

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Storms	81	61
Fri: Storms	79	60
Sat: T-Storms	79	60
Sun: T-Storms	81	61
Mon: T-Storms	82	61
Tue: Storms	83	61
Wed: T-Storms	83	61



Upstream Elevation Predicted 8/13/09	
Lake Chatuge	1923.70
Lake Nottely	1772.60
Blue Ridge	1683.40

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## Chamber Newsletter Page 10A

### Cornwell Reward

A reward account has been opened at United Community Bank to assist in the safe return of 38-year-old Kristi Cornwell.

Cornwell, a former Towns County sheriff's deputy, is still missing following her abduction near her home on Jones Creek Road in Union County. For more details on how to help, contact Kenya Patton at (706) 835-1212 or UCB at (706) 745-2151.

### Music on the Square

On Saturday, Aug. 22nd, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., on the Hiwassee Town Square see the return engagement of one of our favorite bands, "Midnight Express." Concerts are presented by the OTM Committee, a group dedicated to bringing music and events to Towns County. Call (706) 896-4988 after 5 p.m. to see if weather has cancelled the show.

### Hiwassee River Watershed

Everyone is invited to join the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition at 6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 10 at Potete Creek Park on Lake Nottely for the 6th Annual Trout Dinner. For just \$10 a person, local farm-raised smoked trout will be served along with baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, cornbread, your choice of homemade desserts and a drink. Tickets can be purchased in advance from a board member or the at the HRWC office. For details, call (828) 837-5414.

### Clearance sale

The VFW Thrift Store is having a Buy One, Get One Free sale on clothes, shoes, and purses this month. Plus many more deals. The VFW Thrift Store is at the corner of Berrong and Lakeview in Hiwassee near the Towns County Library. Hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## Former Towns County sheriff's deputy abducted

### Former detention officer Kristi Cornwell kidnapped in Union

By Charles Duncan  
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BLAIRSVILLE – As the massive search continues in North Georgia and North Carolina for former Towns County Sheriff's Office Detention Officer Kristi Leigh Cornwell, her family has made national television appearances to bring more exposure to the case.

"I just know God is looking after her," her mother Jo Ann Cornwell said on ABC's Good Morning America. "And she has great faith in God. And that's where I'm putting my strength."

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton issued a statement that he and everyone working for the Towns County Sheriff's Office are praying for the safe return



Kristi Cornwell Photo courtesy Kristi Cornwell family

of the former Towns County detention officer.

"Last week was a long and wearisome one for our county and community as a whole," Sheriff Clinton said. "The Sheriff's Office would like to ask for prayer for Kristi Cornwell and her family in neighboring Union County."

National attention on the unsolved missing person

case also has been broadcast on CNN's Nancy Grace, the Today Show and America's Most Wanted Missing Persons segment.

Meanwhile, Kristi Cornwell, 38, who also worked at the Carlton H. Colwell Correctional facility in Blairsville, and served as a state probation officer,

See Cornwell, page 7A

## Cruise In an economic boon for Towns



By Charles Duncan  
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Robert "Rakes" Parrish was right, there is a market for moonshine in North Georgia—a "Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruise In."

Vendors and local businesses couldn't be happier as the three-day event sparked an economic rally in Hiwassee, Young Harris and Towns County.

"The Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruise In, which was sponsored by the Towns County Tourism Association, was by all accounts a huge success," Towns County Chamber President Angel Long said. They had classic cars for the show, they also brought in hundreds of spectators to the area as well.

"The hotels and restaurants were packed all weekend and traffic through town was bustling," she said.

Long said that the financial numbers for sales and bed tax revenues are not in yet.

"When we get that in-

formation, we'll send out an update," she said.

The Towns County Tourism Association, Northeast Georgia Board of Realtors and the Bank of Hiwassee also sponsored the First Annual Cruise-In Softball Tournament.

"They raised more than \$600 for the Towns County Food Pantry," Long said. "We all are grateful to all those who worked so hard to make the entire weekend such a wonderful experience for all of our guests."

The event offered a slice of the pie to businesses throughout the county.

The Ridges Resort at Fieldstone helped make the event a huge success.

"We really look forward to next year," said Chad Hooper, general manager of Ridges Resort at Fieldstone. "We're just tickled to death the way things turned out."

"This event was a tremendous boost to the local economy," he said. "We were proud to have been a part of it and we look for-

ward to seeing these folks back next year."

The event drew a crowd as more than 1,700 hot rods and antique show cars graced the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds from Thursday through Saturday.

Parrish, who pulled off the event, said he's hoping to build something that will be a financial staple for the Towns County community.

"We're trying to do something special," Parrish said. "This is as good clean fun as it gets."

From the car shows to the stroll through Pioneer Village, vendors and visitors alike had a blast. Visitors stood 10-15 deep in line waiting to get kettle corn with demand almost outweighing supply.

Traffic went smoothly but patrons sometimes found parking outside the Fairgrounds and walked inside to save time.

Parrish's dream of live Mountain Music shows, a See Cruise In, page 2A

## Presley Post Office slated for move on Thursday

By Charles Duncan  
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The historic Presley Post Office is getting primed for its new home, under the trees behind the Towns County Courthouse.

Towns County Historical Society members discussed the move last week as Sole Commissioner Bill

Kendall listened to details about the move.

The post office, a rural one-room facility on the headwaters of the Hiwassee River in central Towns County, has been on the scene for many years. The post office served an area that included the

See Presley, page 11A



Presley Post Office

Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Little River Band plays Music Hall

By David Seckinger  
TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD

The Little River Band was more than pleased with Anderson Music Hall when they arrived for their concert on Saturday.

"This is a great venue," said Wayne Nelson, leader of the Band. "I didn't even know it was here; this is a very cool place."

Nelson has been with the band since 1979 and sang lead on the Billboard Top 40 hit "Take It Easy on Me." While not an original member of the Australian-based group, Nelson is the most senior member in the current lineup, which includes Chris Marion, Greg Hind, Mel Watts and Rich Herring.

Nelson said the songs are the true star of the show and always have been. He said the Little River Band always was considered a "faceless" band in its heyday because, like many bands, they did not have a standout star performer on stage. At the time it was considered a drawback, but today, it has become a benefit because the band's music has endured the test of time. Nelson said the strength of the songs prevent lineup changes from destroying the band.

A couple of members have ties to the local area, Nelson said. Lead guitarist Herring has family close by, and

See Little River, page 2A



Australia's Little River Band performed its 16 No. 1 hits at Anderson Music Hall on Saturday. The band was greeted by a less than packed house, about half of the Music Hall's capacity.

## Doggone dog is gone

By Charles Duncan  
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Bo Lewis must have felt rejected.

Why else would a dog run away from home?

Well, it could have been the addition of another mixed breed dog to Diana Davidson's home. She had no idea that Bo Lewis, once a stray himself, would get jealous and leave the only permanent address he's ever known.

Admittedly, Davidson says that she found herself scolding Bo Lewis for his negative reaction to the new border at the Davidson household. Admittedly, she may have scolded Bo Lewis one too many times.

One day, Bo Lewis just up and left; vanished into the thin night air.

"He doesn't know how much I miss him," she said. "I know that he can



Bo Lewis

survive on his own. He's a hunter and as long as there is a squirrel or a rabbit on the loose, he'll have a meal."

Bo Lewis is a unique dog. He has the appearance of a miniature black and tan hound. He's actually much

See Bo Lewis, page 2A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

