

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Storms	84 58
Fri: Clouds	79 55
Sat: Clouds	80 58
Sun: Storms	80 60
Mon: Storms	81 61
Tues: Storms	82 60
Wed: Clouds	81 60



Upstream Elevation Predicted 06/12/13	
Lake Chatuge	1926.47
Lake Nottely	1777.11
Blue Ridge	1687.67

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Sports

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Tues., June 18
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Georgia Mountain
Fairgrounds
See page 2A

Towns County Launches New Prescription Discount Card

Coast2Coast Rx card will allow all County residents to participate in the program!



Visit www.coast2coastrx.com to print the Rx card.

See page 2A

TOWNS COUNTY Farmers Market

Grand Opening of 2nd Year
June 15 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Market Hours for rest of the summer:
Fri. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. or until produce is sold out

Red Cross June Blood Drive

Wed., June 12
11:30am - 4pm
College St., Young Harris

Towns County Head Start/Pre-K Has Slots Available



There is No Cost!
Call 706-896-4272

See page 2A

Towns County Homeowners

Annual Meeting & Election
Tues., June 11 • 6 p.m.
See page 2A

New recreation and community facilities 65 percent complete

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The new Towns County Recreation Center has reached its 65 percent inspection point and is moving along well despite all the foul weather contractors have had to struggle with this winter and spring.

One of the wettest springs our area has seen in a long time has saturated the grounds on Mining Gap Road making most exterior work almost impossible.

Unfortunately for the folks of Towns County, the building was at a stage for "drying-in," which consists almost entirely of exterior work, when the rains started last winter.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall is pleased with the work that has been done to date and is glad to see the building finally in the dry.

"We have had issues with



Workers finish outside work at the new Towns County Recreation Center on Mining Gap Road. Photo/Joe Collins

the wet weather and it has made it a struggle to get anything done," Kendall said. "We are at the two-thirds mark of total completion and most of the priority work that needs to be done is on the inside, so we can work now even if it does rain. That will help things move along a little better."

Towns County has a huge involvement in the programs the recreation department provides and the new facility is long overdue to meet the needs of the community. "It's a fine facility for the community," Kendall said.

See Rec Center, 12A

Towns bids farewell to Officer Burch

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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It's never easy to say good-bye to a friend, loved one and co-worker.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton and the entire Towns County Sheriff's Office and Towns County community have had to do that twice since May 3rd.

First, they said good-bye to Towns County Sheriff's Lt. Brian Wilson, who succumbed to injuries suffered in an accident on Georgia 288.

Most recently, they said good-bye to Towns County Detention Officer Amy Rice Burch.

Burch, 46, died at Northeast Georgia Medical Center's Ronnie Green Heart Center in Gainesville on Tuesday May 21st after suffering cardiac



Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton presents Bruce Burch with the flag that draped the coffin of his wife, Officer Amy Rice Burch.

arrest at her home on Saturday May 18th.

Sheriff Clinton delivered the eulogy at both funeral services. Amy worked in the de-

See Burch, 12A

Ladies Auxiliary hosts Pancake Breakfast

By Colleen Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Pass the salt, and while you're at it, pass the syrup too.

That phrase was heard early and often on Saturday at the Garrett-Owenby VFW Post 7807 as the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Unit 23 held its Annual Pancake Breakfast.

The event is the biggest fundraiser each year for the Ladies Auxiliary.

It's a bit different from most breakfast fundraisers because it's all-you-can-eat, said Ladies Auxiliary President Ann Griffin.

Patrons of the annual event were treated



Saturday morning was a busy one for the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Unit 23 in Hiwassee as they hosted their annual Pancake Breakfast. Photo/Colleen Collins

to all-you-can-eat pancakes - plain or fresh blueberry - bacon, fresh fruit salad, orange juice, coffee and milk, courtesy, the Ladies Auxiliary.

See Pancakes, 12A

Towns County, state lawmakers enjoy a library celebration

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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The Towns County Library in Hiwassee recently was filled with a group of very excited folks and several special guests who met to celebrate the recent library grant approved by state lawmakers.

Those guests included House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison, District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson, Lamar Veatch of the Georgia Public Library System, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, and Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis.

The recent Library Grant approved by the state lawmakers was to the tune of \$900,000.

Mountain Regional



State Sen. John Wilkinson Library System Director Donna Howell could barely contain herself as she stepped up to the podium to introduce the folks responsible for the grant.

"This project has been in the planning stages for many years. Commissioner Kendall first signed the application for the state funds in January of 2009," Howell said.

"The current library was completed in 1988 and has completely outgrown the available space needed."

Howell told the group that Kendall had approached her five years ago and asked, "Don't you need a little money to fix up the library?"

"Commissioner Kendall included both this library in Hiwassee and the library in Young Harris in the SPLOST and it passed by about 90 percent," Howell said. "That was before the application for the grant."

Rep. Allison said it took a lot of people and a lot of hard work to make this happen.

He gave credit to Howell, Branch Manager Debbie Phillips, the Friends of the Library,

See Grant, 12A

Langley speaks to Mountain Movers & Shakers group

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Mountain Movers and Shakers held their weekly meeting last week at Mary's Southern Grill and were proud to host District Attorney Jeff Langley of the Enotah Judicial District.

Langley was on hand to talk about a program he is working on called "Stewards of Children," to help prevent the sexual abuse of children, which is a prevalent problem in our society, and all over this great nation that has become more common than most people realize.

"Stewards of Children" is an educational program designed to help train adults to recognize sexual abuse in a child and act on that suspicious behavior. This program is part of the SAFE operation known as the Towns and Union Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Initiative.

Their goal is to train five percent of the adult population of Towns and Union counties.

According to author Malcolm Gladwell in the book, *The Tipping Point*, if you can reach only five percent of the population, then you can build



District Attorney Jeff Langley momentum that will change society.

The concerned citizens of Towns and Union counties, along with SAFE, feel like this is a growing and serious problem and that people need education about the signs of abuse.

Many children can be protected from the malicious individuals that prey on their innocence if people are paying close attention and spot the signs of abuse and act on them by contacting the proper authorities.

"This is a serious prob-

See Abuse, 12A

Farmers Market to open on Saturday

By Libby Shook
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Master Gardner Judy Caines and Maggie Oliver are very excited about the opening of the Towns County Farmers Market on June 15th.

This will be their second year in operation and they are hoping this year will be bigger and better than ever.

They will be open on Friday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will remain open through the fall.

The Farmers Market is located at the Towns County Beach on Lake Chatuge across from the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

They are operated under the sponsorship of the Towns County Extension Office of the University of Georgia, working with the Towns-Union Master Gardener's Association and the Hiwassee Garden Club.

According to Chairperson Judy Caines, the Farmers Market is managed by the Towns County Extension Leadership Committee.

The members include: Towns County Extension Agent Robert Brewer, Chairperson Judy Caines, Recording Secretary Bob Lamm, Maggie Oliver, Frank Riley, Patti Bransford, Joan Crothers, and Grace Howard.

"The Extension Leadership System (ELS) is a statewide network of county-based volunteers working to support and advocate for the University of Georgia's Extension programming," said Caines.

The Advisory Committee's primary goal is to encourage folks to buy locally grown produce, plants, goat cheese, and other products as well as supporting local families and farmers.

Everybody always grows more than they can use, and this is the perfect



venue to turn those excess vegetables and fruits into cash.

"We are here to serve the community. Since this is primarily an agricultural area, we feel that is important to provide a place for farmers to sell their excess produce without having to travel long distances. Growers pay no fees; all they have to do is show up and sell," said Caines.

Maggie Oliver stayed very busy last year selling varieties of lettuce and herbs grown in the Demonstration Garden behind Towns County Courthouse.

It was very popular with locals and tourists and she will be back again this year.

Oliver emphasized that all the produce grown in this garden is organically grown and pesticide free.

"We've worked really hard to prepare for the opening of our Farmers Market for the second year and hope you will join us. Walk around, say hello to neighbors, make new friends with similar interests, and buy some fresh vegetables, fruits, and herbs. We will have a couple of surprises on our first day as well. I want to give special thanks to the Hiwassee Garden Club and the Towns-Union Master Gardeners for their hard work in organizing this community project," said Caines.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

