

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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50 Cents

Publication Number 635540 Volume 89 Number 37

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

68th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair kicks off Friday

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Come one, come all, to the greatest fair in the Southeast – the Georgia Mountain Fair.

For the 68th year running, the Georgia Mountain Fair will live up the North Georgia Mountains for many days of family-friendly fun and entertainment, starting this weekend at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

That's nine days of fun, to be exact, to take place between Friday, July 20, and Saturday, July 28, and area residents won't want to miss out on any of the action.

So, what does the Fair have to offer? The answer is pretty simple: a little of everything, so take your pick.

From daily music shows to down-home crafts and

authentic old-time mountain living demonstrations, the Fair's got people covered.

Check out the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.com website for comprehensive information, but here's a brief breakdown of what fairgoers can expect.

The Fair begins on July 20, when the gates open at 10 a.m., but folks can actually get a head start on all the fun by visiting the B&K Carnival, which opens on Thursday, July 19.

And that opening Friday and every day of the Fair, visitors will be able to take in all the arts and crafts the Fair is known for, as well as the Pioneer Village and Exhibit Hall.

"My favorite part of the Fair would be the Pioneer Village and the authentic mountain demonstrations,

teaching people what our heritage is and how people lived many, many years ago here in the mountains, and how they had to survive," said Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason.

The Exhibit Hall is another can't-miss opportunity for guests of the fairgrounds, as it showcases the history of the Georgia Mountain Fair and houses other exhibits, including the Kimbrell Collection of antique reed organs, an antique farm museum, information on local civic groups and more.

New to the Fair this year is the Human Cannonball Daredevil Show, which will feature a high-flying family of stunt performers for three shows daily in an act that is truly unique.

Of course, the music
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Front porch pickin' in Pioneer Village during the 2017 Georgia Mountain Fair.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

BRMEMC to hold Young Harris Town Hall Meeting on Aug. 7

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

YOUNG HARRIS – The Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors will hold a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the proposed bylaw changes that will appear on the upcoming EMC elections ballot.

All EMC members are invited to attend the Town Hall Meeting, which will take place at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 7.

The EMC will hold the meeting in the main lobby of its Young Harris headquarters to save money on an external venue.

In the July 12 regular board meeting, BRMEMC Board President Mickey Cummings called the meeting to hold the Town Hall Meeting, stating that he wanted the membership to have the



Mickey Cummings

board of directors. Secondly, the membership will be deciding whether or not voting for director candidates should be limited to each candidate's home county.

This second amendment was proposed on the floor of the 2017 annual meeting, and it would prohibit a member in Union County from voting on a candidate running in Towns County, for example.

The membership will also be responsible for electing three EMC board members this year, one each in Union, Towns and Fannin counties.

Board member candidate forms were due back to the EMC's Nominating Committee met on June 26 to make their final nominations. Petition nominations were due by July 16, and the

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Early voting for July 24 runoff election ends Friday

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Early voting for the Georgia Primary Runoff Election is now in its final week, and Election Day is on Tuesday, July 24.

This week, every day through Friday, July 20, registered Towns County voters can cast their ballots early at the Towns County Board of Elections and Registration Office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The board office is located in Suite A of 67 Lakeview Circle in Hiwassee, and it will close for lunch daily from 12 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. during early voting.

People who voted in the May 22 General Primary Election will have to stay with the same party for the runoff election.

Those who voted

nonpartisan in May will need to declare a political party to receive a ballot for the runoff election.

Folks who didn't vote at all during the May 22 primary but were eligible to do so can vote in the July 24 runoff, and should they choose to, they will need to declare a political party to receive a ballot.

Election Day will be on Tuesday, July 24, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and that day, voters should report to one of the four pre-assigned Towns County voting precincts: Hiwassee, Young Harris, Macedonia and Tate City.

The Macedonia Precinct has changed this year from the campus of Towns County Schools to Macedonia Baptist Church.

Voters are not required to bring their mailed precinct cards, but they must show a photo ID to vote.

For more election information, stop by the board office next to the Towns County Courthouse, or call 706-896-4353.

Both the Republican and Democratic parties have candidates running in the July 24 Primary Runoff Election.

L.S. "Casey" Cagle is facing off against Brian Kemp in a bid for the Republican nomination for governor ahead of the Nov. 6 General Election.

In the May 22 General Primary, statewide, Cagle received 39.01 percent of the vote to Kemp's 25.55 percent.

Neither candidate received a majority of the vote in May – which forced the runoff.

Whoever wins this runoff race will go head to head in

See Early Voting, Page 6A

City OKs insurance, water project and alcohol resolution

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Editor

The Hiwassee City Council approved a \$36,133 contract for property risk insurance with the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency, or GIRMA, on Tuesday, July 10.

Due to the July 4 holiday, the usual first Tuesday of the month meeting was rescheduled and moved from July 3 to July 10.

Previously, council members had entertained insurance quotes by local attorney Timothy Barrett of Barrett & Associates Insurance in a June 26 work session, after which they determined that GIRMA was the best deal.

The city is switching from Selective Insurance, which cost \$45,363 last year for similar



Hiwassee City Council Members Kris Berron and Anne Mitchell in the July 10 regular city council meeting.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard

public benefits, including liability, liability on all the buildings and properties of the city, etc.

Selective did offer the city a renewed policy of \$42,796, but Barrett was able to obtain the \$36,133 quote with a

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Mayors team up to talk economic development

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales and Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby both attended the 2018 Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention at the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center in June.

So, what did they get out of the experience?

For starters, Gibby has been attending these conventions for over 30 years, and she said the training she acquires each year at the annual GMA conventions is always a great use of her time as a mayor.

"They work with the (University of Georgia's) Carl Vinson Institute in Athens to put on the trainings themselves," said Gibby. The rest of the time



Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales and Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby inside Young Harris City Hall on Wednesday, July 11.

Photo by Mark Smith

is taken up with informational sessions on new or upcoming legislation from the last legislative session.

Some of the training involves bringing municipal governments up to date on

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Martha Piccola thanks her Towns County heroes

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Martha Piccola was on her way back to Dalton from a bridge game outing in Cashiers, North Carolina, on Friday, June 15, when she suddenly experienced a life-threatening medical emergency.

She and her friends Patti Crane, Sandra Smith and Betty Wright just happened to be driving through Towns County when the emergency befell Piccola.

Fortunately for Piccola and her companions, Paramedic Jay Chastain Jr. and EMT Michael Lovingood were on deck to respond to the call.

An artery in Piccola's stomach had ruptured, and she was expelling a lot of blood.

Chastain recognized the

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Towns County EMT Michael Lovingood, Martha Piccola and Towns County Paramedic Jay Chastain Jr. at the Blairsville Rib Country on July 10.

Photo by Mark Smith

TC Sheriff's Office looking for 'Towns County's Most Wanted'

News Special
Towns County Herald

The Towns County Sheriff's Office is asking for assistance from the public in locating Zachary William Hart, 20, of Warne, North Carolina.

He is wanted out of Towns County on the following six active warrants: obstruction of a law enforcement officer; theft by taking; three counts financial transaction card theft; and one bench warrant for financial transaction card theft and transaction card fraud.

The Union County Sheriff's Office and Clay County Sheriff's Office in North Carolina also hold active warrants on Hart.

Hart frequents the area between Gumlog and Warne, North Carolina.



Zachary William Hart

Anyone with information as to the whereabouts of Hart is asked to call either 911 or the Towns County Sheriff's Office

at 706-896-4444.

All information will be kept confidential.

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Lake Levels
Blue Ridge 1,686.43
Chatuge 1,924.85
Nottely 1,775.54



FREE Food Distribution
North Mt. Zion Church
Thursday, July 19th
10 a.m. - Noon

See page 4B

Learn about the
Shade Gardens
at Hamilton Gardens
July 20th
11 AM
FREE to the Public

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Butternut Creek Festival
July 21st & 22nd
Meek's Park

