

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, June 26, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Thu: Storms | 81 63 |
| Fri: Storms | 83 62 |
| Sat: Storms | 78 60 |
| Sun: Sunny | 80 60 |
| Mon: Storms | 80 60 |
| Tues: Storms | 80 61 |
| Wed: Sunny | 78 60 |



| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Upstream Elevation Predicted 06/26/13 | |
| Lake Chatuge | 1925.53 |
| Lake Nottely | 1776.70 |
| Blue Ridge | 1686.42 |

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2 Sections, 16 Pages

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Sports Page 10A

Mountain Fling



| | |
|--------|---------|
| Arts | June 29 |
| Crafts | 9 - 5 |
| Gifts | |
| Food | June 30 |
| | 11 - 4 |

North GA Tech • Blairsville, GA
Presented by: Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild, Inc.
See page 1B

TOWNS COUNTY Farmers Market

Fridays 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Fourth of July Boat Parade



July 4 • 10 a.m.
See page 8A

GEORGIA MOUNTAIN FAIR

Fireworks July 4th

See page 8A

Blood Drive



Give Blood... Give Life.
Tuesday, July 2nd
Hiawasse Ramada
See page 5A

County amends service delivery system

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall only had one item on the docket for the annual monthly meeting last Thursday, but it was an important resolution.

The State of Georgia's Department of Community Affairs must approve the Service Delivery System for Towns County in order for the whole of Towns County to qualify for any State or Federal Funding. The Commissioner's office had to explain why five of the required statements in House Bill 489 didn't expressly fit the functioning of the agreement in Towns County.

See County, 11A



Commissioner Bill Kendall. Photo/Joe Collins

2013 Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes Fundraiser



Towns County 4-H team with Sheriff Sid Roberts (retired - far left) and Sheriff Chris Clinton (far right).

Special to
Towns County Herald

This Friday, June 28, 2013, Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton and the Chatuge Gun Club will hold the 5th annual fundraiser for the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes. Each year the event is sponsored by the Towns County Sheriff's Office and has been hosted by the Chatuge Gun Club.

The purpose of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes is, in the words of the Georgia Sheriffs' Association, to give our state's most at-risk children the love, safety, and structure needed to become mature, successful adults. The Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes grew out of a concern that the Sheriffs of Georgia have for abused and neglected children. During the 1950s the sheriffs noticed that this was a growing problem across the state and began to consider ways to make a difference in the lives of these children who, through no fault of their own, had become victims of abuse and neglect. The sheriffs considered this project vital for these children and for our state.

In 1960 Georgia's Sheriffs' Association began the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes. During the 1950s the sheriffs noticed that this was a growing problem across the state and began to consider ways to make a difference in the lives of these children who, through no fault of their own, had become victims of abuse and neglect. The sheriffs considered this project vital for these children and for our state.

See Fundraiser, 11A

Taste of the Southern Highlands delightful

By Colleen Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Folks who attended the eighth annual Taste of Southern Highlands "Lakeside Get Together" on Tuesday evening, June 18, were treated to culinary delights and beverages from 20 participating restaurants, wineries, resorts, and specialty food and drink shops.

These businesses came from five surrounding counties to support Towns County Family Connection's biggest fundraiser of the year. This year's event drew a crowd of over 300 people and raised \$5,000 for Family Connection.

Amy Gibby-Rosser, Family Connection Director and event planner, said of this year's Taste of Southern Highlands event "we are very pleased to have a record number of restaurants participating from a record number of counties (five)." Further, after the profit was determined, she said, "we are pleased with the amount of money that was raised for Family Connection."



Brasstown Valley Resort was presented with the People's Choice Award at Taste of the Southern Highlands. Photo/Colleen Collins

Due to inclement weather that passed through the area during the afternoon, the event was moved inside to the Anderson Music Hall. The weather didn't seem to lessen the number of attendees, or dampen the festive spirit of the event. It was lively and just plain fun in the Anderson Music Hall for the two hour affair. "I think it's a fabulous fundraiser, and I have had a great time," said Ruth Thomas, of Blairsville.

See Taste, 11A

28th Annual British Motorcycle Rally

By Colleen Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Greater Atlanta British Motorcycle Association (GABMA) held its 28th annual "British in the Blue Ridge Rally and Bike Show" at the Georgia Mountain Fair (GMF).

This is the first year the Rally was held at the Fairgrounds after the group has held its event at Bald Mountain Campground for the past 18 years.

When asked why the GABMA chose the GMF for their event, Robert Underwood, Rally Director, and Director of Event said, "We love it here in Hiawasse, and this is a great location. There is easy riding from everywhere, and great accommodations."

There wasn't an empty spot in the Campground as the British Motorcycle enthusiasts filled campsites on both sides of the highway. This year's rally



British Motorcycle enthusiasts gather at the GA Mtn Fairgrounds. Photo/Colleen Collins

drew approximately 700 people for the three-day event. Rally events included a Poker Run, Bike Show, vendor area, and two self guided mountain rides of 50 and 60 miles apiece.

Underwood said, "This is the big event of the year for our club members. This event really brings everyone in this community together."

According to John Underwood, founder of the GABMA, "Our organization, See Rally, 11A

Georgia Mountain Fair begins its new summer schedule

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Since its inception in 1950 as a three day agricultural exposition, that was held in the recreation area of the Towns County High School, the Georgia Mountain Fair has grown into one of the premiere fairs in the State of Georgia.

As early as the 1970's there were over 100,000 attendees each year, which prompted officials to pursue a larger venue for the production. Fair representatives, with the aid of the Towns County Lions Club, purchased land on Lake Chatuge that the Fair would call home. In 1978, the new Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds hosted its first ever fair at the new facility.

Today the fairgrounds are home to the GMF and several other main events of which many are going on during the summer months. This summer will be even better than before and Executive Director Hilda Thomason is very excited.

"I am thrilled about the upcoming events on the docket for this summer and during the fair in July. It has been a struggle to improve the fair itself but I believe that this summer's fair will be the best ever.



Hilda Thomason

We will have fireworks on July 4 starting at 9:30 p.m. followed by the Georgia Mountain Fair starting on July 19 and running through July 27. One note of interest, especially for the kids, is the Midway will open one night early on July 18 and this year the admission price will include the show for that day as well. We have the Georgia Moonshine Cruz-In on August 8-10, the Georgia State Hog Rally on September 13-14 and the fall will open with the Fall Festival on October 11-19. We are going to be busy with our music shows as well as the

See Fair, 11A

Hiawasse sewer benefits from SPLOST



Commissioner Bill Kendall, Hiawasse Mayor Barbara Mathis and the Hiawasse City Council with a check to upgrade the city's sewer. Photo/Joe Collins

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The local governments of Hiawasse and Towns County met recently to discuss a special Joint Project that would provide funding for the improvement and upgrade of the Hiawasse Sewer Plant.

The agreement reached releases \$150,000.00 from the SPLOST funding to the city for the upgrades and improve-

ments in this combined effort by both the city and the county to reduce the amount of nutrients that are discharged into the waters of Lake Chatuge. This Project was part of the Referendum approved in the SPLOST, which was designed to generate funds to be used on capital outlay projects pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement between the two agencies.

The Plant currently meets See Sewer, 11A

Good Neighbors award scholarships



The Good Neighbors Auto Club proved that they really are good neighbors last Thursday at Meeks Park. Photo/Colleen Collins

By Colleen Collins
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Blairsville - During their regular monthly meeting on Thursday night at Meeks Park, The Good Neighbors Auto Club showed that they really are good neighbors when its members awarded monetary scholarships to six rising college freshmen who recently graduated from high school in three surrounding counties - Union, Towns, and Cherokee. The students were selected from these three counties because the membership of the Auto Club is comprised of these counties.

Ginger Rettstadt, Corresponding Secretary for the Auto Club said, "We have a huge car show annually in October at United Community Bank in Blairsville. It is

through this fundraiser that we raise money for the scholarships. This past October, we had a record number of cars in the car show - around 230 cars! We also cooked on the grill and sold food at the car show. Up until this year, we gave out four scholarships, but this year, we are giving out six. This is the most we have ever given out."

When asked about the selection process for the scholarships, Rettstadt said that the club's Scholarship Committee of four members (one member from each of the three counties, plus one)

See Good Neighbors, 11A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

