

Towns County Herald

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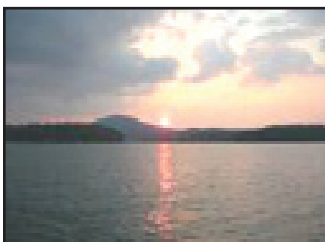
50 Cents

Publication Number 635540 Volume 81 Number 41

Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2010

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Storms	83 64
Fri: Cloudy	83 65
Sat: Storms	85 65
Sun: Storms	86 64
Mon: Cloudy	85 62
Tue: Sunny	84 61
Wed: Sunny	84 62



Upstream Elevation Predicted 8/18/10	
Lake Chatuge	1923.03
Lake Nottely	1771.87
Blue Ridge	1657.74

INDEX

2 sections, 20 Pages

Arrests.....	2A
Church/Obits.....	2,3B
Classifieds.....	4B
Editorial.....	4A
Calendar.....	4A
Legals.....	5B
Sports.....	10A
Television.....	6A

Chamber Chronicles Page 8A

Library Book and Bake Sale

Towns County Book and Bake Sale at Mountain Regional Library, Young Harris on Thursday, August 19 from 5-7 Social, members only. Friday, August 20, 9-5 and Saturday, August 21, 10-2 and Friday, August 27, 9-5 and Saturday, August 28 10-2.

Info to help you understand Veteran benefits

Invitation to families of wartime veterans and or spouses. Saturday, August 28 at 2 p.m. Understand VA benefits and the application process. Find out possible benefits that you may be entitled to. RSVP Brasstown Manor 706-896-4285.

Open house at Development Center

The Development Center for Families and Children at the Young Harris Community Center Tuesdays, 3-7.

We offer: free tutoring, parenting classes, wellness counseling, food, structured games and activities.

Open House September 7, 2010 from 4-8 PM. For more information, contact (706) 896-4131 x 1235.

*Made possible through a grant from the Governor's Office of Children and Families.

S.A.F.E. used cell phone campaign... see page 8A for details

Standard Telephone reunion

The Standard Telephone Company 7th Annual reunion will be Saturday, September 11, at Unicoi State Park, Helen, GA, Shelter 6. All those employed by STC and their families are invited to attend.

For more information contact Fred Holbrooks 706-778-2866, Will Lockwood 706-754-4888, Truit Helton 706-865-3903, or Helen Poston Scott 706-778-5850.

Last date to register is August 28.

It wasn't a mirage; all roads did lead to Hiawassee

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Thousands of car enthusiasts flocked to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and The Ridges Resort for the Second Annual Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In.

"It was unbelievable," said Chad Hooper, general manager at The Ridges. "For

every car down here, there are 20 cars up at the Fairgrounds."

Plans are already underway for the third Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In, but details have yet to be finalized, said Tourism Association Chair Hilda Thomason.

It was packed at The Ridges and it was packed at the Fairgrounds. It was packed in Hiawassee.

"It was simply amaz-

ing," Hooper said. "There was a lot more involvement with the locals and there were a lot of folks that came in here from all over the place."

The event sold out every hotel room in the area. Hooper said if there was one area lacking for this event, it was that there weren't enough rooms to hold people.

"We've got more than 600 rooms in Towns County

RE/MAX Hiawassee Realty Proud Sponsor of 2010 Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-in



This year's event was a huge success and brought about 7,000 people to Towns County. RE/MAX Hiawassee believes that support of events such as this is extremely important for the economic success of the county and its' businesses. We look forward to sponsoring next year's event. 1957 Thunderbird convertible.



The Ridges Resort General Manager Chad Hooper takes time out to pose with moonshiner Dwight Bearden during the Second Annual Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In Kickoff Bash last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

alone," Hooper said. "I know that there are a lot of cabins that weren't utilized this time around. That's one of the things we've got to focus on for next year is find rooms for people to stay in."

The bottom line: people showed up just as promoter Rakes Parrish promised. It was double the cars - approximately 2,000 entries in the car show

See Cruiz-in, page 3A

Indians prepare for Thursday scrimmage with Rebels

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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The Towns County Indians hit the road on Thursday as they continue preparation for the Aug. 27 football season opener against Union County.

The Indians travel to Fannin County where they'll match up against the Rebels. The controlled scrimmage is a prelude to opening night at Frank McClure Stadium against Brian Allison's Panthers.

Coach Clark Drennan's Rebels figure to be a solid test for the Indians as they bring back a heavy-laden senior and junior lineup. However, most of those players aren't returning starters.

Gone is quarterback Nick Dean, who led the Reb-



2010 Towns County Indian Football Team

els to a 6-4 mark in 2009. Also gone: running backs Drew Thomas and Matthew Gray, who along with Dean provided a formidable veteran backfield tandem.

The Indians should make

for an interesting matchup with the Rebels. Quarterback Zach Stroud and running back Noah Calhoun are relative unknowns in the world of high school football. However, both show intense promise that can only be unveiled on a live ac-

tion football field.

Tight end Brandon Henderson figures to be a stalwart in the receiving game, along with Devin Henderson and Jimmy Pierce.

The offensive line re-

turns two starters, Luke Parker and Dylon Nelson and the Indians' defense returns nine starters.

With the clock ticking down to a show-down with

See Indians, page 3A

Sheriff Clinton crafting long-term plan



Sheriff Chris Clinton
By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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The Towns County Sheriff's Office will host a public hearing on Aug. 26 to seek input on the future of local public safety.

Actually, it's the long-term strategic plan for law enforcement in the most under-staffed Sheriff's Office in Northeast Georgia.

The purpose of the long

range plan is to serve as a frame of reference, a kind of road map, offering direction of how Towns County will move forward into the future of law enforcement. As with any long range planning, the county must reassess itself from time to time to make certain that the department moves in the direction deemed most beneficial to all Towns County residents.

The meeting is scheduled for the Towns County Courthouse at 6 p.m. on Aug. 26 to discuss the future direction citizens will point Sheriff Chris Clinton and his command staff when it comes to maintaining law and order in Towns County.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office is one of the most underpaid law enforcement agencies in the state, with deputies signing on for a starting salary of \$12 per hour. The most difficult task for the sheriff is to keep those deputies once they've been trained and keep them from leaving

here for greener pastures in neighboring counties.

How underpaid are Towns County deputies? For example, a Dawson County Sheriff's Office jailer starts out at \$28,500 annually; a Towns County Sheriff's Deputy, with far more responsibilities, has an annual starting salary of \$24,960.

Bottom line, the county spends \$7,000 to train a deputy and get them P.O.S.T. certified so as to give them the powers of arrest. Almost as soon as the deputy is trained and certified, Towns loses them to another county offering far more significant pay for a certified deputy.

"We want to hear from you (residents) and give you an opportunity to help shape the future of Office of Sheriff in Towns County," Sheriff Clinton said. "I believe this office belongs to all of us. I would love to hear from you on these matters."

Judge Barrett chosen to attend National Computer Forensic Institute

Chief Judge David Barrett of the Enotah Judicial Circuit was one of only 24 judges chosen to attend the National Computer Forensic Institute held in Hoover, AL recently. The Institute was sponsored by the United States Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security and the Alabama District Attorney's Association to train judges in computer forensics and digital evidence.

The program required hands-on experience with the computer and network technology to help develop insight into criminal and civil cases involving digital evidence. The course involved instructor-lead discussions and practical exercises in methodologies and techniques, as well as legal issues relating to introduction of digital evidence and the obstacles in handling cases involving computer crimes.

Judge Barrett heads the

Enotah Drug Treatment Court, a successful program which targets felony drug arrests and convictions for individuals who are addicted to various controlled substances. Since the inception of the two-year program, over 200 individuals have been brought into the program and over 103 of those participants have graduated. The program participants are screened by a committee comprised of a district attorney designee, law enforcement, defense lawyers, the Court, Probation, drug counselors and Program Coordinators to help participants successfully complete such an intensive program. Of those who have graduated, over 75% have not been re-convicted or re-arrested for an offense. For each individual who participates in the Drug Program rather than being incarcerated, there is a \$40 per day savings to the

county. Those who complete the two-year program gain a sense of accomplishment where they had never felt success in any part of their life in many years.

Judge Barrett was appointed by Governor Zell Miller in 1992 to serve as a Judge, Superior Court, Enotah Judicial Circuit and currently serves as Senior Judge with budget and administrative responsibilities. The Enotah Judicial Circuit consists of Lumpkin, Towns, Union and White Counties in Northeast Georgia. He is Chairman, Georgia Pattern Jury Instructions Committee, and teaches at the New Judges School for Superior Court Judges. He is a former President of the Mountain Circuit Bar Association and is a member of the American, Georgia and Enotah Bar Associations. NT(Aug18,Y2)SH

Drug bust leads to arrest and seizure at local business

On the evening of Friday, August 13th, at a business located on Hwy. 17 North, a quantity of Klonopin was confiscated and a 2006 Dodge pickup was seized after a lengthy investigation. Towns County Sheriff's Office deputies assisted by Appalachian Drug Task Force agents, following up on leads generated through the course of the investigation, were able to arrest a North Carolina man on charges including distribution of schedule III and IV narcotics.

William Roy Totherow, 61, of a Murphy address, was charged with distribu-

tion of the drugs Klonopin and Lortab. Towns County Sheriff's deputies Eller and Barrett assisted Investigator Curt Donaldson on the scene, along with an Appalachian Drug Task Force agent.

Illegal sales and abuse of prescription medications has been increasing nationwide as well as in Georgia. Prescription pills have been involved in several deaths in Towns County over the past two years, and Sheriff Clinton is using all methods at his disposal to fight this problem. The new Drug Grant Unit has been attending training and was instrumental in this case.

Jazz and Swing on the Square

This Saturday, August 21st brings a new and wonderful group of musicians to our Hiawassee Town Square.

The Sentimental Journey Jazz and Swing Band is a 19 piece group which features Big Band Music of the mid-twentieth Century swing era made popular by artists such as Glenn Miller, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Count Basie and many others.

The band adds variety and interest to its performances by playing some good-time rock-n-roll and country & Western music.

Richard Petty, the group's leader and trombonist said "our aim is to please the audience and keep the dance floor full"! (oh... if only for a dance floor!)

In addition to full standard instrumentation the band features and outstanding female vocalist, Kari Martin.

The group is based in Gainesville, GA and is affiliated with The Believers Concert Band, a community band sponsored by the Gainesville First United Methodist Church. Most of the Musicians are members of both

bands, which play for church and CIVIC functions.

An added treat to this wonderful Jazz evening is the "Dixieland Chicken Stompers" Band!

This promises to be a fun and lively evening!

So bring a Lawn Chair, your family and friends and even the family pet (on a leash, please and with clean-up equipment!)

Enchanted Music on the Square is produced by the OTM Committee, Inc. a non-profit group dedicated to bringing music and events to Towns County.

Fresh smoked BBQ is for sale, along with hand-dipped ice cream.

See y'all on the Square. Please note: In case of rain... the performance will be held in the Senior Citizens Center at 67 Lakeview Circle A (across from the Courthouse).

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

