

Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 86 Number 39

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Rain	87 68
Fri: Rain	85 65
Sat: Clouds	84 64
Sun: Rain	84 64
Mon: Clouds	86 64
Tue: Clouds	86 65
Wed: Rain	85 66



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/29/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,924.84
Lake Nottely	1,774.73
Blue Ridge	1,685.86

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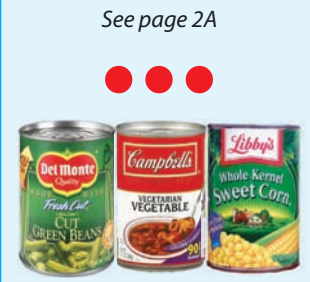
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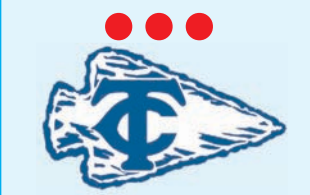


You're Invited to the **STUDENT SPEECH CONTEST** to be held on **Monday, Aug. 3rd 6:30 p.m.** Towns County Conference and Recreation Center See Page 2A

Mountain Education Charter High School **REGISTRATION** See page 2A



Food Distribution Towns County Food Pantry August 4th 2-5 PM See Page 9A

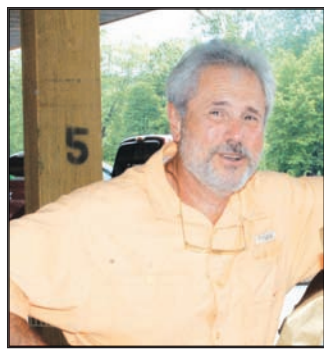


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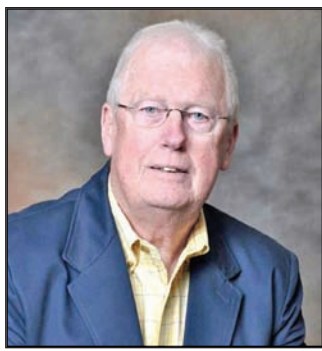
Senior Center WORKSHOPS See Page 2A

Enchanted Music on the Square August 1st 6:30 - 8 PM See page 3A

Five qualify for EMC directors races



Mickey Cummings



Patrick Malone



Charles Rich

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

The names on the petition ballots of five potential candidates for three seats on the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC board of directors have been verified as EMC members, EMC Director Steven Phillips said.

In Union County, Mickey Cummings, Patrick Malone and Charles Rich have made the ballot, Phillips said.

In Towns County, Roy Perren made the ballot; and in Fannin County, Larry Williams made the ballot.

Williams is the only candidate in the Fannin County



Larry Williams



Roy Perren

race. Incumbent Chair William Prather opted not to run again, Phillips said.

With Williams unopposed, it means at least two

new directors will join the board of directors after the election results become public

See EMC, Page 10A

Tanker fire all too real



By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

What could be considered a normal day in Hollywood became a reality for South Carolina native Brandon Hamby in his all-too-real brush with death the morning of Monday, July 20.

Heading west toward

Hiwassee on U.S. Route 76 in Towns County, driving a fuel truck weighed down with 6,000 gallons of gasoline, Hamby reported that he'd had a problem with his right tire, according to Towns County Fire Chief Harold Copeland.

"He hit the guardrail, and the tanker turned over on

See Tanker, Page 10A

Ray Stevens headlines Anderson Music Hall on Saturday, Aug. 1

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Georgia native who needs no introduction is coming to perform at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Anderson Music Hall on Saturday, Aug. 1, and he's excited to return to the area.

"It's beautiful, I love it," said Ray Stevens about the North Georgia Mountains. "Simply put, that's one of the nicest places in the world, as far as I'm concerned. I think so far I've been very lucky, and people have accepted me very well in your neck of the woods."

Stevens has been a musical mainstay for nearly 60 years, with 11 Grammy nominations, two wins, close to 100 singles and dozens of albums to his credit, including hits like *The Streak*, *Gitarzan*, and *Everything Is Beautiful*.

And this Saturday, Stevens will be doing what he does best.

"The show is going to be vintage Ray Stevens," said Stevens. "I'm going to be doing a lot of my hits, old and



Ray Stevens

new, and a lot of other songs that I just like. And of course, I'm going to be talking about things, a little bit of conversation. It's more music, though, than anything else. I have a great band, and I think the folks will like it."

With a songlist populated by the likes of *Gitarzan* and *Jeremiah Peabody*, to the recently released hit *Taylor Swift Is Stalkin' Me*, many may wonder how Stevens comes up with such colorful characters and song ideas.

"I've been writing songs for years, and after a while it's second nature," said Stevens.

See Stevens, Page 10A

Mueller crowned Miss GMF

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The envelope please. And 2015's Miss Georgia Mountain Fair is Madison Mueller.

She was crowned the winner of this year's pageant, after a lengthy evening gown competition and a swimsuit competition on July 20. Mueller, a Fayetteville native, represented Towns County because she spent summers here with her family.

Nicole Columbo, of Habersham County, was first runner up, Maddie Penland, who attends Young Harris College, was second runner up.

Mueller is a 2015 graduate of Whitewater High School and will be attending Mercer University for a Bachelor's of Science in Local Health. She wants a medical degree to practice emergency medicine.

"I hope to be an emergency room doctor and hopefully graduate from medical school with as little debt as possible," she said. "I hope to accomplish this by majoring in global health with a minor in biology."



2014 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Mia Manto crowns her 2015 counterpart Madison Mueller as the new Miss Georgia Mountain Fair. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Mueller, 18, has a lengthy academic resume. She's a member of her high school honor roll and an academic letterman. She was also awarded the title of scholar athlete.

Mueller is a member of the National Honor Society

as well as the Beta Club and a member of the National Technical Honor Society. A Governor's Program Honor nominee, she received an award for outstanding achievement in

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Cruiz-In returns to Fairgrounds

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Seventh Annual Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In is rolling into town this week, and will feature hotrods galore and authentic moonshine demonstrations.

For three full days, running Thursday, July 30, through Saturday, Aug. 1, the Cruiz-In promises family fun for all ages at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

"We're really seeing a lot of new people coming from way off," said Cruiz-In Organizer Rakes Parrish. "We've got some people coming from Maryland that have never been there, we've got people coming from Delaware. I've noticed New Hampshire, and of course, we're seeing some folks from Kansas and all coming. We're getting some from way out



there this year."

As a special treat, festivities will actually begin on Wednesday, July 29, as vendors start to set up at 8 a.m., followed by a registration time and a mountain cruise that pulls out at 11 a.m.

Thursday will feature another beautiful mountain cruise

starting at 9 a.m. and taking participants on a tour of Granddaddy Mimm's Moonshine Gift Shop at Pappy's Plaza in Blairsville.

"Thursday night, we're going to have that grand opening party again like we did the

See Cruiz-In, Page 10A

Cooking contest yields tasty results



By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Notin' beats good eats in good company, which is exactly what was had as judges dug into the Sixth Annual Georgia Mountain Fair Cooking Contest on Tuesday, July 21.

Participants prepared their favorite homemade recipes - 41 all told - and were placed into Adult and Youth divisions for judging purposes.

Within these divisions

were two further categories, sweet and savory, and judges wrestled with their hearts, minds and taste buds to decide which of the tasty concoctions in each group won the day.

See Cooking, Page 10A

Growlers hit Bacchus shelves

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Growlers have landed in Hiwassee, but don't be alarmed - they're not the kind with teeth.

Thanks to the efforts of husband and wife team Ed Kountz and Linda Pallone, who own Bacchus Wine Shoppe on Main Street, the 32- and 64-ounce bottles of craft brew have become a reality.

Bacchus Beer and Growlers will hold its Grand Opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Towns County Chamber of Commerce on Friday, July 31, at 3 p.m.

In its March meeting, Hiwassee City Council amended the city's Ordinance for the Retail Sale of Beer and Wine to authorize "growlers" for the first time within city limits, allowing for an alternative to traditional bottled beer.

Due to the space required to install the 8 feet by 8 feet walk-in cooler to house the kegs needed to pour growlers, the new operation is housed in the same building and next to the Wine Shoppe.

"Currently, we've got 11 kegs live," said Kountz during the growler soft launch. "This is totally new, and this is totally different than any other beer store in Hiwassee - relatively new to the state of Georgia."

Growlers came to Georgia about five years ago, and their popularity is spreading thanks to the ability of growler retailers to acquire choice selections and deliver them extra fresh to customers.

"We've got everything from non-alcoholic root beer from Atlanta, to four or five other Georgia beers, including most recently Hiwassee Golden Ale from Fannin Brewing in Blue Ridge," said Kountz. "The beer comes from the keg, is pumped via a series of lines - they go through the wall and come through the taps on the other side."

"We're very excited about this, and obviously with an 8-by-8, it allows us to do a number of things, one of which



is to pour kind of on draught for tastings and to fill growlers, and the other is to do keg sales. It's new to Hiwassee, and we're very excited about the response we've gotten so far."

When all is said and done, the growler side of the business will house a wide variety of hard-to-find room-temperature craft beers, as well as a steady rotation of the 15 growler taps to feature beer, hard cider and non-alcoholic sodas.

Interest in the venture has already been piqued, according to Ray and Heather Wilson, who were up from Atlanta for a day out this past Saturday.

"We saw it driving by," said Ray, who had not heard of growlers previously, but said that Bacchus seemed like a good place to bring friends. "I think it's a cool concept."

Kountz, Pallone and their associates are staffing the shop and hoping to grow it, and those looking to expand their appreciation for the fine art of craft brews should check out the grand opening this Friday, located at 355 N Main St. in Hiwassee.

"We'd like to thank the city and city council for their support," said Kountz. "We're excited, and we appreciate the support we've received already. From here, it's just about onward and upward."

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

