

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	84 59
Fri: Clouds	80 59
Sat: T-storms	69 58
Sun: T-storms	78 59
Mon: Clouds	80 59
Tue: Rain	81 58
Wed: Rain	77 52



Upstream Elevation Predicted 05/7/14	
Lake Chatuge	1,924.54
Lake Nottely	1,773.38
Blue Ridge	1,685.46

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Annual Meeting Monday, May 12th See page 2

Towns County's FIRST Great American Clean-up! See page 5

BOE accepts Coach Harrison's resignation

By Charles Duncan Towns County Herald cduncan.tch@windstream.net

The Towns County Indians are looking for a new head football coach.

In retrospect, former Head Football Coach Blair Harrison is looking for a U-Haul.

The first-year head coach tendered his resignation on Friday and the Towns County Board of Education accepted it on Monday night.

Harrison, who led the Indians to a 4-6 finish in 2013, has accepted an administrative position with a private school in New Orleans, LA, Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams said.

"We posted the job last night," Williams said. "We're looking for a new head football coach."

Athletic Director and Towns County High School Principal Jonathan Gibson said Harrison called a team meeting last week and broke the news to the Indians.

"We had a meeting on Fri-



Blair Harrison

day and talked to the kids," Gibson said. "They were champs. We've got good kids. I can't say that they weren't disappointed, we're all disappointed."

"But they're champs and they're winners," he said.

Gibson said he has posted the job and is moving forward in a search for a new head football coach.

"We play football in the state of Georgia," Gibson said. "Everywhere you look, there is someone looking to become a head football coach."

Gibson expects to have plenty of applicants for the

coaching job.

"We didn't post it until late (Sunday night) and most people didn't see it until (Monday morning)," Gibson said.

"We have well over 30 applicants already so there will be many applicants for this coaching position," Gibson said.

Gibson said Towns County will pursue a coach looking for a long-term commitment to the Indians' football program.

"We're looking for someone who is going to love these kids and treat them right and maximize their abilities," Gibson said. "We're looking for someone who wants to be here. Someone who is looking for a long-term commitment."

"I want someone who is going to be here five-to-10 years," he said. "We're not looking for a one and done person."

"First and foremost, I want them to love the kids, push the kids, but stability is important," Gibson said.

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TVA: 'Chatuge should hit full pool by June 1'

By Charles Duncan Towns County Herald cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Lake Chatuge could soon be at full pool, according to TVA River Forecast Center Manager Tom Barnett.

Chatuge currently is at 1,924.54, with full pool just around the corner at 1,926, said Barnett, who schedules and monitors all of TVA's 49 projects.

"We've got some really good news. Chatuge is still a little bit below normal, but we've been able to release only the minimum flows," he said. "Chatuge is filling slightly ahead of schedule. It's about nearly a foot above the current guide curve."

"It's two feet below normal summer pool at 1,926," Barnett said. "We still need two feet to be at June 1 full pool elevation. We expect to be able to do that with just a little bit of help from Mother Nature."

"It's a good story here, but not so much for the northern portion of the Tennessee Valley," he said. "Nottely, Chatuge and Hiwassee lakes are major contributors to the Tennessee River."

Barnett works to ensure all of TVA's bodies of water meet a certain flood guide level;



Tom Barnett

the flood guide level provides protection for downstream communities.

Three inches of rain in May will help Chatuge achieve the goal of full pool by June 1, Barnett said.

"If we get normal rainfall in May, I fully expect it to be at full pool," Barnett said.

Construction of Chatuge Dam began in 1941 and was completed in 1942.

The dam is 150 feet high and stretches 3,336 feet across the Hiwassee River.

Chatuge was originally built to store water to help reduce flood damage downstream.

A single hydropower generating unit was added in 1954 with a net dependable

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Oscars-themed prom has King and Queen



Cadi Olin and Brett Barrett walked away with the honors some only dream about on Saturday night. The Towns County High School duo were crowned 2014 Prom King and Queen. The Prom was held at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Day of Prayer observed in Towns

By Charles Duncan Towns County Herald cduncan.tch@windstream.net

A capacity crowd at Towns County Recreation and Conference Center united in prayer Thursday morning for the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall welcomed the crowd to the immaculate Conference Center built with Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax dollars.

Pastor Jim Blair welcomed the crowd with a prayer for a "great awakening" in our nation.

One community voice united in prayer asked God for a great awakening. The crowd prayed for our nation, prayed for Towns County, prayed for our schools, our firefighters, law enforcement veterans, and public servants. They prayed for our community, our children, families and the leaders faced with difficult decisions ahead.

Many came to the Conference Center at the crack of dawn to pray.

"We acknowledge the role of prayer in our lives," said Pastor Phil Heard. "We're not mandated to be here in prayer. President Abraham Lincoln once said that he had been driven to his knees a many a time in the need of prayer."



Sheriff Chris Clinton

"We come here today because we are privileged to be here," he said. "Our great country gives us the privilege of worshipping. We must always remember that prayer must be volunteered and not coerced."

Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams told the crowd that it was indeed a privilege to be in their company.

"Communities that pray together, stay together," Williams said. "That we are all here this morning is by design. We live in a community that believes we need more of God in our schools. Today, we pray for wisdom and guidance. We pray for the courage to make

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Fairgrounds gears up for EggFest

By Mason Mitcham Towns County Herald Staff Writer

Smoke will fill the air at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds May 16-17 as the Fourth Annual Green EggFest gets underway.

"Eggheads" from all over the country, California to Connecticut and all points in between will come together to show off their cooking skills, share recipes, and educate those unfamiliar with the Egger's lifestyle.

They also will come here to reunite with their Egg family and friends they have made as they travel around the country to different EggFests.

The two-day event begins Friday evening, May 16 with a 'Meet and Greet' at the Exhibit Hall as cooks, tasters, and vendors come together to share the experience and socialize before the big day on Saturday, May 17.

GreenEggs will be set up and folks will bring grilling items and covered dishes to share with old and new friends.

Pioneer Village will definitely go green on Saturday morning May 17 with Green Eggs in abundance and the chefs busying themselves with their unique creations.

On Friday, May 16, it's important to note that the Meet and Greet registration takes place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

It's asked that you please



Eggheads will unite on May 16 and May 17 as the Fourth Annual Georgia Mountain EggFest returns to Hiawassee.

bring a covered dish (heavy hor d'oeuvres) or something you wish to cook on the egg - there will be five large eggs set up at the Meet and Greet along with charcoal and lighter for your use.

Also, due to local ordinances, alcohol will not be available for purchase this year. Please feel free to bring your own beverage of choice to the

Meet and Greet and/or to the Eggfest on Saturday.

It's important to note that cooks fees are \$10 per ticket; tasters fees are \$20 per ticket, and children 12 and under experience the Georgia Mountain Egg Fest for free.

On Saturday, May 17, between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.,

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Two charged with Indoor marijuana grow

Towns County Herald News Special

On May 1, following a lengthy investigation, agents with the Appalachian Drug Task Force and deputies with the Towns County Sheriff's Office served a search warrant on Ferguson Trail in Hiawassee.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Rangers assisted with the warrant service.

During the execution of the warrant, authorities allegedly found an indoor marijuana growing and cultivation operation complete with lights and a

ventilation, along with several guns.

Matthew Scott King, 38, and Blakely Cole Kennard, 19, both of Hiawassee, were arrested and charged with manufacturing marijuana, possession with intent to distribute marijuana, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime.

Since the arrest, King and Kennard both were released on bond.

The street value of the illegal plants is estimated at more than \$30,000.

The plants and guns were

confiscated by authorities. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation's commander of the Drug Task Force and Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton were involved and present as the investigation progressed.

"This is a great example of why we continue to support Towns County's involvement with the Appalachian Drug Task Force," Sheriff Clinton said. "Our personnel, intelligence gathering and equipment resources are greatly increased."

The investigation is ongoing, according to sheriff's reports.

Wood: 'I plant by the signs'



Towns County farmer Shylan Wood tells the Mountain Movers and Shakers that spring planting must be done no sooner than May 15. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan Towns County Herald cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Shylan Wood has been farming for 16 years.

He started when he was 4 years old under the tutelage of his grandfather.

He came to Mary's Southern Grill on Friday to speak to the Mountain Movers and Shakers. Wood came with a heavy heart; his grandfather on his mother's side of the family had died just the night before.

Wood told the crowd he was there to complete his

speaking engagement because his grandfather taught him that once you honor a commitment, you stick by the commitment.

"I've watched that man work all my life," Wood said. "If there's anything I can take away from this, it's count your

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

