

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, May 15, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Storms	76 53
Fri: Storms	78 55
Sat: Storms	78 56
Sun: Storms	78 56
Mon: Storms	77 56
Tues: Rain	76 55
Wed: Rain	74 53



Upstream Elevation Predicted 05/15/13	
Lake Chatuge	1926.07
Lake Nottely	1776.96
Blue Ridge	1686.56

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Memorial Day Ceremony



Veteran's Park in Hiawassee
May 27 • 11 a.m.
See page 10A

Rhododendron Festival Extended at Hamilton Gardens May 17 & 18



3rd Annual Big Green Egg Festival will also be going on at the Fairgrounds on Friday & Saturday.
See page 5A

Tri-State Business Women 7th Annual Business Expo

Sat., May 18 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Union County Farmer's Market
Free to the Public
See page 5A

TOWNS COUNTY FIRE CORPS

County Wide Yard Sale
Sat., May 25 • 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
On The Square in Hiawassee
Reserve Your Space
Email: tcfirecorps@gmail.com
or Call Judy 706-897-3798
or Liz 404-754-3430

Help Support Your Volunteer Fire Fighters!



Towns County Girls Golf
State Match
Monday, May 20
@ Victoria Bryant State Park in Royston

Towns bids Wilson farewell

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
jcollins.tcherald@windstream.net

A lone coffin covered by the American flag and smothered in a field of floral was met by family, friends and co-workers at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church Wednesday, May 8th, as Towns County paid its last respects to one of its own, Towns County sheriff's Lt. Brian Allen Wilson.

Wilson was a native of Towns County and a graduate of Towns County High School where he was a star on the football team.

According to those in attendance, he was a devoted husband, father and son who loved the people of his hometown and would do anything he could to be a friend to all.

Known by his friends and fellow workers to be caring and charitable, he was respected by many and cherished by his loved ones.

The outpouring of presence in the church last week was a pure testament to that fact.



Pallbearers prepare Lt. Brian Wilson for his final ride through Towns County on Wednesday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The service began at 2 p.m. with Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton, Chief Deputy Jeff Edge and the officers from the Towns County Sheriff's Office presenting themselves in pairs to salute their fallen brother of the law and honor his End of Watch. The sheriff's deputies were then followed by the Hiwassee Police Department and more than 50 law enforcement officers from across North Georgia and Western North Carolina. See Services, page 11A

Emotional scene at graveside service

By Libby Shook
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Friends, family and fellow law enforcement officers paid their last respects to fallen Towns County Sheriff's Lt. Brian Wilson at Burch Cemetery on Sunnyside Road, Georgia 288.

The final tribute and farewell to the beloved, young marine and peace officer, who served his country and his county with great honor, valor, and unflinching dedication, was one of

highest regard and great respect. Sheriffs, deputies, police officers, and state troopers from all over the Southeast lined the drive leading up to the burial site.

The officers stood military-style and saluted as the hearse traveled up the narrow drive with family members and friends following close behind.

As Lt. Wilson's flag-draped coffin was removed from the hearse, the peace of-

See Wilson, page 11A



Lt. Brian Wilson is laid to rest at Burch Cemetery. Photo/Libby Shook

Langford leaves for Cook County

By Joe Collins
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Regrettably, the Kyle Langford era is over for the Towns County Indians football program.

The winningest football coach in Indians history has accepted a coaching position in Cook County to be closer to his mother and father, Indian Nation has learned.

"My father has had several surgeries during the last 18 months and it has been hard for me to be away from him, so when the opportunity to move back closer to home came along, my wife and I felt that this was the direction we needed to go," Coach Langford said.

"I sincerely appreciate the opportunities that my family and I have been given in



The winningest football coach in Towns County history, Kyle Langford, is leaving the program. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Towns County," he said. "I have had nothing but positive support from the Board of Education, Mrs. (Melissa) Williams and the administration of all three schools within our system. "I have no doubt that the football See Langford, page 11A

EggFest returns to the Fairgrounds

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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Break out the barbecue sauce, the Green EggFest returns to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds this weekend.

The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds is excited to welcome the Third Annual Georgia Mountain EggFest back to the Fairgrounds as 'egggers' from all across the country and provinces of Canada once again return to show off their culinary skills as they demonstrate how versatile the Green Eggs truly are.

"In just two years the Eggfest has become one of the most popular events in the country," event organizer John Hall said. "This is due mainly to the venue and beautiful area we have surrounding us. The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds is the perfect setting for an event like this.

"To give you an example



The Green Egg experience returns to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds this weekend. Photo/Libby Shook

of the enthusiasm this event has generated, we opened registration at midnight on Dec. 31st and within 13 hours we had completely sold out the cook's tickets. There were more than 46 Eggfests across the country last year, and not one of them even came close to matching this response," Hall said. Hall reports that 120 cooks have signed up this year, with 18 on a waiting list. Tasters are registering in large numbers, according to Hall and he anticipates more than 1,200 See EggFest, page 11A

Chatuge Regional's Health Fair

By Libby Shook
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Saturday, May 4th, was a wet, dreary morning in Hiawassee, but this did not seem to be a deterrent to the almost 200 locals who came out to take advantage of the many valuable services available at the Annual Health Fair at Chatuge Regional Hospital.

It was a very busy day for hospital staff as they opened the doors at 7 a.m and worked steadily until the last visitor had been seen and screened.

Chatuge Regional has been providing this service to Towns County residents for almost three decades.

It takes a great deal of planning and coordination of services by administration and staff to make the Health Fair a success.

Everything ran smoothly and folks seemed to be pleased with the services.

The staff were all very friendly and very accommodating.

In these challenging economic times, many folks tend



Elizabeth Harper gets her blood pressure checked during the annual Chatuge Regional Health Fair. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

to just let health screenings slide simply because of the high cost of healthcare, doctor fees, insurance deductibles, or lack of insurance.

Services offered would be very expensive under other circumstances, but they were offered through the Health Fair at very affordable prices.

These screenings are offered at a fraction of the usual See Health Fair, page 11A

Success at BMW's 23rd Rally at Fairgrounds

By Libby Shook
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Almost 500 motorcyclists embarked on Towns County and surrounding areas this weekend as the 23rd BMW Motorcycle Rally returned to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds May 3rd through May 5th.

Cyclists traveled from all over the country to attend the event.

According to President of the BMW Motorcycle Club of Georgia Jonathan Sharpe, there were folks here from 25 states and one province of Canada.

"This is our 41st year of

the Club and our 23rd Annual Rally," Sharpe said. "This is a wonderful venue. Everybody especially enjoys being here by the lake. The roads are great for riding and the people are very friendly."

The group also brings a lot of money into the county. Sharpe reported that they all headed to Ingles to load up on "vittles" and that they frequented several local restaurants as well.

Of course, all of the service stations stayed busy as they filled up their motorcycles to prepare themselves for the riding excursions that lay ahead.

See Rally, page 11A



BMW Rally fans got wet, but, they had fun. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Georgia honors its Municipal clerks

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed a Proclamation on March 19, 2013 declaring the week of May 5-11, 2013 as Municipal Clerks Week in Georgia.

Municipal Clerks, also encompassing the title of City Clerks, were recognized by Deal as "a vital part of local government, providing the professional link between citizens and local governing bodies."

Gov. Deal acknowledged that "Municipal Clerks have rendered their neutrality and impartiality rendering services to all. The Office of Municipal Court serves as an information center on functions of local government and community. They continually strive to improve the office of Municipal Clerk through participation in educational programs, seminars, workshops, and the annual meeting of their state, county, and professional organizations."

wassee City Hall you inevitably have encountered the very knowledgeable and professional Municipal Clerk/City Clerk, Wylene White.

The same holds true for the Young Harris City Hall with City Clerk Shirley Jarrard.

They are both veritable fountains of knowledge when you are in need of answers.

It won't take you long to realize that these highly qualified ladies have "an above and beyond mentality" and have a great understanding of parliamentary procedure and legalistic implications involved in working in a governmental office.

Not only are these ladies very knowledgeable, but they always have a smile on their face and meet each customer and challenge in an amicable

See Clerks, page 11A

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