

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	69 41
Fri: Clouds	71 50
Sat: T-Storms	60 52
Sun: Rain	69 51
Mon: Clouds	73 50
Tues: Clouds	74 49
Wed: Clouds	71 44



Upstream Elevation Predicted 04/24/13	
Lake Chatuge	1923.56
Lake Nottely	1773.83
Blue Ridge	1686.07

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Sports Page 8

Clean Up Of Ivy Mount Cemetery

In the interest of restoring, preserving and maintaining the land and burial sites contained within the one (1) acre, more or less, within land lot 157, 18th District, 1st Section in Towns County, GA, known on the deed as "Graveyard Hill"; we propose a complete clean up of the overgrown area contained here, which has been surveyed and fenced.

If you have any concerns, please call 706-781-4775 BEFORE May 7, 2013.

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FFA Car Wash & Yard Sale

Saturday, May 4

Help Us Raise Money For Upcoming Conventions & Competitions

See page 2

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Erosion & Sedimentation Control Course

April 29 • 8 a.m.

Towns Co. Senior Building Hiawassee, GA

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Free Food Distribution

Tues., April 30 2-6 p.m.

Towns County Food Pantry

See page 3

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Towns Co. Baseball

Tues., April 23 • 5 p.m.

vs. Prince Avenue

Wed., April 24 • 4:30 p.m.

@ Pinecrest

Fri., April 26 • 6 p.m.

vs. Lakeview (Senior Night)

Towns Co. Soccer

Wednesday, April 24 4:30 p.m.

@ Home

Kendall honors a true hero

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

Twelve-year-old Trevor Bradley of Young Harris received special recognition at the Towns County Commissioner's Meeting on Thursday, April 18th, for his quick response to what could possibly have been a catastrophic event for his family.

Commissioner Bill Kendall and Towns County Assistant Fire Chief Harold Copeland presented young Trevor with a *Heroic Action Award* for his quick thinking and decisive action during a fire that occurred at his home on January 30th as a severe storm swept through the area causing massive flooding, knocking down trees and power lines, and leaving thousands of residents without power.

Kendall said, "We're here tonight to present a special award to Trevor Bradley. It is my honor and the honor of the Towns County Fire Rescue Department to present him with this award for his role in saving



Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall presents 12-year-old Trevor Bradley with a *Heroic Action Award* for his actions on Jan. 30th that saved his family's home from fire. Photo/Libby Shook

his family's home from serious damage."

In addition to the award, Copeland presented Trevor with a Towns County Fire & Rescue T-shirt and hat.

"When you turn 14, we would be proud to have you join the Towns County Explorers," Copeland said.

Trevor's proud parents, Greg and Tamie Bradley, and

See Trevor, page 12

An Evening in Paris, a Prom Night to remember

By Libby Shook
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Saturday night, April 20th, was no ordinary night.

In fact, it was quite extraordinary for the many young men and women who paraded around town, or walked into restaurants decked out in formal attire, wearing beautiful corsages and boutonnières, holding hands, smiling that special smile, and gazing adoringly into each other's eyes.

On this special evening, North Georgia Technical College was the scene of an unforgettable event for many Towns County High School students as prom night had arrived for this year's 2012-2013 Junior-Senior Class.

See Prom, page 12



Sonny Goodman and Dadrion Blythe were named 2013 Prom King and Queen on Saturday. Photo/Libby Shook

Festival off to rousing success

By Libby Shook
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The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds was very busy over the weekend as the Rhododendron Festival opened to the public on Saturday, April 20th.

It was scheduled to open on April 19th, but high winds, heavy rainfall, thunder, and lightning put a halt to those plans.

Saturday and Sunday, Mother Nature continued her pranks as she brought in cooler temperatures with a light, chilly breeze in the air.

This was not a deterrent, however, to the almost 2,000 visitors who came out to see what the Festival had to offer.

They were not disappointed as they meandered through the many creative booths filled with an eclectic assortment of arts and crafts.

There was something for everyone, regardless of age. For



These two youngsters were making friends at the 2013 Rhododendron Festival at Hamilton Gardens at the Fairgrounds. Photo/Libby Shook

the younger folks, there was face painting, juggling, hula hooping courtesy of Kira Ducat of Happy Cat Face Painting.

Ducat, who had her own face painted like a cat, was wearing a pink wig, and bright, colorful tights and tutu, describes herself as "a face painter, juggler, stilt walker,

and more."

The kids loved what she had to offer and flocked to her booth. They also loved the opportunity to pet the alpacas from Destiny Alpacas, Inc.

Owner Larry Dietsch walked throughout the festival

See Fest, page 12

Jerry Kendall shares Woods Grove history

By Libby Shook
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Jerry Kendall was the guest speaker at the April meeting of the Towns County Historical Society.

He discussed the history of the Woods Grove Community. Kendall brought along his own cheering section as several members of the Woods Grove Baptist Church and community came to hear him talk about the way things used to be.

The Tennessee Valley Authority announced plans to build a lake in 1940 and began buying land in the Woods Grove and surrounding communities.

This created fear, panic, and a great sense of loss for this close-knit community.

Kendall talked of three men, Jeremiah Wofford, James Cooper, and Pleasant Jenkins, who, in June of 1832, each received land grants of 160 acres each. These three tracts of land make up part of the old Woods Grove Community.

Basically, according to Kendall, the Woods Grove section of Towns County encom-



Jerry Kendall

passed all the land where the Ridges Resort & Marina is now located and all surrounding property including where the condos are located on Lakeview Drive, the TVA-owned Chatuge Woods Campground, areas close to Cedar Cliff, and on into parts of North Carolina.

"Most people consider Woods Grove as where you start up the mountain. There are no set boundaries. I think if somebody wanted to lay claim to being part of Woods Grove,

they would be accepted," said Kendall.

Kendall brought along a PowerPoint with "then and now" photos. He also included, as a point of reference, a copy of an early map created and used by the Woods Grove Community Club, as well as pictures of the early days of the church, school, former pastors and teachers, and area residents.

He also showed photos depicting the unspoiled beauty of the area before the TVA changed the life and livelihood of the community forever.

Kendall would stop and give brief descriptions of the photos. He encouraged his audience to share their memories of the early days brought to mind by the photos.

One of the widely discussed topics was the early history of the church, the various pastors over the years, as well as the relocation of the church due to the arrival of the lake - moved approximately two miles from where it was to where it stands now.

The school building was burned by the TVA and

See Woods Grove, page 12

Windstream Internet outage woes continue

By Charles Duncan
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A broadband switch failure in Dahlonega left Windstream Internet users without access to the World Wide Web for two days last week. Users in Union, Towns, Lumpkin and Dawson counties experienced Internet outages that left many businesses without the benefit of being able to process debit or credit cards.

The problem was especially widespread in Towns County, the *Towns County Herald* discovered.

The *North Georgia News* was impacted by not being able to receive e-mails from customers, correspondents and readers.

It started again on Monday, as Windstream's Internet service in Towns County bit the bullet again. Everything was in working order by 4:10 p.m.

Last week, Windstream spokesperson Scott Morris told the *Towns County Herald* and sister paper *North Georgia News* that failure of a broadband switch in Dahlonega led to the outage.

On Monday, he was unavailable for comment.

Morris told the newspaper last week that "they're doing maintenance on it," he said. "They've been working



Stephen Allison



State Sen. Steve Gooch

on it since late (Wednesday afternoon) to get it repaired. Not all customers in Blairsville (are affected); some are served off the switch that has failed."

Morris said that the failure was not storm-related.

"It was totally separate from that (Wednesday's

See Failure, page 12

Thomas indicted on 12 counts by Grand Jury

Young Harris domestic violence case

By Charles Duncan
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A 53-year-old Blairsville man has been indicted on a dozen charges stemming from a domestic violence case in Young Harris, Towns County Superior Court records show.

According to the 12-count indictment, Larry Franklin Thomas has been indicted on multiple counts of burglary, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, cruelty to children and aggravated assault, court records show.

Thomas also was indicted on charges of aggravated stalking, possession of a sawed off shotgun, and possession of a weapon during the commission of a crime.

The indictments stem from a February altercation when Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton and his deputies responded to a late night domestic call in Young Harris, Towns County sheriff's reports show.

According to the Towns County Sheriff's Office accounts, Thomas, of 144 Fairview Trail in Blairsville, violated a protective order and entered the home of his estranged wife and their three children in Young Harris.

Thomas is accused of possession of a 20-gauge sawed off shotgun, with the barrel being shorter than 18 inches,



Larry Franklin Thomas

possession of a 20-gauge sawed off shotgun during the commission of a felony, Towns County Magistrate Court warrants show.

The incident occurred in February, Towns County sheriff's reports show.

Arrest warrants show that Thomas broke into the home at 367 Opal Road with the intent of committing a felony.

Once inside the home, Thomas shot the male victim in the face with the sawed off 20-gauge shotgun, arrest warrants show. Thomas then threatened his estranged wife with the sawed off 20-gauge, taking her and the couple's three children, ages 12, 14, and 16 years of age hostage, according to arrest warrants and sheriff's reports.

A physical altercation then took place between the two men. During the alterca-

See Indict, page 12

Mountain Home Show on Friday and Saturday

By Charles Duncan
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Blairsville - The 16th Annual Mountain Home Show at North Georgia Technical College begins Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The two-day event also is scheduled for Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Inside this edition is a special pullout section featuring all you need to know about the event. Richard C. MacCrea is your guide to the 16th Annual Mountain Home Show inside this edition. Some of the special seminars include How to Remodel and Get More for Less; How to Save the Most Energy for the Least Cost; and Decorating. Come see ideas for your home. The event offers some of the best companies displaying great ideas for home improvements this year.

The Mountain Home Show

Friday, April 26, 2013 2-7PM

Saturday, April 27, 2013 9AM - 5PM

North Georgia Technical College
1/2 mile west of Blairsville, GA on Hwy. 515

Local building permits are on the rise and there couldn't be a better time for a Mountain Home Show. The economy is in the recovery phase, and the show will be better than ever with many new

See Home Show, page 12

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

