deal finished second with 23 percent of the GOP vote.

Early voting for the runoff election is scheduled for Aug. 2 through Aug. 6. Early ballots can be cast at the Board of Elections and Registration at 91 Berrong St. in Hiawassee, better known as the Old Rock Jail.

Also on the GOP ballot, Sam Olens and Preston Smith vie for the Republican nomination for Attorney General; Ralph Hudgens and



Irma Nichols

Maria Sheffield seek the GOP nod for Insurance Commissioner; while Tim Echols and John Douglas try to settle who will represent the GOP in November to succeed Bobby Baker on the Public Service Commission.

On the Democratic ballot, former State Senate Majority Leader Gail Buckner hopes to make it to November in her race against Georganna Sinkfield

See Runoff page 3A

## The Hall plays host to legends



The Bellamys croon, Brenda Lee meets Brenda Lee and Union County native Tommy Townsend lights up the crowd. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan  
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The 2010 Entertainment lineup for the 60<sup>th</sup> Georgia Mountain Fair has kept Anderson Music Hall packed during the early days of the Fair.

On Wednesday, Roy Clark brought the crowd to its feet playing his collection of legendary songs. Clark apologized for getting around a little slow on stage. However, he did pretty well for someone who just had hip-replacement surgery.

Once in place on Center Stage, Clark dazzled the capacity crowd with the guitar picking that has led him to a storied career in Country Music.

On Thursday, T. Graham Brown announced to the crowd that he was not Joe Stampley.

"Joe's not going to be with us this evening," he said. "But I'll be glad to tell him that y'all said hello."

Brown, a legend and Georgia native, told the crowd that he often is confused with another Country Music Legend, T.G. Sheppard.

"Some folks have even called me T. Graham Bell," he joked.

Make no mistake however, on this night, fans knew who was on stage.

Tom Thurmond and Country River kicked off the evening for Brown,

See The Hall, page 3A

## TCSO honored by GSA

Special to Towns County Herald

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton is in the news again.

This time, the sheriff accepted high honors for the Towns County Sheriff's Office for the recent Trap Shoot fundraising event at Chatuge Gun Club.

Sheriff Clinton attended the Georgia Sheriffs' Association Summer Conference held near beautiful Lake Lanier.

The Sheriff's Office was recognized for its fundraising efforts to support the Georgia Sheriff's Association Youth Homes.

Each year sheriffs around the state are recognized by the Sheriffs' Association for sponsoring various fundraisers in their particular county.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office earned a "Top 10" award for being among the top 10 counties in fundraising for the non-profit Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes.

The Summer Conference was again well attended and it brought in several thousand dollars for a great cause.

The money goes to help hundreds of young people who live at various Sheriffs' Youth Homes throughout the state.

Towns County also was recognized at the conference for being the fifth highest county in the state per capita in total fundraising dollars.



Sheriff Chris Clinton

A representative with the Sheriffs' Association stated that to his knowledge, 2009 and 2010 were the first year Youth Home fundraisers were held in Towns County.

Sheriff Clinton accepted the award on behalf of all of Towns County residents and wanted to again thank all of the individuals and businesses who donated prizes, money and time to ensure that this year's event was a success.

The sheriff, who recently was named Citizen of the Year by the Towns County Lions Club, said he appreciates the hard work of volunteers, sheriff's office staff, and the Chatuge Gun Club.

He said he was humbled by the honor of serving the residents of Towns County as sheriff.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

