

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Storms	79 53
Fri: Clouds	74 50
Sat: Clouds	78 52
Sun: Storms	76 54
Mon: Clouds	76 55
Tues: Clouds	76 57
Wed: Clouds	80 58



Upstream Elevation Predicted 05/22/13	
Lake Chatuge	1925.99
Lake Nottely	1777.22
Blue Ridge	1687.76

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Sports

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Memorial Day Ceremony



Veteran's Park in Hiwassee
May 27 • 11 a.m.

See page 3A

Free Food Distribution



Tues., May 28
2-6 p.m.

Towns County Food Pantry

See page 2A

Red Cross June Blood Drive

Wed., June 12
11:30am - 4pm

College St., Young Harris

See page 2A

TOWNS COUNTY FIRE CORPS

County Wide Yard Sale

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



Chamber Yard Sale

Sat., June 1
at the Chamber Office
111 Jack Datyon Circle

Accepting donations beginning May 25

See page 8A

Class of 2013 is ready to walk

By Colleen Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County High School Senior Class of 2013 held its Baccalaureate Service on Sunday evening, May 19th, at 6 p.m. at Macedonia Baptist Church in Hiwassee.

Family and friends of the graduating Senior Class filled the church to hear faith-based messages and to sing gospel songs during the first official service that leads these students toward graduation commencement on Friday.

Seniors, wearing their traditional blue and white graduation gowns, proceeded into the sanctuary to music played by Chris Adams, Towns County High School Chorus teacher.

In between each inspirational message, Adams and graduating senior Brittany Boyer led those present in singing two traditional gospel favorites; "How Great Thou Art," and "Amazing Grace."

The Rev. Josh Bennett, associate pastor and minister



The Towns County High School Class of 2013 enters Sunday's Baccalaureate services at Macedonia Baptist Church. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

to students, Macedonia Baptist Church, and chaplain of Towns County's football team, then welcomed the crowd to the service.

The Rev. Bennett delivered the first inspirational

message. The Rev. Bennett informed the Senior Class that the meaning of the Baccalaureate Ceremony is, "a service

See *Baccalaureate*, page 12A

Brittany Ledford is Valedictorian

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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The great mystery is over for the Class of 2013, it has a valedictorian, salutatorian, and historian.

Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren announced Monday that Brittany Nicole Ledford is the Class of 2013 valedictorian.

"It went right down to the wire," Perren said. "End of Course testing determined the valedictorian."

Towns County's co-STAR Students Dillon Frank Diehl and Jennifer Chinnici finished respectively as salutatorian and historian, Perren said.

The three will lead a class of 72 graduates at 7 p.m. on Friday at Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium, as Towns County



Brittany Nicole Ledford

seniors complete Commencement Exercises.

On Friday, May 17th, the Class of 2013 took home more than \$750,000 in scholarships during the annual Seniors Honors Day ceremonies.

More than \$582,000 of those dollars came courtesy of Young Harris College.

Eleven students, Nathaniel Arnold, Brittany Boyer, Morgan Bradshaw, Amanda Chastain, Celeena Corbin, Christa Hamill, Autumn Ledford, Jill McCray, Kayla Olin, Luke Parker and Kayla Taylor each received a scholarship from their hometown college.

"It gives me great privilege to recognize the young men and women from Towns County High School who are receiving academic scholarships renewable each year for the next four years from Young Harris College," said Clint Hobbs, vice president for enrollment at YHC. "Some of these students are also receiving scholarships based on

See *Seniors*, page 12A

The Broncs are busted at FFA Rodeo

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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The third annual Bulls, Barrels, Broncos and More Rodeo, hosted by the Towns County FFA Alumni, drew a lot of attention Friday and Saturday night, May 17th and 18th.

It was an event to remember as they put together quite a show to entertain the hundreds of visitors who came out to enjoy the rodeo in Young Harris.

FFA Alumni President Jason Smith read the extensive list of sponsors and thanked them for supporting Towns County FFA and the rodeo.

He also extended a special thank you to Junior Bridges for allowing them to use the property again this year.

"We really appreciate y'all coming out and supporting the rodeo," Smith said. "All money raised will go to support the Towns County FFA."



If you think being a cowboy is easy, just ask this gentleman. Photo/Libby Shook

Smith introduced the guest speaker, Senate District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson (R-Toccoa) who was once again excited to be a part of this event.

"As a former FFA member and advisor, I have seen first-hand the positive difference FFA makes in the lives of students. Rodeo is a great

See *Rodeo*, page 12A

EggFest 2013: mission accomplished

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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Smoke filled the air at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds as the Third Annual Green EggFest got underway Friday and Saturday, May 17th and 18th, with 120 "eggheads" from all over the country, California to Connecticut and all points in between coming together to show off their cooking skills, share recipes, and educate those unfamiliar with the egger's lifestyle.

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

This two-day event began Friday evening with a "Meet and Greet" at the Exhibit Hall as cooks, tasters, and vendors came together to share the experience and socialize before the big day on Saturday.

There were Green Eggs set up and folks bringing in grilling items and covered dishes to share with old and new friends.

Vendor Village had definitely gone green Saturday



The 2013 Georgia Mountain EggFest was as exciting as it is popular with Green Egg fans. Photo/Libby Shook

morning with Green Eggs in abundance and the chefs busying themselves with their unique creations.

Tasters were lined up and ready to go when the gates opened at 9 a.m. They continued to come in throughout the day with more than 1,400 "taster tickets" being sold throughout the day.

They came hungry and

ready to sample the virtual smorgasbord that awaited them as they entered the gates.

The air outside was filled with aromatic fragrances of beef roasts, pork roasts, barbecue of all varieties, chicken, shrimp, scallops, pizza, homemade bread, and almost anything else you could imagine.

See *EggFest*, page 12A

Sellers dies; Towns loses a literary icon

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Dr. Bettie Sellers, who taught at Young Harris College for 32 years, has died at the age of 87.

Dr. Sellers died on Friday in Hayesville, NC, according to Banister Funeral Home of Hiwassee.

Sellers was a noted author, historian and of course, poet. She was a leader in the Byron Herbert Reece Society, and she understood Reece better than anyone.

Like Reece before her, Dr. Sellers was a legend in her own time. She won an Emmy Award for her role in producing the film depicting Reece's life.

The news of Dr. Sellers' death was announced at the First Southern Literary Trail *Trailfest* at the Reece Heritage Center and Farm in Choestoe, in Union County.

Dr. Sellers will be remembered Saturday at the 10th Annual Byron Herbert Reece Society Meeting at the Reece Pavilion at the Heritage Center in Union County.

"Dr. Bettie Sellers was so engaging a presence that it will take us a long time to fully absorb the reality of her passing," said Dr. John Kay,



Dr. Bettie Sellers

president of the Byron Herbert Reece Society.

Dr. Sellers authored several volumes of poetry and was well published in academic literary journals and anthologies.

Her many awards include Poet of the Year by the American Pen Women, Governor's Award in the Humanities, Georgia Author of the Year in Poetry, and being named Poet Laureate of Georgia during the tenure of Gov. Zell Miller.

However, Dr. Sellers was best known and loved as a teacher. She inspired students old and young through her work at Young Harris College, her church, Institute for Con-

See *Sellers*, page 12A

Gov. Deal library funding; \$900,000 headed to Towns

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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The Mountain Regional Library System's public library in Towns County will receive \$900,000 to help fund renovations that will double the library's size to approximately 8,000 square feet.

The funding is part of the state's \$19.3 billion budget for FY2014. The budget includes \$4.5 million in bond funds for three new library construction projects and \$3.99 million in bonds to fund repair-and-renovation projects and to replace computer equipment statewide.

Gov. Nathan Deal signed the library legislation into law on May 7th making the coveted library grant for Towns County a reality.

"Without the commitment and hard work of Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall, Senate District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson, House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison, the Towns County Library Board, Branch Manager Debbie Phillips, and the many Towns County citizens who wrote, called, or e-mailed our elected officials asking them to support the project, this project would not have been funded," said Donna Howell, director of the Mountain Regional Library System.

"This project has been in the planning stages for many years, Commissioner Kendall first signed the application for



Gov. Nathan Deal

the state funds in January 2009. The current library was completed in 1988 and has completely outgrown the available space," Howell said.

Library Board Chair Jounida Bradley was ecstatic.

"I am most happy for the children of Towns County," Bradley said. "They have been crowded into a small area where there's hardly any room to move, thus hampering their learning experiences. But they will now have a much larger space to call their own."

Howell said the state bond funding allows MRLS to take advantage of local Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax funds that were approved in March

See *Library*, page 12A

Johnson: 'Pray for our great nation'

By Libby Shook
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Pride, honor, patriotism, dignity, and valor - these words must have been running through the minds of all who came out to witness the Second Annual Defenders of Freedom Ceremony Saturday morning, May 18th, at the Ridges Resort & Marina.

The day was spent in recognition of Armed Services Day.

This was the designated day for veterans of all branches of the armed services, both fallen and living, to be recognized and honored as this country's "Defenders of Freedom."

Chad Hooper, Ridges general manager, opened the ceremony as he said, "The rights that my family and I are allowed today is because of your service. We started this last year and I just love being a part of it."

"I love being a part of anything our military has done



Defenders of Freedom

or is doing and I truly love being a part of anything you do. On behalf of the Ridges Resort, we thank you for your service to this great country."

See *Service*, page 12A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

