

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Rain	64 55
Fri: Rain	71 59
Sat: Rain	74 54
Sun: Rain	71 53
Mon: Rain	71 53
Tue: Rain	74 50
Wed: Clouds	72 51



Upstream Elevation Predicted 04/15/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,921.08
Lake Nottely	1,768.81
Blue Ridge	1,683.85

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FFA Membership Drive



April 21st

See Page 2A



N. Mt. Zion Church

April 16th
10 AM - Noon

See Page 6A

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Young Harris Spring Arts & Crafts SHOW

April 18-19

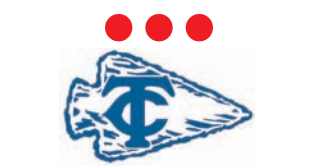
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Enotah Garden Club

Plant Sale
April 16th
Young Harris City Hall



See page 5A



SPORTS

Baseball

Apr 16 vs. Hebron 5:30 PM

Soccer

Apr 14 vs. Union Co 5 & 7 PM

Apr 17 vs. George Walton 5 & 7 PM

William Holland School: 30 years and counting

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Young Harris – Friends and family, students and teachers, and members of the business community joined the Towns County Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the 30th anniversary of classes at William Holland Lapidary School in Young Harris on Friday, April 10.

Suzanne Sparks Wagner, Mike Sparks and Harold Sparks, three of six children of school founders Harold C. and Mary Lou Sparks, led the ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorating the event.

“Thirty years ago, my parents started this school,” said Wagner, CEO and former director of the nonprofit school. “They had classes in the Seabolt Building 30 years ago in May, and they used some of the rooms in Sparks Lodge at that time. It was the following year that Sparks Lodge was used all together for classrooms.

“There probably wasn’t anything like the number of people that will be here this Sunday on that particular day when they started. But this is what they wanted to see, that the school went on for the 30 years, and I’m hoping that it will go on for the next 30 years.”

Several in attendance



Suzanne Sparks Wagner, and her siblings Mike Sparks and Harold Sparks do the ribbon-cutting honors on Friday in Young Harris. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Friday held deep roots with the school, having volunteered to help in the school’s construction, as well as having taught at the school since its inception.

Bill and Dee Conybear built their home on Lapidary Lane those 30 years ago after acquiring property from Harold and Mary Lou in exchange for their contribution to the school.

“We’re very happy to be here, because this is very special,” said Dee Conybear. “It’s a very nice occasion for old friends to get together.”

Dot Kasper, her husband George Henry Kasper Jr., and

their daughter, Cheryl Kasper, have been integral members of the school’s extended teaching family. The Kaspers even have a picture of Cheryl riding the backhoe that cut the road leading to the school 30 years ago.

“After George’s death, they dedicated the library in honor of him,” said Dot Kasper of the George Kasper Memorial Library in the Seabolt Building. “He was a graduate gemologist, and he taught the gemology classes here at the school. It’s been very meaningful to the family, and we hope to see it

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Towns EMS gets new equipment

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County EMS recently acquired two state-of-the-art defibrillation machines for \$57,000.

The machines, ZOLL X Series Monitor/Defibrillators, will accompany paramedics in their ambulances, and are capable of a remarkable range of functions.

“These are the latest, greatest device known to the heart,” said Towns County Paramedic Joey Floyd. “They can do it all – 12 leads, they can check and see how much oxygen you have in your blood. They can also see how much carbon monoxide you have in your lungs. It does it all. They don’t make a better unit.”

Telemedicine is fast becoming the rule of the road in today’s medical emergency world, and the X Series is capable of sending medical data in virtually any capacity – over Wi-Fi, cellular connections, directly to hospitals while a patient is in transit, or even to the cellphone of a patient’s doctor if that doctor is away from the hospital.



Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall gets a look at the new state-of-the-art defibrillation machines. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The county’s older defibrillator units are about 14 years old, and Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall agreed with EMS that they needed to upgrade.

EMS personnel met with ZOLL representative Tito Espiritu, who is a paramedic, for training on the new equipment in early April.

ZOLL donated two \$1,800 Automated External Defibrillators, known as AEDs, to go along with the purchase of the X Series devices.

“ZOLL donated two of these to us for our rec center and set them up for us, and the only thing we had to do is put them in place,” said Floyd. “This is for the lay person who knows nothing about cardiac monitors. They can actually perform shocks and save lives.”

The new AEDs will complement what the county already has in place, with plans for one AED to go in the Senior

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Young Harris a Tree City 20 years and counting

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

April 7 marked the 20th anniversary of Young Harris becoming a Tree City.

To celebrate, the city planted three Kwanzan Cherry trees in Mayor’s Park.

The Kwanzan Cherry gets its name from a mountain in Japan. It is popular because of its spectacular spring flowers and its pleasant fall foliage. Bonsai cultivators, who grow tiny trees, often use it for their art.

“It’s the same ones that are planted in Washington, D.C. all around the reflecting pool,” said Nicolette Wade, Deputy City Clerk. “And they have very pretty pink blossoms.”

Communities achieve Tree City USA status by meeting four standards of urban forestry management: keeping a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, maintaining a community forest program with a budget of at least two dollars per capita, and, of course, celebrating Arbor Day.

Wade explained what a Tree City is.

“We want to preserve the trees, or if they come down, you replant them. I would say that’s the main purpose,” she said.

Two Kwanzan Cherry trees are already in the ground. On April 7, Mayor Andrea Gibby read the Arbor Day Proclamation, thereby securing Young Harris’s status as a Tree City for another year, and the final tree was dropped into place.



“We wanted to find a tree that would be pretty in the spring and not grow humongous,” explained Gayle Nichols, the Tree Board representative from the Enotah Garden Club. “It’ll grow plenty big, but it won’t be like a tall white pine or a tall maple or something like that.”

Nichols is a bit of an expert on plants. She’s been a member of the Enotah Garden Club since 1973 and has held the positions of President and Vice President. Since she retired from her job at Young Harris College, she’s been able to be even more regularly active in the club.

“I’m very interested in learning more about gardening and planting and the environment,” she said. “It’s always been one of my enjoyments to go to the meetings because a lot of times, periodically during the year, we have guest speakers that come and give us an

informative speech, and after forty years of going to meetings like that, eventually you gather that information and you use it when you garden.”

Nichols became the Garden Club’s representative to the tree board to fill a vacancy. When the last representative stepped down, Nichols took her spot. “The club has a bunch of committees and a bunch of people who have a job to do. Everybody in the club should participate and have some kind of duty,” she said.

Although Nichols was involved in the process, the decision to use Kwanzan trees not hers alone. “The tree board met in February, when it was bleak, and we were trying to make the decision whether we wanted the park to be native or more of a formal planting,” she recalled. “We looked at a bunch of flowering trees, and we are

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Hirsch delivers Reece Lecture at YHC

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Young Harris – Renowned American poet Edward Hirsch delivered the Byron Herbert Reece Lecture at Young Harris College on Thursday, April 9.

More than 150 people attended the lecture, which included readings from Hirsch’s various volumes of poetry.

Hirsch is the author of several collections of poetry, with a career spanning 35 years. He has also written a number of prose books, including works dedicated to the understanding of poetry.

Dr. Jim May, an English and creative writing professor at Young Harris College, introduced Hirsch and highlighted the importance of the Byron



Edward Hirsch

Herbert Reece Lecture Series, which began in 1966 and honors Reece’s memory by bringing writers to campus.

All told, Hirsch read more than 15 of his poems to the attentive audience, including selections from “Gabriel: A Poem,” which was described as

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Rib Country is set to open in Hiwassee in April, early May

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Get ready to lick your fingers, Towns County – Rib Country has come to town, and is located directly across from McConnell Memorial Baptist Church on Main Street in Hiwassee.

The family-owned and operated restaurant plans to open its doors to hungry patrons between April 20th and May 1st.

Nick and Susan Fisk started the business in 1997, and since then have brought their two sons, Tim and Nick Jr., aboard.

The Fisks own Rib Country restaurants in Murphy, Hayesville, Cleveland, Blairsville, Helen and now Hiwassee.

“We’ve always felt like we needed to have one here, and just the timing has never been right or a spot’s not been available,” said Tim Fisk. “Three or four years ago we wouldn’t



Tim Fisk

have tried to do it this way. We wouldn’t have looked at this building because it wasn’t big enough. We had it in our mind that they all needed to be 150-seat restaurants with waitresses and all that. After doing the one in Helen, we realized that we could do it this way, and it’s a lot less expensive to do it this way.”

What makes the two newest stores in Helen and Hiwassee unique is the shifting

See *Rib Country*, Page 8A

Movers and Shakers making a difference at Towns County Middle School



By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Saturday, April 11 found Towns County’s Movers and Shakers at Towns County Middle School, working on the playground. The Movers and Shakers are planning on renovating the playground in the next few weeks.

“The Middle School asked for help,” said Sam Fullerton, founder of the Movers and Shakers. “They needed help. So we’re going to spend a lot of money out here. About \$1,500 probably – plus a lot of labor.”

The Movers and Shakers themselves provide all the labor, with no outside hiring. Plans include painting the playground equipment, putting fresh sand in the sandboxes, putting in new grass, and adding new mulch.

“We wanted to help the elementary school, because we helped the high school before,” said Fullerton. “We also do other things. Like we gave them money to go to the state capital, for travel expenses not too long ago. We’re going to be helping them out from now on through the school year.”

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Plant Affair another success



By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

On Saturday, April 11, the Hiwassee Garden Club hosted its annual Plant Affair on the Square. It was an excellent affair for hobbyists and professional gardeners alike.

“Some people look forward to this all winter,” said Joan Crothers, chairperson of the Hiwassee Garden Club. “I definitely do.”

Crothers has been a local for “37 years, going on 38,” and a member of the Garden Club for just as long. In 1995, she assumed the presidency of the club.

“We landscaped the nurs-

ing home and the courthouse,” she recalled. “We paid for all that with money raisers. We did that back when I was president in ‘95. Now we work with the Towns-Union Master Gardner’s Association.”

The Garden Club takes it upon itself to make Towns County as presentable and pleasant a place as possible.

“We’re a Tree City USA for 20 years now. Hiwassee

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

