

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Clouds	87 66
Fri: Sunny	88 66
Sat: Sunny	89 67
Sun: Clouds	88 67
Mon: Clouds	86 67
Tue: Rain	84 66
Wed: Rain	83 65



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/08/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,925.83
Lake Nottely	1,776.58
Blue Ridge	1,686.43

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Sports Page 11



Veterans to Honor Commissioner Bill Kendall July 15th

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FREE

Personal

Safety

Defensive Arms

class



FREE FOOD



N. Mt. Zion

July 16th

10-Noon

See page 6



Towns County Historical Society Heritage Days July 11th

See Page 8



JULY 17-25TH

HIAWASSEE GARDEN FLOWER SHOW AT THE FAIR!! See Page 9

Mother Nature cooperates with fireworks

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds hosted its annual Independence Day celebration on Saturday and thank goodness, Mother Nature cooperated.

Cars lined the campgrounds and parking lots side-to-side and bumper-to-bumper as people flocked to see the fireworks.

Previous concerns that the event would be rained out proved unfounded. Despite a brief early afternoon storm, the clouds passed and left the skies open for fireworks.

In any case, Hilda Thomason, Fairgrounds general manager, was determined to give the people a show.

She knew if she could get 20 minutes of dry weather, she



The Saturday evening skyline was bursting with beautiful colors as the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds hosted its annual Fireworks Display. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

could shoot the fireworks.

If it rained up until 9:45 p.m., and even if she had to

postpone the event for 20 minutes and the storm passed over, See Fourth, Page 10

Happy Birthday Lowell Nicholson



When you see Lowell around town, be sure to join us in wishing him a very Happy Birthday! The staff at the North Georgia News and Towns County Herald certainly wish him the happiest of birthdays. Photo/Not by Lowell Nicholson

New emphasis on Tate City

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County has recently undertaken a project to provide some basic communication services to the people of Tate City, a small community situated on the outskirts of Towns County, partially in Towns and partially in Rabun County.

"It's really isolated, up in the Charley's Creek area," said Andrea Anderson, Towns County Deputy Clerk. "It's just a small community in Towns and Rabun. It's so isolated that they have trouble with their cell phone service and they have trouble with their radios when they're up there, the emergency medical people."

One of the reasons Tate City is so isolated is that it's not accessible from Towns County. "You've got to go into Rabun County to get there," said Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall.

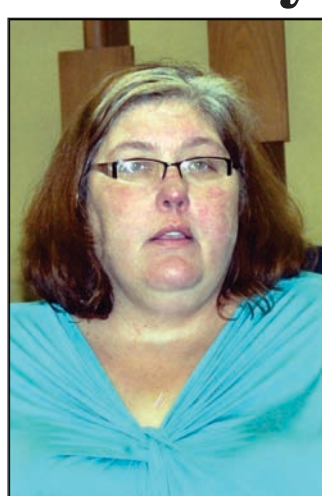
All the private property in Tate City is in Towns County, but the county line is drawn about half way in. Up further,



Bill Kendall

there are more private residences in North Carolina, even beyond Tate City, and Towns County provides them with phone service and emergency services.

"The election board, they were discussing whether to leave the Tate City voting precinct to Tate City or bring it over here," said Kendall. "And a lot of the people in Tate City want to keep the voting district there, and one of the things the election board needed if they



Andrea Anderson

were going to leave it over there was the Internet, so we went ahead and put it over there."

The cost of the Internet in the Community Center of Tate City will be \$70 per month. "It'll go in the Community Center, that's where they have their meetings and different things and where they hold their elections," said Kendall. "So we put that Internet service in there where the elections will

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Everhart believes in Independence Day

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Richard Everhart is not just a patriot.

He is a veteran of the Korean War and the Cuban Crisis, and every Fourth of July, he celebrates Independence Day by decorating his property to an extent that goes above and beyond almost anybody in Towns County.

Everhart explained that he bleeds red white and blue. He's been proud to be an American ever since he was a little kid.

"I've done that, I guess as a kid, as a scout, we marched in the parades, which was really neat, then in the service we always marched in the parades. I can remember marching down Norfolk, VA. I can remember as a scout marching down Pennsylvania Avenue in DC, which is unbelievable, so I guess it's just in my blood," he said.

The roots of his commitment go even further back in history than that. It begins with his distant ancestors.

"If I look back at my ancestors, on both sides of my family side, we had people in the Confederacy and also in the Union Army," he said.

Many of Everhart's ancestors have served in the



It's an annual tradition for Richard Everhart to decorate his home to celebrate Independence Day.

military.

"My grandfather was in the Spanish-American War, and I got to know him a little bit, and I'll never forget he had a big old eagle tattoo on his chest," he said.

"Then," he continued, "I had uncles in the Second World War, and you hear all those stories and all that. The street I lived on back then, we were the only ones that had young

children. All the other ones were older, and every one of them went into the service."

At the time, Everhart was spending his childhood in Canton, Ohio. He recalls that period in time vividly.

"I can sit here and tell you every house, what branch these guys were in, which ones we lost, and everything. But I'll never forget that," he

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Georgia Mountain Fair begins July 17

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

July 17 through July 25, the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds will host its 65th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair.

The Fair hosts a variety of entertainment, from legendary Country Music acts, to arts and crafts, to carnival rides.

This year's musical acts include Brenda Lee, T. Graham Brown, Neal McCoy, Confederate Railroad and Raven & Red.

And of course one would be remiss not to mention that the legendary Bellamy Brothers also will perform.

In addition, visitors to the Fair are free to virtually step back in time to watch educational demonstrations such as blacksmithing, soap making, and moonshining. The Georgia Mountain Fair is an excellent opportunity to share the region's storied Appalachian heritage with newcomers.

One event that generates a lot of interest is the annual photography contest.



Hilda Thomason

"We give the invitations to people to participate in the photography exhibit, and then they bring their photographs, and we give prize money, and all that kind of stuff," said Hilda Thomason, general manager of the Fairgrounds.

Photographs submitted for judging must adhere to a strict set of standards. They must be a minimum of 5x7. They must be matted or framed at a size no larger than 16 x 20. Also, contestants must bring their own materials for display.

In past years, each contestant could submit up to 10

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Bludworth returns to Towns

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Chamber of Commerce welcomed Katie Bludworth last week into its fold as Special Events Coordinator, a new position within the chamber.

And even though the 24-year-old is from Alpharetta, many should recognize her within the community, as she has extensive personal history in Towns County.

Her grandparents, Towns County second-home residents Kay and Dick Duncan, have had their vacation home here for the past 15 years, and Bludworth spent summers in the county during her youth.

She attended Young Harris College on a golf scholarship and graduated with both an associate's degree in fine arts and a bachelor's degree in human communications, and worked previously at Crane Creek Vineyards as well as with the youth program at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church.

"I'm kind of a transplant, because I feel like I've been here forever," said Bludworth. "I like it so much better than where I am from, so I had to come back."

For the better half of the last year, Bludworth was living at home in Alpharetta, contemplating next moves. She worked at a golf course and as a nanny, all the while keeping up to date on the latest trends in Georgia chamber activities.

"I've always been in special events," said Bludworth. "When I was in college, I

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Katie Bludworth

Gibby hopes to make a difference

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The annual Finance Drive for the Towns County Co-ed "Y" Club will be wrapping up soon, but there is still plenty of time for residents who would like to donate to the organization.

Co-ed Y Clubs are leadership development and service clubs geared toward middle and high school youths, stressing Christian values.

The parent organization is the State YMCA of Georgia, and funds go toward various educational programs for Towns County school children.

In the past, scholarships have been awarded based on the annual Finance Drive, which kicks off around May, and Towns County students have taken part in important leadership training exercises thanks to these scholarships, like the annual Youth Assembly, now in its 71st year.

"Students gain firsthand experience in the legislative process as they 'take over' the State Capitol and debate bills,



Bob Gibby

hold committee meetings or participate in the Judicial Program," according to Finance Drive literature.

Some of the bills introduced in the Youth Assembly have found a statewide stage, becoming actual law in the Georgia General Assembly. Examples of such bills are the law requiring the white line on the outside edge of two-lane roads, and the law requiring school buses to stop and open their doors at railroad crossings.

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Riley emphasizes Firewise methods

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

On Monday, June 29, Frank Riley, the executive director of the Resource Conservation and Development Council, along with the Towns County Fire Department and the Georgia Forestry Commission, held a Firewise community meeting at Towns County Recreation Center.

The RC&D council has continuously kept the idea of being a fire-adapted community consistently in front of citizens through increased media attention and special events. Most people in Towns County know by now that a Firewise Community seeks to prevent disaster through planning and preparedness.

"Firewise is a national



Frank Riley

program through the National Fire Protection Association. Most of us think that what you see on the TV out West won't

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



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