

Happy 4th of July!

Towns County Herald

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Residents prepare to wish 'Happy Birthday, USA!'

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Independence Day is a time-honored patriotic holiday celebrating the freedom bestowed upon the people of this land following the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, which forever severed this nation from British rule.

In the 246 years since the birth of the county, many pastimes honoring July Fourth have been established, including family cookouts, shooting fireworks, colored decorations of red, white and blue, swimming and fun in the sun, and just good old-fashioned patriotic togetherness.

Much of these things will be available for Towns County residents at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds during the annual July 4th Fireworks Show, which will kick off after dark on Monday, though festivities will begin at 6 p.m.

Vintage Vixens of Atlanta will be performing live,

and there will be plenty of arts & crafts and multiple food vendors and children's activities.

The Fireworks at the Fairgrounds is free for the public to attend, and people may purchase food, drinks and crafts, "and we do graciously accept donations."

"This is a great time of year, and we cannot wait to see you all there," Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said, before going on to thank this year's sponsors: United Community Bank, Lake Chatuge Lodge, Towns County, David Barrett, City of Hiwassee, Towns County Herald, Dr. Lanier Nicholson and Towns County Lions Club.

Also at the Fairgrounds this weekend will be the First Annual Georgia Mountain Freedom Cornhole Tournament, taking place Sunday, July 3, from 4-9 p.m. to help raise money for the Towns County First Responders Cabin Renovation Project.

Tournament registration is from 1-3:30 p.m., with a singles division at \$10 to enter, \$20 for doubles and \$5 for junior. Spectators and participants can look forward to raffle prizes, live music, food, and arts & crafts.

Continuing the patriotic weekend will be the July 2 Boat Parade on Lake Chatuge, sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce.

"For over 30 years, the chamber has been holding the Boat Parade on Lake Chatuge, and our next one is Saturday, July 2, with the parade starting at 10:30 a.m.," Chamber President Candace Lee said. "The best place to watch is at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds boat ramp.

"This is free to the public to watch and to participate in the parade, and just follow behind the lead boat, Aqua Tiki. The only registration we have is if you are wanting to participate in our two contests of Most Creative and Most Red, White and Blue decorated

boat, with the winner receiving \$50 in each category."

And on the evening of Saturday, July 2, The Holman Autry Band will perform at the Hiwassee Town Square.

The Ridges Resort will be having an afternoon sidewalk chalk art contest for kids and a movie night later in the evening on Saturday, and will continue festivities on Sunday, July 3, with a cardboard boat building contest starting at 11:30 a.m.

On Monday, July 4, Brasstown Valley Resort will be hosting a cookout with an entry fee starting at 6:30 p.m., though watching the evening fireworks will be free on the golf course.

For more info on upcoming Fairgrounds events, visit www.georgiamountainfairgrounds.com; the chamber can be found at www.golakechatuge.com; Ridges Resort may be reached at 706-896-2262; and call 800-201-3205 for more Brasstown Valley Resort details.



Patriotic residents participating in the 2021 Lake Chatuge Boat Parade, which will return this Saturday in celebration of the July 4th holiday. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Hiwassee Night Market returns to square Friday

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Get ready, folks, for some more First Friday goodness as the Hiwassee Night Market hosts its second outing of the season on Friday, July 1, from 5-9 p.m. on the Town Square.

June 3 saw the 2022 return of the annual Night Market, a series of vendor-filled, family-friendly events held the first Friday of each month through the end of October.

The Night Market from earlier this month showcased community members and visitors gathering to enjoy live music and nearly two dozen vendors specializing in everything from delicious foods, beer and wine to extraordinary arts and crafts, plus family activities and a dog-friendly environment.

And the Night Market is truly a community undertaking, with guests capturing



An artistic vendor painting amid a backdrop of visitors to the Hiwassee Town Square during this first Night Market of the season earlier this month. Photo by Jeremy Foster

memories in pictures, folks sitting and painting to capture the scene, children playing and enjoying the innocence of youth,

and people simply celebrating comradeship in beautiful evening weather.

See Night Market, Page 3A

County adjusts transit fees, upgrades accounting system

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw announced an increase in public transit fees at the monthly county meeting inside the Towns County Courthouse on Tuesday, June 21.

With the rise in transportation costs, namely the near doubling of gas prices in recent months, the rate increase comes as no surprise. Bradshaw said he checked with surrounding counties to make sure Towns County's public transit fee increases aren't out of line, which they are not.

A trip from Towns County to Union County will increase from \$6 to \$8 one way, and from \$12 to \$16 per round trip, while a trip from Young Harris to Hiwassee, or vice-versa, will increase to \$5 one way and \$10 per round trip.

Short trips will increase from \$2 to \$3 for the first mile and from 40 cents to 50 cents for each additional mile, rounded to the closest mile, and there

will be a \$2 surcharge for each additional stop.

The new Towns County Transit Fee Schedule will go into effect on July 1.

Moving along, Bradshaw signed a contract between Harris Local Government and Towns County for cloud-based accounting services in the amount of \$8,160 per year, locked in for three years, plus a one-time set-up fee of \$2,500, for a total of \$26,980.

Finance Director Andrea Anderson said the current system, purchased in 2012, is out of date and not update-able without purchasing a new server for between \$8,000 and \$10,000, which would need to be upgraded every three to five years for additional fees.

Bradshaw said the benefits of a cloud-based system, which offers regular software updates, remote access, and much stronger security from ransomware attacks, far outweigh the costs.

The new accounting system will be installed and ready for use probably in Au-



Cliff Bradshaw Sole Commissioner
gust, Bradshaw said. An update will be forthcoming at the July county meeting.

He also signed an agreement with Blue Ridge Mountain EMC for a bandwidth upgrade to the Elections Board Office camera security system. The upgrade will increase the monthly cost of the security system by \$149.

Next, Bradshaw signed a

See County Meeting, Page 2A

TCSO receives gift from Office of Highway Safety

News Special
Towns County Herald

Governor's Office of Highway Safety Liaison Ed Weaver and Coordinator Chief

Michael Earley have presented to Sheriff Ken Henderson and the Towns County Sheriff's Office a fully equipped Ford Explorer for their dedicated commitment to the Governor's

Office of Highway Safety.

The gift comes at no expense to taxpayers.

According to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, See TCSO Gift, Page 3A



GOHS Liaison Ed Weaver, TCSO Chief Deputy Gene Moss, Sheriff Ken Henderson, Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw, and GOHS Coordinator Chief Michael Earley with the newly donated, fully LEO equipped Ford Explorer. Photo/Facebook

County adjusts transit fees, upgrades accounting system

Made In Georgia Festival a major success in 2022

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

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See County Meeting, Page 2A



The Fourth Annual Made In Georgia Festival over the weekend was the most well attended outing to date for the event. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – In an absolute delight for Georgians and out-of-state visitors alike, the popular and always exciting Made In Georgia Festival returned for a fourth annual installment on Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26, at

the Towns County Recreation & Conference Center.

The event drew over 100 vendors from across the Peach State specializing in products that were grown, harvested, canned, baked, stitched or crafted in Georgia.

That's a nearly 25% increase in the number of vendors attending over past events,

and guests were overwhelmed with a complete gamut of foods, arts, crafts, demonstrations and classes.

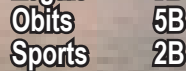
One group of newcomers to the festival was Pastor Philip Kight and his crew from Vertical Church of Morganton and Hiwassee, who served up some delicious summertime

See Made In GA, Page 6A

2 Sections 16 Pages

Arrests	2A
Church	4B
Classifieds	6B
Opinion	4A
Legals	7B
Obits	5B
Sports	2B

Lake Levels	
Blue Ridge	1,685.72
Chatuge	1,925.03
Nottely	1,775.79



Submission Deadline for Publication next week is Friday July 1 NOON

Runoff Election Results

See page 5A

Quilt of Valor Recipient

See page 8B

Holman Autry Hiwassee Town Square July 2

See page 7A

North Georgia Tri-State Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Field Day at Meeks Park



North Georgia Tri-State Amateur Radio Club, Inc. in Blairsville joined more than 40,000 hams throughout North America setting up temporary transmitting stations in public places (Meeks Park) to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines

public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. The Club would like to thank Commissioner Paris for kicking off this year's 89th annual event. To learn more about Amateur Radio including how to get your HAM License visit our website at w4ngt.com.

County Meeting...from Page 1A

service agreement with Suburban Propane with an effective date of June 9, 2022, through June 8, 2023, for propane delivery at \$2.13 per gallon.

Anderson said an agreement with Suburban Propane

entered into by the previous county commissioner to keep yearly increases at 15 cents per gallon or less is still in effect.

In his Commissioner's Comments, Bradshaw said the

workstations/office partitions for the courthouse transition to the Old Rec Gym during the upcoming courthouse renovation have been delivered and are almost completely put together.

However, because the detainee work crews at the Colwell Probation Detention Center have been quarantined again for COVID, additional framed walls for separating courthouse departments in the temporary offices being erected at the Old Rec Gym have not yet been constructed.

Bradshaw also said delivery of the air handler to complete the HVAC system at the Old Rec Gym is not expected until mid-July. The delay is due to ongoing supply chain disruptions.

SPLOST collections are "on target," the commissioner said, but he is looking ahead cautiously because of inflation and generally worsening eco-

nomics conditions. Bradshaw said he fears a slowdown in the not-too-distant future if the national economy continues to deteriorate.

On the bright side, Bradshaw said the new commercial swing set mentioned at the last meeting has been installed at the county beach area, and he encouraged people to go and check out the new Towns County Indians blue benches and rubber mulch.

Finally, Bradshaw said the American Veterans Traveling Tribute, which came to Towns a couple of weeks ago, was inspiring and well received, and he thanked all the people and veterans who helped make that happen, especially those who pulled overnight security for the event.

The commissioner holds his regular meetings the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. inside the Towns County Courthouse.

Lions Welcomes Two New Members



L-R: Club President Ronnie Whelchel, Jeremy Parker, Sponsor Matt Turpin, & transfer from Adairsville Lions Club, Kathy Carlson.



**Meet Me
at
The Market**

**Mickey Cummings
& Kristy Peney**

This week at the Market you will find peaches, cabbage, greens, peppers, lettuce, squash and broccoli. We should have a little sweet corn by the second week of July.

This Saturday, July 2nd, will be a busy one at the Market. Not only will it be the Saturday prior to July 4th, but, we will also have a ribbon cutting beginning at 9 a.m. at the homestead to commemorate the opening of the Hunter/England Cabin and the Ocean Tate Blacksmith Shop.

You will be able to see

life as our ancestors lived in the 1890's on this homestead. Inside the cabin we have old furniture and utensils which were used in times gone by and you will be able to see where a trap door was once located in the floor of the cabin.

The Blacksmith Shop contains tools used by Ocean Tate on his farm in the northern end of the county. There is a forge, an anvil, bellows, old wagon parts and many old carpenter tools. Also, you find a replica of a still which might have been used to make moonshine.

So, come out and meet us at the Market to do some shopping then walk up to the Homestead to commemorate the opening of the Hunter/England Cabin as well as the Ocean Tate Blacksmith Shop at 9 a.m.

Georgia Mountain Pregnancy Center

The Georgia Mountain Pregnancy Center offers free first Trimester ultrasound, pregnancy test, and counseling.

The center is located at 136 Hospital Drive Road, Suite A, Blairsville, GA; (706)994-3364; gmpcmedical.org

Arrest and Fire Reports

Local law enforcement provides the following information for publication. Names are spelled as they were when received from the law enforcement agencies. It is important to remember that the following individuals have been charged only and are presumed innocent until such time as they are found guilty by a court or enter a guilty plea. Addresses of persons under arrest are no longer available from Sheriff's Office.



ARREST REPORT

Towns County Jail
Sheriff Ken Henderson

- 06/20/22 Cole Porter Harling, age 23
Criminal damage to property- 2nd degree, furnishing, purchasing, and possession of alcoholic beverages by persons below, parole violation, theft by taking- felony
- 06/23/22 William Jordan Burks, age 31
Criminal damage to property- 2nd degree, theft by taking- felony
- 06/22/22 Michael Aaron Dale Huffman, age 30
Financial transaction card fraud (6), financial transaction card theft
- 06/18/22 Glenn David Rosdeutscher, age 55
Driving without a valid license (misdemeanor), DUI- driving under the influence of alcohol, no proof of insurance (motor vehicle)
- 06/19/22 Pamela Ellen Wiggins, age 66
Driving while license is suspended or revoked (misdemeanor)

FIRE DEPARTMENT

RESPONSE REPORT

From: Fire Chief Harold Copeland



- 06/17/22 Dispatched and cancelled en route
Medical assist, assist EMS crew (2)
- 06/18/22 Dispatched and cancelled en route
Medical assist, assist EMS crew (4)
- 06/19/22 Dispatched and cancelled en route
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries
- 06/20/22 Medical assist, assist EMS crew (5)
Assist police or other governmental agency
No incident found on arrival at dispatch address
- 06/21/22 Medical assist, assist EMS crew (3)
Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional
- 06/22/22 Dispatched and cancelled en route (2)
Medical assist, assist EMS crew (2)
- 06/23/22 Dispatched and cancelled en route (3)
Medical assist, assist EMS crew (2)
- 06/24/22 Dispatched and cancelled en route
Medical assist, assist EMS crew (3)
Setting up LZ for Air Evac/EMS

Rotary



Lake Chatuge Rotary Club meeting

The Lake Chatuge Rotary Club met on Tuesday, June 21 at Noon at Brasstown Valley Resort. The speaker for the meeting was Della Lago, who is in charge of Enotah CASA.

Enotah CASA is an organization that provides volunteers to serve as court-appointed advocates for children who are in the foster care system, or otherwise in need of an advocate to oversee their care.

Enotah CASA serves four counties-- Lumpkin, White, Union, and Towns. Adult volunteers who have been specially trained, act as representatives for children who need someone to speak on their behalf when it comes to their medical needs, their education, and issues with foster families. Many of these children have been removed from their families due to issues with drugs and alcohol. Their volunteer advocates make sure that they receive any services necessary for their well-being.

Volunteers receive more than 40 hours of specialized training, and also complete more than 12 hours of continued education. Enotah CASA has helped 245 children this



Della Lago

year, with 25 of those children being from Towns County. It costs an average of \$1,500 a year for a child to have an advocate. Enotah Casa must raise 30% of that. One of the ways money is through the Blairsville Sorghum Festival.

If you would like more information or are interested in possibly being part of Enotah CASA, please call 706-835-1892 or 706-864-0300.

The Rotary meeting closed with a quote from John F. Kennedy: "Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for its future."

Hiwassee Garden Club Meeting

What an interesting program at the June 23 meeting of the Hiwassee Garden Club. Priscilla Wilson, one of the owners of The Gourd Place in White County, brought quite a unique display of items she and her business partner, Janice Lymburner, make at their property on Duncan Bridge Road (GA 384). Their website is www.gourdplace.com

Wilson told us that gourds were used as containers long before pottery and are also used as bird houses, toys, decorative pieces. They can also be used as water wings for children since gourds float. Patented in 2006 are a line of safe stoneware and porcelain that are dishwasher, oven and microwave safe. These dishes are created when liquid clay is poured into a gourd mold to preserve the delicate veins and textures inside. She brought many of these pieces and they are very beautiful, in addition to being so useful.

Our business meeting was mainly concerned with our upcoming Flower Show during the first three days of the Georgia Mountain Fair at the Flower Show Building. We will be featuring flower designs with a patriotic theme and horticulture of unique plants, bushes, trees and vegetables.

"Plant America the Beautiful" will be a judged flower show. We will have 26



Priscilla Wilson

judges coming from all around Georgia for a brunch at our Clubhouse in Hiwassee on Friday the 19 of August, after which they will do the judging from 11 AM to 2 PM when the show will open. You will only have the next two days to see who won the "big ribbons" as we leave the building on Sunday evening so the Photography Exhibit can come for the remainder of the Fair.

We welcome guests at our meetings which are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at our clubhouse directly behind the courthouse in Hiwassee. Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 28 at 12:45 PM. Call 708-896-6240, Joan Crothers, for more information.

Night Market...from Page 1A

First-time market vendor Maya Griffin participated with her business Maya Joy In The World, and she was incredibly excited to be there.

Griffin has only lived in Hiawassee since March, and while originally from Northern California, she spent years traveling between various states promoting her artistic endeavors until finally deciding to settle here in the North Georgia Mountains.

Her business consists of handmade origami jewelry, gemstone necklaces and chokers, ink drawings of famous figures from musicians to celebrities, and even hand-drawn stickers, cards and prints commissioned by people wanting a more personalized keepsake. She also writes poetry and sells it in themed books.

“As someone who is new here and does not know many people, events like this are a great and inclusive way to learn about the community and for everybody to meet new people and just have fun in this close environment,” Griffin said.

“Out of all of my traveling and everywhere I have seen, deciding to settle here was the best thing for me, as this has become one of my favorite places I have ever lived. This place has such a vibrancy, and people are so nice and friendly and willing to help connect you with others who have the same interests and help you do what you want to do.”

Griffin’s artwork can be found locally at ArtWorks and Many Moons in Hiawassee, and people can visit her website at www.mayajoyintheworld.com.

Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales joined in on all of the fun during the inaugural First Friday market of 2022 on June 3, describing the event as “a project that we wanted to do



Giant Jenga was just one of the many family-friendly activities available for First Friday guests on June 3.

Photo by Jeremy Foster

when we came up with the idea to just showcase the city.”

“When I got elected, one of the main things I wanted to do was to just bring the town together and celebrate the greatness that is Hiawassee and make this a staple event to do,” Ordiales said. “This is such a fun event, and we are happy to see it and the community grow each year, and this event proves that.”

The band for the evening was GAS, short for George, Andy & Steve, comprised of George Boothroyd, Andy Ward and Steven Harper. The trio performed popular classics such as “Billie Jean” by Michael Jackson, “Wish You Were Here” by Pink Floyd, “Old Time Rock and Roll” by Bob Seger and countless others.

Harper has been a musician since he was 5 years old, and although he was the keyboard man for the night, he also serves in a key role in the city as program manager for the Hiawassee Downtown Development Authority.

His involvement with the city has resulted in him being the main coordinator for the Night Market over its three-year run, and he has been thrilled with the growth in popularity of the event.

“This year’s addition has by far been the biggest one yet,” Harper said. “And looking out here today, this has been a microcosm of what we are trying to do for our beautiful community. We wanted to have stuff for people of all ages to come and enjoy, and that is exactly what we all accomplished.”

“Our goal is to transform downtown Hiawassee into a walkable, livable, exciting place to be and show that Hiawassee is ‘Alive After 5,’ because we love everyone here – they are the greatest people in the world.”

For more information on upcoming events and everything Hiawassee, contact Ordiales or Harper inside City Hall at 50 River Street or call the office at 706-896-2202.



George Boothroyd, Andy Ward and Steven Harper of local band GAS entertained patrons of the Hiawassee Night Market June 3. Live music is a recurring feature of these fun community events.

Photo by Jeremy Foster

TCSO Gift...

from Page 1A

Sheriff Henderson and his staff have relentlessly made a significant impact on highway safety and keeping the community safe.

The vehicle is marked differently than the other Sheriff’s Office vehicles, being blue and displaying the Towns County Sheriff’s logo along with the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety logo.

Sheriff Ken Henderson said he is very appreciative of the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety for the vehicle, stating that the presentation “reflects highly on our commitment to highway safety initiatives and for keeping our community safe.”

“Through our proactive approaches, this vehicle will be an additional resource to the Sheriff’s Office to better serve our community,” Sheriff Henderson said.

Ultra MAGA Armada July 4th



Join us in celebration of America’s National Independence Day, Ultra MAGA Armada, Monday, July 4th, 3 PM - 5 PM, followed by a cookout at the GOP parking lot, Patriot Plaza.

The boat parade route will begin at the cove outside Boundary Waters and finish at Marina Station. Route maps available upon request. Pennant available for new participants at \$10 each. Those who already have a pennant, from participating in previous Armadas, can receive a new star by dropping by headquarters with your pennant.

Register Today to Join the Fun! Contact Betsy Young, 904-382-1912, or TCGOP-Chair@gmail.com For further information please visit our headquarters: TCGOP 3921 US Hwy 76, Patriot Plaza.

The Georgia Mountain Fair Beauty Pageant

The Georgia Mountain Fair is looking for young ladies 17-24 to participate in this year’s Miss GMF Pageant.

The Pageant will be held Thursday, August 18. Entry forms and Pageant rules are available on the Georgia Mountain Fair website. Deadline to enter is August 11. Great experience and cash prizes!

Food Pantry food distribution

The Food Pantry hours are Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. with the exception of distribution day. The Distribution is every other Wednesday 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Richard Thomas at towns.pantry@ndocsbg.org or (706) 896-4783.

Made In GA...from Page 1A

classic barbeque sandwiches.

“Not only was this my first time here as a vendor, but also as a spectator,” Kight said. “So, it is a very cool double-whammy, and it has been a very phenomenal experience that, needless to say, I have been missing out on over the years.”

“I have met so many people in our community that I have never met before, so it was a blessing and a truly grateful opportunity to be able to also share some of The Word and invite many people to come visit our church who have never been or even heard of it before.”

Joint Economic Development Director Denise McKay joined in the festival fun, saying she was there as well to “scout potential talent to tenant the Shook House and represent local and regional arts and things of that nature.”

“It is also exciting to talk to a lot of people who might be interested in going in (the Shook House) to set up a general store of local crafter items because, essentially, we would like to bring a smaller but full-time version of this festival to Hiwassee,” she said.

“This is such a great event, and the quality of everything here from the vendors is very fantastic, as is seeing all the people who come out to support everything local and Georgia-made and the chamber as well.”

Without a doubt, the busiest booth of the two-day extravaganza was by Georgia Mountain Falconry, which welcomed a constant stream of people stopping to find more information about the birds of prey and to take pictures.



Georgia Mountain Falconry fascinated Made In Georgia guests June 25-26, bringing live birds that many people do not get the opportunity to see in person. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Owner Buster Brown has had an interest in falconry for over 20 years, and with his business going strong for 10 years now, he celebrated his third return to Made In Georgia.

“We love coming here and are honored to be able to bring so much joy and entertainment to our community by people really enjoying our demonstrations of these beautiful falcons,” Brown said.

“I don’t think there is enough of these (festivals), which impact the community in such a positive way, and after what we have gone through with the pandemic, you realize more the value of being able to go out your door freely and enjoy life around great people.”

Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce President Candace Lee originated the event and organizes it annually, and she knew even before lunch-time on opening day that “this year has been the largest turnout yet by far – the lines have been staying out the door.”

“I absolutely get so much satisfaction doing this for our community and seeing everyone enjoying themselves, and none of this could even be possible without all of these great people, so thank you everyone for making this bigger and better each year,” Lee said.

This year’s Made In Georgia sponsors were the Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce, Towns County Commission, Towns County CVB, City of Hiwassee, Hiwassee Downtown Development Authority, Century 21 Black Bear Realty and LeafFilter.



Vertical Church members attended as one of more than a hundred vendors serving guests of the 2022 Made In Georgia Festival. Photo by Jeremy Foster