

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy	82 58
Fri: Sunny	85 60
Sat: Sunny	89 63
Sun: Sunny	88 64
Mon: Cloudy	85 62
Tue: Storms	83 63
Wed: Storms	82 61



Upstream Elevation Predicted 05/23/12	
Lake Chatuge	1925.07
Lake Nottely	1774.01
Blue Ridge	1673.25

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Chris Clinton



Seeks reelection See Page 2A

George Jones

A respiratory infection has left Country Music Legend George Jones hospitalized and canceling his late May and June concerts, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said on Monday.

Jones' concert scheduled here on Saturday at 7 p.m. has been rescheduled for Nov. 17, Thomason said.

Anyone holding tickets can either wait until the Nov. 17 date or come by the Fairgrounds for a refund.

Call (706) 896-4191 for details.

Qualifying

Qualifying for local elections begins on Wednesday in Towns County.

Local offices up for election this year include two seats on the Board of Education, sheriff, sole commissioner, tax commissioner, coroner, Clerk of Court of Superior Court, and also on

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Farmers Market



Frank Riley will speak Friday at 8 a.m. about the upcoming opening of the Towns County Farmers Market. Riley will speak at the Movers and Shakers' meeting at Mary's Southern Grill in Tower Place.

Mr. Perren, the Class of 2012 is ready to walk

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Small class, small school, it's a tradition in Towns County.

On Friday night at 7 p.m. at Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium, 58 members of the Class of 2012 will walk the aisle, somewhat similar to the way they did on Sunday night.

That was a very special night for the Class of 2012 as they lined the pews of Macedonia Baptist Church while family, friends, teachers, and administrators looked on with smiles on their faces and relief in their hearts.

This group of students led by Valedictorian Jeannie Bradley, Salutatorian Jessica Rogers and Historian Kristie McConnell, has achieved a great milestone in their lives.

One that every parent and teacher looks forward

to and somehow still anguishes over.

The question that each feels obligated to ask of themselves and unsure if they are prepared for the answer. For every student sitting there, there was someone wondering if they had done their best by them.

Had they prepared them for the challenges and hardships that would inevitably lie ahead?

Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams is confident that this group of seniors is ready to take the next step on life's journey.

"During your journey through our school system, we have given you the tools to become leaders," she said. "Regardless of the plans you have for your life after high school, each of you has leadership abilities."

See Prom, page 12A



Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren addresses the Class of 2012 at last week's Honors Day ceremonies in the school auditorium. The 58 graduates are ready to walk. Photo by James Reese

Trap Shoot raises \$6,000-plus

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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Friday morning the hills on Owl Creek resounded with the sound of gun fire as Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton and the Chatuge Gun Club hosted the Fourth Annual Sheriff's Trap Shoot.

The proceeds from the event will be used to help fund the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes, a private non-profit childcare organization sponsored by the Georgia Sheriffs' Association. Its sole responsibility is to provide children with secure homes filled with love and guidance, as well as medical, dental, and educational services. There are currently five homes in the state of Georgia, with the closest and newest located in Chatsworth.

Behind any fundraiser there is a lot of behind the scenes activity and planning taking place. The Chatuge Gun Club and Jackie Jones Automotive have really done their part to see that these kids get the help they need and deserve.

"The Chatuge Gun Club has been great. They donated the clays used for the event, setting up the range, doing the heavy lifting, providing food, making sure the range stays safe, and even taking care of the clean-up," Sheriff Clinton said.



Participants in the 2012 Sheriff's Trap Shoot were shooting for a righteous cause on Friday. Photo/James Reese

"Jackie Jones Automotive is the 2012 Corporate Sponsor for the event and they really stepped up and helped us out," Sheriff Clinton said.

Other businesses that are supporting the events for the Youth Homes include The Boat House, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Mt. Zion Church, Pro-flame, Union County Sheriff's Office, Towns County Sheriff's Office, Union County 4-H Club Shooting Teams, and Alexander's Store.

Committee members, who have been working to make sure that everything goes

off without a hitch for this year's Trap Shoot, are Ed and Verlee Jones, Noble and Ruby Rhinesmith, Russ Schoetker, Sheriff Clinton and representatives of the Towns County Sheriff's Office, Sid Roberts, and Dick Fille, Chairman.

"We have a very active committee who has been working on this event since January," Fille said. "Everyone has been very active. One of the three 4-H Teams participating today is sponsored by Rob Mawyer, owner of The Boat

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Stancil, Gunter are finalists for Enotah Circuit judgeships

By Charles Duncan
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Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal has disclosed the short list of candidates to fill the unexpired terms of former Enotah Circuit judges David Barrett and Lynn Alderman.

Two of those candidates are very familiar with the Northeast Georgia Mountains.

Former Enotah Circuit District Attorney and current executive director of the State Prosecuting Attorney's Council, Stan Gunter made the short list.

Current City of Hiawassee City Manager and local attorney Rick Stancil also made the short list.

Stancil lost a bid in 2006 to fill the vacancy of retired Superior Court Judge Hugh Stone. His opponent and eventual replacement for Judge Stone - Lynn Alderman.

Also making the short list, White County attorney Stan Lawson, Lumpkin County attorney Raymond George and White County Magistrate Judge Joy Parks.



Rick Stancil



Stan Gunter

Of the three other finalists, Union County residents remember George, who lost a bid to become Enotah Circuit District Attorney to Incumbent Jeff Langley.

See Enotah Circuit, page 12A

Eggheads unite at Fairgrounds

By Libby Shook
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The Georgia Mountain Fairground hosted its Second Annual Georgia Mountain Eggfest as 'eggheads' from all over the country came together to show off their cooking skills, share recipes, and educate those unfamiliar to the "egger's lifestyle."

They were not only there to share their craft and skills, but to reunite with the "family and friends we have made as we travel around the country to different egg festivals," said Judy "Spring Hen" McMillin of Spring, Texas.

She and her husband, Leroy "Spring Chicken" McMillin, have been "Green Eggers" since 1999. They own



Have you ever seen an Egghead celebrate? You have now. The Second Green Egg Fest was a hit. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

four Green Eggs and have an outdoor kitchen.

This two-day event began Friday evening with a "Meet and Greet" as cooks, tasters, and vendors came to-

gether to share this "egg-citing" experience.

There were more than 250

See Green Egg, page 12A

Ridges pays tribute to Defenders of Freedom

By Libby Shook
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Pride, honor, patriotism, dignity, and loyalty.

These words must have been running through the minds of all who came out to witness the First Annual Defenders of Freedom Ceremony Saturday afternoon at The Ridges Resort and Marina with approximately 45 people in attendance.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall signed a proclamation last week declaring May 19, 2012 as the first designated day for Veterans of all branches of the

See Defenders, page 12A



The first annual Defenders of Freedom Day at The Ridges Resort & Marina was on Saturday. Photo/Libby Shook

Honors Day at TCHS

By Libby Shook
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Friday morning was a memorable day for the graduating class of 2012 as the time had come when they would be recognized for their academic, athletic, and extracurricular achievements that had brought them to this grand finale of their high school career.

Principal Roy Perren took center stage of the Towns County High School Auditorium as he addressed the audience. At this time, if you will, stand with me as we welcome the class of 2012," he said.

Proud parents and other family member stood smiling;



Dakota Barrett gets an Honors Day hug from Jeanne Ledford. Photo/James Reese

some were teary-eyed; others just glowing with pride as they

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SPLOST pays for new fire truck

By Libby Shook
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Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall handled business a little bit differently at Thursday night's regularly scheduled Towns County Commissioner's Meeting.

The meeting started outside with rain pelting down. The reason behind this deviation from protocol was to display the new \$260,000 fire truck purchased by the county. The truck was parked in front of the Towns County Courthouse.

Even though the presentation was announced at Tuesday's Chamber sponsored Business After Hours meeting, the soggy outdoor weather kept most people in-



The Chief gets the keys. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



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