

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Storms	75 63
Fri: Storms	71 62
Sat: Storms	78 62
Sun: Storms	82 63
Mon: Storms	83 63
Tues: Sunny	83 63
Wed: Sunny	83 63



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/03/13	
Lake Chatuge	1925.11
Lake Nottely	1776.19
Blue Ridge	1686.24

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THE TOWNS COUNTY HERALD WISHES YOU AND YOURS A SAFE AND HAPPY

4th of JULY

TVA: Lake Chatuge is at its highest level in six decades

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

At a level of 1925.11 feet, Lake Chatuge is enjoying its fullest season since 1953.

With that said, the Tennessee Valley Authority's River Operations division has been very busy this season working the cycle that manages the level of lake water moving through its reservoirs.

These control procedures are in place to not only generate power, but to control flooding.

It is a vicious cycle that, if left unchecked by TVA, could result in heavy flooding, as was the case this past winter when the rains were heavy.

To understand the system one must first know how the yearly cycle works.

Lake Chatuge is at the



Anglers enjoy the high waters of Lake Chatuge. The Tennessee Valley Authority says the lake is at its highest level in 60 years. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

highest level it has reached in the past six decades and is cresting at the maximum height that the TVA River Operations will allow for the summer recreation period.

The record level is a controlled objective that the TVA tries to sustain for water storage. The cycle starts in the fall when TVA has controlled drawdowns from the summer storage period to make room for the winter rains that bring the highest probability of flooding.

See *Chatuge*, 9A

Rain poses a threat to GMF Fourth fireworks

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

Should Mother Nature rain on Towns County's Fourth of July holiday, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason is ready.

"We've never had to cancel our fireworks before," Thomason said. "This would be a first. The National Weather Service is calling for heavy rains.

"If that happens, we have a rain date built into our fireworks contract," she said. "The first rain date is for Friday, July 5th. They're calling for rain that day too.

"All we need is a 20-minute break in the rain and we can shoot our fireworks," Thomason said. "If we don't get that break, we'll have to choose a date to make the fireworks happen."

Also on Thursday, July 4th, the Towns County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Boat Parade is scheduled, Thomason said.

"They'll line up at Nantahala Bay starting at 10 a.m., the boat parade starts at 11 a.m.," she said. "The parade will come under Anderson Bridge, circle the Fairgrounds and come to rest in the cove.

"We'll grill hot dogs for all the people that participated



Hilda Thomason

in the parade," she said. "The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and Towns County Tourism Association will share the expense of the cookout with the chips, the drinks and the hot dogs."

Later in the evening as families enter the Fairgrounds for the fireworks show - weather permitting - a vendor will be on hand selling hot dogs, boiled peanuts and drinks, Thomason said.

"He'll start selling at 6 p.m.," Thomason said. "North Mt. Zion Church of God will be doing an outreach program. They're going to be doing a fishing booth, they'll be giving away cotton candy, they'll

See *Fourth*, 9A

Team Fille wins Sheriff's trapshoot

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Chatuge Gun Club, in conjunction with Sheriff Chris Clinton and the Towns County Sheriff's Department, held a Modified Trap Shoot last Friday to benefit the Georgia Sheriffs Youth Homes, Inc. and it was a big success.

Fifteen teams entered the contest with five shooters on each team who entered by donation.

The range on Owl Creek was hopping and the clay birds were flying as the event raised nearly \$6,000 for the youth homes. Participants should pat themselves on the back for a job well done.

Chatuge Gun Club and its volunteer members were a big part of the shoot as they donated the Clay Birds for



Trapshooters from throughout the region flocked to Owl Creek Shooting Range in Towns County on Friday. Photo/Joe Collins

targets, the launching equipment to throw the birds and the facilities and manpower to make it all happen.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton and his deputies

See *Trapshoot*, 9A

Union County's Farmers Market an eye opener



Georgia Mountains Regional Council members get a preview of Union County's new cannery last week, part of a tour of the county's ultra successful Farmers Market. Photo/Joe Collins

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Blairsville - The monthly meeting of representatives making up the Georgia Mountain Regional Council met at the Union County Farmers Market last week.

Representatives of the 13-county council, which includes Towns and Union counties, were treated to a tour of the Market and the new Union County Cannery located on the Market grounds.

Former Atlanta Brave and Atlanta Falcon Brian Jordan was on hand as the guest speaker and he gave a brief description of his Brian Jordan Foundation.

He also thanked Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and county representatives for the opportunity to spread the word about the work the organization does for needy children related to education and athletics.

"I want to thank Commissioner Paris for this opportunity to come and share a few thoughts about the Brian Jordan Foundation," Jordan said. "My mother was an educator and worked with special needs kids and she taught me the value of a good education and proper literacy.

"When I signed with St. Louis, one of the things I was concerned about was making sure I finished school because you never know how things will go in sports," Jordan said.

"One play can end a career for a professional athlete, so I needed something to fall back on and that was my education at the University of Richmond," Jordan said. "This is what we focus on at the foundation, making sure kids put their education first and sports second.

"That is why I write children's books, I wanted to do something to address the literacy problems we see in the kids that come to us for help. I also have a deep Faith in God

and the Lord Jesus Christ, so we talk to the kids about that when we work with them as well."

The GMRC meets once a month to discuss the development trends of the mountain counties and to promote and guide proper development of human, natural, physical, social and economic resources in the Georgia Mountains Region.

Before the group got down to business they were given a guided tour through the Market and Cannery by Union County Director Larry Garrett followed by dinner and the monthly council meeting.

Union County Extension Agent Mickey Cummings and Cannery Expert Patrick Fix were on hand canning peaches while the group made the tour so everyone could see the actual operation of the plant while 10 unique weekly Market vendors were invited in to give the attendees the proper feel as to how the market works on operation days.

Local goods were on display and many in the GMRC group were seen purchasing Market items. Logan Turnpike Mill added a touch of mountain hospitality by giving representatives a 1-pound sample of their delicious, unbolted buttermilk cornbread mix as the representatives made the Market tour.

"This was our month to hold the meeting and as a county, we like to showcase our facilities as much as possible," Commissioner Paris said. "The last time we met in Union County we were in the new Community Center located at Butternut Creek Golf Course and this time we wanted everyone to see the Market and the county's new canning plant.

"Union County has much

See *GMRC*, 9A

Brian Jordan signs at FunWorld

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Retired Atlanta Braves All Star outfielder and former Atlanta Falcons All Pro Safety Brian Jordan was in Hiawassee last Thursday to promote his children's books series to help raise awareness for the Brian Jordan Foundation.

The dual sports star came to FunWorld and signed books, baseballs and pictures with fans of all ages as he answered questions and talked to folks about the goals and operation of the foundation and the benefits it provides for underprivileged children.

Jordan was drafted in the first round of the 1988 MLB draft by the St. Louis Cardinals and worked his way through their farm system until he got his first start in the "Show" in April of 1992. He was also drafted in 1989 as a NFL seventh round draft pick



Retired Brave and Falcon star Brian Jordan signs autographs at Funworld last week in Hiawassee. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

by the Buffalo Bills, but was cut during training camp. He was picked up by the Falcons that same year to play free safety and finished his NFL career with them in 1991, as the Cardinals demanded that he forego football to focus on a career in professional baseball.

See *Autograph*, 9A

Horseless carriage group coming to Hiawassee

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The North Carolina Regional Horseless Carriage Group will hold their 62nd Annual Group Tour this year in Hiawassee on July 15th-19th.

The group of automobile enthusiasts will be in town to tour over 400 miles of scenic beauty provided by the back roads of Hiawassee, Blairsville, Young Harris, Blue Ridge and Murphy.

It will be a chance for everyone to see and hear the workings of an era when cars were first coming into their own at the turn of the 20th century.

The Horseless Carriage Club of America includes automobiles dated pre-1916 when coachwork, gas lights, hand cranking and a heavy use of brass were the norm, and only affluent people, who were mechanically inclined, could afford them.

The group allows vehicles built prior to 1928 to



join the tour although the use of brass became limited in 1916, as the United States needed the precious metal for their involvement in World War I beginning on April 6, 1917.

On Thursday evening, July 18th, beginning at 7 p.m., the group will be entertained by Jim Wood and the Georgia Mountain Fair Band, as they

park their vintage vehicles around the square and invite folks to come out and take a look.

This will be an opportunity for local auto enthusiasts to talk to the owners and see the cars of days gone by which have been restored to their original working condition.

See *Horseless*, 9A

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