

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: T-Storms	82 60
Fri: Clouds	84 60
Sat: T-Storms	85 63
Sun: T-Storms	82 63
Mon: T-Storms	83 64
Tue: Sun	86 65
Wed: T-Storms	87 66



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/02/2014	
Lake Chatuge	1,925.17
Lake Nottely	1,776.08
Blue Ridge	1,686.36

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SPORTS

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EARLY DEADLINE

Due to the holiday, the deadline for the July 9th paper has been moved to Thursday, July 3rd.

The Staff of the Towns County Herald wishes you and yours a safe and happy 4th of July!



Food Distribution Food Pantry July 8th 2-5 PM See page 5

The Towns County Board of Education Regular Board Meetings scheduled for Monday, July 14, Will be Relocated to the Towns County Board of Education Central Office.

For questions or directions, please call 706-896-2279

Recreation Department's July 4th Activity Day The Towns County Recreation Department's annual July 4th Activity Day will be on Friday July 4th, 2014 at the Recreation Department Ball Fields. The Recreation Department invites everyone to come out and have fun in the sun!!

Chatuge Regional gets a facelift



Construction is underway on a facelift for Chatuge Regional Hospital in Hiwassee. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Operations are going as planned as new additions to Chatuge Regional Hospital in Hiwassee are under way.

The non-profit medical facility new is undergoing a facelift to the front of the hospital and the addition to its drive-thru area for patient pickup and drop off. Other improvements include a new front lobby and registration area, an expanded dining room,

a remodeling of all halls, an in-house Large Bore MRI and a 10-bed Geriatric Psychiatric Unit on the second floor.

The \$2.5 million projected renovation will be, according to Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis, "a wonderful thing."

Hospital representatives John Gordon and Lewis Kelley spoke in April about the hospital's planned improvements, many of which the Hiwassee City Council is helping make possible.

The City also is working

with the Georgia Department of Transportation about the possibilities of a crosswalk from the hospital to the rehabilitation center.

The facility will continue to be a state-of-the-art Emergency Center including a helicopter service that transports to major trauma and heart facilities when needed. As part of the staff, physicians are still available 24/7 to treat heart attacks, strokes and accidents from all walks of life.

TCSO puts on safety display at the Beach

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Sheriff's Office teamed up with their K-9 unit, along with local boy scout Troup 125, in a series of re-enacted events that law enforcement may encounter on any given day.

It was the best lesson Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton could offer his Citizens Law Enforcement Academy.

Sheriff Clinton has been hosting classes for the Citizens Law Enforcement Academy, an eight-week course in various degrees of police work, jail tours and lifesaving advice to kids of all ages, as well as adults, curious as to what the perspective might be like on the other side of the law.

The 2013 Investigative Ranger of the Year for Georgia DNR Law Enforcement, Ranger First Class David Webb, spoke of aiding the Sheriff's Department as the dive team was busy setting up their underwater evidence



Sheriff Chris Clinton and Ranger of the Year, RFC David Webb attend the Sheriff's K-9 and Dive Team demonstrations for the Boy Scouts

grid.

"We've always worked very closely together with the Sheriff's Office. We have a lot of

things we can offer when there's a drowning or a boat accident," Webb said.

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Moonshine Cruiz-In Aug. 7 - Aug. 9

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason met with Robert 'Rakes' Parrish of Flip Flop Promotions on Wednesday to discuss the Sixth Annual Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In.

As always, the Cruiz-In, scheduled for Aug. 7 - Aug. 9, includes hundreds of Classic Cars and Hot Rods for a weekend of live concerts, swap meets, and a drive-thru of the city of Hiwassee as local shops and restaurants open their doors to car enthusiasts from all over the globe.

"I've been on the road for the last three weeks. I've covered 4,100 miles," said Parrish. "I've just been out marketing and promoting this thing. I've been given a good budget and I've been utilizing that budget to the best of my ability. We just did the 'Hot Rod Magazine's Hot Rod Power Tour' and we traveled from Florida, North Carolina, West Virginia, Ohio, Iowa and Wisconsin all in seven days.



Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thompson and Flip Flop Promotion's Rakes Parrish get ready to meet with local support agencies. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

"We've gotten a lot of publicity. This thing is going to be awesome," Parrish said.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall

sat alongside Towns County Fire Chief Mitch Floyd, Hiwassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright, Towns County Assistant Fire Chief Harold

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Public speaking to be rewarded by Mountain Movers and Shakers

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Mountain Movers and Shakers Student Public Speaking Development class comes to a close for the summer on July 7, next Monday at the Mountain Community Senior Citizen Center.

"For most folks, it takes courage," Dr. Aubry Sanford said, in charge of the invocation when the class gathers Monday night.

"You don't learn to speak by having someone talk to you. There's an old saying, 'Practice makes perfect.' That's not true. Good practice makes better.

And that's why we're here," he said.

The program has adhered to a schedule every Monday evening from June 2 to July 7, where participants are cultured in the fundamentals of civic representation by means of mentored dictation and professionalism.

"It's going to be a tremendous occasion. One wouldn't recognize the students from the first meeting to the last meeting. They've grown so confident," said Movers and Shakers member and co-organizer Sam Fullerton.

Blairsville Republican and House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison, will be in

attendance as well as his father Bill, an attorney from Union County, looking to model his own program similar to the one in Hiwassee.

Also in attendance will be a representative from Gov. Nathan Deal's Office, who himself has won many public speaking recognitions since he was a child, moving onto an award-winning debater in college, bringing public speaking to the forefront of Georgia's consciousness.

"Each Monday night we've let the kids talk. Then, as the weeks go along, they'll graduate from a 1-minute

See Speaking, Page 10A

Fourth of July Fireworks show scheduled at GMF

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Rain is in the forecast again as the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds prepare for the annual Fourth of July Fireworks celebration.

Last year, the rains prevented celebratory eyes from witnessing the bright glory that is fireworks on the 4th. A 30 percent chance of rain looms over Hiwassee during the day. The forecast favors a partly cloudy evening for Friday, as one can only hope it doesn't deter the upcoming 4th of July Firework celebration at the Fairgrounds.

The fireworks, beginning at 9:45 p.m. over the ballfield, will be displayed with the usual safety precautions in tow, with the Towns County Sheriff's Office, Towns County Fire and Rescue and EMS present.

"We've been shooting



fireworks here for at least 35 years, said Fairgrounds GM Hilda Thomason. "Several businesses and sponsors have helped to donate to help offset some of the cost. We'll do a \$5,000 show shot right over the ballfield. I'd say with both water and homeland, we're looking at about five to six thousand people watching. A lot of people go to each others' houses and watch from there."

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Hiker no longer missing

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Paul Paur is officially no longer a missing person.

Rangers with the Smokey Mountain Park Service spoke with the 50-year-old from West Allis, WI on June 26 and relayed information to the Union County Sheriff's Office that he was of sound mind and not deemed a threat to himself or anyone else.

Local law enforcement first became concerned about Paur when his backpack was discovered in the middle of the Appalachian Trail on June 5 in Union County, Sheriff Mack Mason said.

"We got a report of a backpack on the trail just beyond Walasi-Yi," Sheriff Mason said. "The trail isn't more than 3 feet wide, and hikers were having to walk around it. It was still there when they returned from their hike."

Sheriff's deputies retrieved the backpack. Inside the pack, they discovered Paur's belongings, his wallet and other items. Included among those other items was a substantial amount of money.

Family members told the Union County Sheriff's Office that they feared for Paur's life, and that he was emotionally unstable.

Sheriff Mason, deputies, firefighters and Emergency Management personnel searched an area just off the Appalachian Trail near Walasi-Yi to no avail.

On Monday, Union



Paul Paur

County sheriff's SSgt. Darren Osborn told the North Georgia News that the department has taken Paur off its list of missing persons.

"Officer Mullins of the Smokey Mountain National Park Service contacted us and said that he had made contact with Mr. Paur," Sgt. Osborn said. "He said that Mr. Paur seemed to be fine, and showed no tendencies to harm himself or anyone else."

"He was still ill-equipped, he did have some food with him that other hikers had given him, but, he was still on a mission to hike to Maine," Sgt. Osborn said. "Ranger Mullins said Mr. Paur just wanted to hike."

The Union County Sheriff's Office opened a missing person case on Paur on June 5.

"We'll hang onto his stuff until he returns to claim his possessions," Sgt. Osborn said, referring to a 2007 Jeep Liberty and a substantial amount of cash left behind on the Appalachian Trail.

Boling at Reece Farm and Heritage Center



Janice Boling shares her herbal knowledge at the Byron Herbert Reece Farm and Heritage Center. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Choestoe - All natural remedies, herbal teas and mountain leaves were present Saturday at the Byron Herbert Reece Farm and Heritage Center.

A Union County native, Byron Herbert Reece had a very brief, but very fruitful career as a novelist and poet who was deeply rooted in the mountain way of life.

Locals and visitors alike planted themselves in front of Janice Boling, a local graphic designer, writer and entrepreneur, as she educated, toiled and celebrated man's

relationship with nature, much as Reece did by way of his writings.

Boling spoke of various herbs turned into lotions, potions and syrups.

"Try to concentrate on herbs that are grown naturally," said Boling as she mixed her handcrafted, creamy moisturizer made from roses.

"Rose oil is very good for

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