

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Showers	60 46
Fri: Showers	55 40
Sat: Showers	53 35
Sun: Cloudy	53 34
Mon: Sunny	61 40
Tue: Sunny	65 40
Wed: Showers	65 41



Upstream Elevation Predicted 10/14/09	
Lake Chatuge	1921.40
Lake Nottely	1768.60
Blue Ridge	1677.90

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Chamber Message Page 8

Boston Butts are back

Station 2 is the place to be on Saturday for the Fire Department's Annual Fall Barbecue. Barbecue plates are \$6. Boston Butts are \$30 and our special sauce is \$5.

This fall, Brunswick Stew is available for \$3 a bowl.

Call (706) 379-3060 to pre-order your Boston Butt at Station 2 in Young Harris. Pick up is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To go plates are available. All proceeds go toward the department's firefighting equipment for Station 2 in Young Harris.

Halloween on the Square

It's that time of year again. Halloween on the Square will be held Oct. 30 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Preparations are in progress.

Space is at a premium so it's important to let folks know who wants to set up a table this year. Please reply ASAP.

For those not wishing to set up a table this year, donations of candy, money or prizes for the costume contest are appreciated.

Also, this year a new tradition begins. Everyone who can, please bring a can of food to donate to the Towns County Food Pantry. There will be bins set up around the Square to collect canned goods. For more details, call (706) 896-2202.

Free Food distribution

There will be free food distribution on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at the Towns County Food Pantry 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 arrangements can be made to deliver your food. All clients and inquires are kept confidential.

Stars align at Fall Festival

By Jessica Keaton
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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Color has returned to the leaves as the North Georgia landscape continues to attract visitors to Towns County's borders.

The leaves aren't the only attraction for tourists as music lovers are flocking to Anderson Music Hall to enjoy the sounds of some of Country Music's biggest stars.

The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Fall Festival has been an ongoing event since Oct. 9, and throughout the weekend, the event has been a complete success thanks to the many acts taking the Anderson Music Hall stage, such as Crystal Gayle, Aaron Tippin, Neal McCoy, The Isaacs, the Chuck Wagon Gang and The Diplomats.

The festival also fea-



Fall Festival goers flocked to the Pioneer Village inside the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday as the annual pilgrimage to the North Georgia Mountains continued over the weekend. Festivities include Country Music and vintage woodworks.

tures many other attractions, such as "The Great Bear Show," the longest running educational animal show in the U.S. and the Dragonfly Copter Tours, showing the beauty of the changing leaves.

The fall festival season also brings out the best ven-

dors as well. Everything from homemade woodworks to funnel cakes are present at the fairgrounds until the event ends with the wine of the fiddle with the Georgia's Fiddler's Convention on Saturday, Oct. 17.

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Gibby, Council take care of business



Mayor Andrea Gibby nods in approval as Faye Nelms is appointed as Deputy City Clerk for the City of Young Harris last week during the monthly meeting at City Hall in Young Harris. Nelms will fill-in during the absence of City Clerk Shirley Jarrard. Photo/Jessica Keaton

By Jessica Keaton
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YOUNG HARRIS - Young Harris City Council members approved the city's 2009 Millage Rate during last week's business session.

A motion was made by Terry Ingram, seconded by John Kelley to approve the 2009 millage rate at 2.493. Council was unanimous in its approval.

Council members also talked about many topics in the October meeting last week at City Hall. From updates on the zoning process to the muddy waters of Butternut Creek, the council foraged into the issues, most involving the heavy rain. Water issues involving Young Harris College, the fixing of a broken well, and the maintenance of the current water system.

Butternut Creek was also a hot topic. Most members of the council wondered where the muddy water was coming from. In short, the culprit was erosion and the council moved on to other issues.

Another issue up for discussion was the concept of Young Harris College stu-

dents interning at City Hall. A motion was made by Council Member Ingram, seconded by Council Member David Sellers for up to four Young Harris College students to become City Interns subject to liability and a firm proposal that Mayor Andrea Gibby can approve in a working relationship with YHC. The motion was passed and a few lucky college students are in store for a great experience.

In official business, the Council heard:

The second reading of an ordinance to amend the 1985 zoning ordinance and map to rezone Hazel Nichols' property from residential to special institutional. Mayor and Council heard the second reading of the ordinance to rezone the property located in the 17th District, First Section, Land Lot 119 of Towns County, located within the City of Young Harris, containing 2.99 acres from residential to special institutional. City Attorney Cary Cox stated that it is effective as of (Oct. 6), that the Planning Commission has given their approval. He stated that the

front 200 feet is changing to Special Institutional all the way and will be adjusted. A motion was made by David Sellers, seconded by Donald Keys to adopt the Ordinance; all in favor.

A motion was made by Ingram, seconded by Donald Keys to allow Faye Nelms to be deemed as Deputy Clerk in Shirley Jarrard's absence; all in favor.

Building Permit for Stephens Lodge: Mayor Andrea Gibby stated that the Tree Plan was submitted to the Planning Commission and has been satisfied. The Planning Commission has granted the Building Permit. A motion was made by David Sellers, seconded by Terry Ingram to approve the Building Permit; all in favor.

Sign Ordinance: Mayor Gibby presented a proposal drafted by Jenkins and Olson, P.C. to the Council to read over. She said that the Sign Ordinance has to be a separate ordinance from the Zoning Ordinance and has to show legal justification. They are close to hav-

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BOE forced to raise local millage rate

By Charles Duncan
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For the first time since Dr. Richard Behrens became Superintendent of Towns County Schools, the Board of Education millage rate is on the rise.

Last week the board approved the final educational millage rate of 4.784 mills, up from 3.554 mills, in an effort to offset state budget shortfalls and shortfalls in local sales taxes.

Mired in an economic downturn, collections from the local 1 cent sales tax are down almost \$700,000 annually, from \$2.1 million to \$1.4 million. The educational sales tax dollars are used among other things, to roll-back property taxes.



Dr. Richard Behrens

During the course of three public hearings, the last held Oct. 8, Behrens didn't know what to expect from local taxpayers as they learned their tax bills could be going up by at least \$50 on a home valued at \$100,000.

He was surprised as residents who attended the

millage rate hearings at Towns County Schools Auditorium pointed a finger at the state for creating a situation where their property taxes will increase.

Residents now know that the state grabs the first 5 mills of their property tax dollars, or \$4.1 million.

Those first 5 mills figure into the Quality Basic Education scheme before the local schools even get 1 cent.

Behrens worked hard with administrators and faculty to trim the budget of a school system with one of the highest graduation rates in the state of Georgia at 95 percent. Earlier in the decade, *Time* magazine ranked

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One wounded in Tate City shooting incident

By Charles Duncan
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One person was wounded during a shooting altercation in rural Tate City on Friday. In a separate incident, sheriff's investigators are seeking information to help determine what happened to a woman found lying injured on the edge of Davis Road in rural Towns County on Friday evening.

First, Towns County sheriff's deputies responded Friday to Tate City in reference to a possible shooting and hostage situation, sheriff's reports show. That incident was reported at approximately 4:30 p.m., sheriff's reports show. Lt. Mike Davis, Lt. Donaldson and detectives Pat Williams and Bryan Wilson responded to the scene on Tate City Road along the Tallulah



Sheriff Chris Clinton and deputies had a busy Friday as they investigated two separate incidents involving a shooting and an injured woman.

River, sheriff's reports show. It was here that investigators met with authorities from the Rabun County Sheriff's Office, who were already on the scene, Towns County sheriff's reports show. Tate City is within short distance of Clayton,

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City could service Jack Rabbit Campground

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall was surprised to learn last week that the City of Hiwassee is in negotiations with the U.S. Forest Service to provide water and sewer services to the Jack Rabbit Campground area in North Carolina.

The city is in discussions with the U. S. Forest Service for the city to provide water and sewer services to the federal Jack Rabbit Campground.

Steve Lohr, a representative of the U. S. Forest Service, met with council members last week during their October meeting to discuss the proposal. City Manager Rick Stancil and the city engineer provided additional details.

The campground borders Towns County and has become a premier designation site for campers, hikers and mountain bikers. The U. S. government has undertaken recent upgrades to the campground and improvements are expected to continue. The region, including Towns County, has already



Mayor Barbara Mathis

benefited from the economic impact from facility improvements, including the recent addition of the mountain biking trails.

The U.S. Forest Service would provide funding to the city to extend water and sewer service from the city through Towns County to the Jack Rabbit Campground. Federal dollars have already been budgeted to replace an aging sewer plant now located next to Lake Chatuge. These funds would be contracted to the city for sewer service expansion as an alternative to re-

See City, page 7

Cross Country heads to Hayesville

By Charles Duncan
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The Towns County Indians Cross Country teams will compete in the Carney Classic today in Hayesville, NC.

Coach Jeannie Ledford said she rearranged the team's schedule to compete in the annual event.

"It's never easy to find the words to explain just what this event means," she said. "Our teams wouldn't miss it for the world."

Amy Vardeman, Melissa Conrad, Cassie Buck, Brittany Walls and Kristin Fuhs have become a Cross Country force of late for the Lady Indians. Walker Gus, Ryan Albach and Dakota Barrett have led the way for the Indians.

Coach Ledford is still searching for that same magic that lifted the Towns County Lady Indians to become Class A Cross Country's top public school last year in Carrollton. The Ladies from Hiwassee finished ninth in the state at the state championships held at Carrollton High School.



Towns County Cross Country runners will race for pride and causetoday in the Carney Classic in Hayesville.

Photo/Lowell Nicholson

With Class A Ladies' competition swamped with private schools, the Lady Indians finished 1 point better than Athens Christian to claim the No. 9 slot in the state championships.

The Lady Indians have always had to fight the odds of competing against private schools, which have the liberty of offering scholarships to athletes outside of their communities.

Coming into last season, Class A gained four

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