

# Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 83 Number 44

Wednesday, September 5, 2012

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Clouds	85 60
Fri: Clouds	86 61
Sat: Showers	77 56
Sun: Clouds	75 52
Mon: Clouds	75 53
Tue: Sunny	77 52
Wed: Clouds	78 52



Upstream Elevation Predicted 09/05/12	
Lake Chatuge	1921.76
Lake Nottely	1769.49
Blue Ridge	1670.64

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## Sports

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## Gridiron

The Towns County Football season at home with a 17-14 loss to Union County.

This week the Indians travel to Roswell for a 7:30 p.m. meeting with the Fellowship Christian Paladins.

The Paladins fell 32-12 to Lakeview Academy last week.

This Friday will mark the first ever meeting between the two schools as Towns looks to improve to 1-2 on the young season.

## TCMS

## Indians win

The Towns County Middle School Indians football team won its home opener at Frank McClure Memorial Stadium Thursday against the North Georgia Falcons with a final score of 30-8. They improved their season record to 2-0.

## Youth

## Football

Towns County's youth football teams will be on the road this Saturday with the 6&U team traveling to Jackson County to face the host Panthers. The 8&U and 9&U squads will both face off with the Banks County Leopards in Homer.

The Youth Teams completed a sweep of victories last weekend. See Sports Page 10 for more details.

## Cross Country

The Lady Indians' Cross Country team competed in a six-team event in Blairsville last week.

Ansley Vardeman and Bradley Smith led the way for Towns. For more details see Sports Page 10.

## JV Gridiron

Junior Varsity football has returned to Towns County High School for the first time in five years.

The results against Copper Basin last week were mixed to say the least.

However, the fact the JV program is up and running again is a positive sign. Story: Page 10.

## LOST negotiations go to mediation

By Libby Shook  
Towns County Herald  
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Local Option Sales Tax negotiations between Towns County, and the cities of Hiwassee and Young Harris are headed to the mediation phase.

Last Wednesday's make it break it negotiating period concluded with no deal between the three governments.

The negotiations will go into the mediation phase on Thursday as required by state law, however, it should be noted that the county and cities are still talking and negotiating.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said the county is willing to keep an open dialogue with the cities as the three governments work toward a resolution.

Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis said she is hopeful an agreement can be achieved between the three governments.

"I am hopeful that we can continue to work toward the common goal of fairness to



Hiwassee and Young Harris LOST negotiators sit through last week's meeting at the Towns County Senior Center. Last Wednesday's make it break it negotiating period concluded with no deal between the three governments. The negotiations between the three local governments is headed to the mediation phase as required by Georgia law. Photo/Libby Shook

all our residents, municipal and county. I look forward to continued discussions," she said.

Hiwassee City Manager Rick Stancil said that the Hiwassee City Council will approach these negotiations with the understanding that a fair and equitable tax distribution is critical for city residents.

"Each city is well aware that growth and development during the next 10 years will either occur in a city or as a result of the services provided by our cities such as water and sewer," said Stancil. "We welcome the opportunity to make

See LOST, page 14

## Clinton: Solid police work foils burglary

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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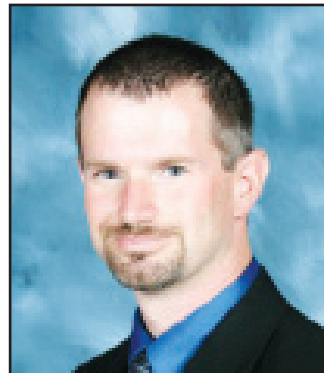
A 50-year-old Hayesville, NC man is behind bars after he attempted to break into a storage facility, local authorities say.

William Monroe Turner was taken into custody at 9:28 p.m. on Aug. 30th and was charged with criminal attempt to commit burglary and pedestrian under the influence, Towns County Detention Center records show.

At press time he was being held in the local lockup on \$4,000 bail, jail records show.

Towns County sheriff's deputies were alerted to Turner after a resident witnessed a man allegedly attempting to break into a storage unit and had confronted the suspect, Towns County sheriff's reports show.

Upon being confronted by the resident, the suspect left the scene on foot. Darkness had already fallen, sheriff's reports



Sheriff Chris Clinton

show. According to sheriff's reports, deputies responded to the scene and within five minutes they had the area sealed off.

Deputy Brandon Barrett and his K-9 partner Sarge were summoned and en route to the crime scene, sheriff's reports show.

A description of the man and direction of travel were obtained during the on-scene

See Suspect, page 14

## H.O.G. returns to Towns County

By Libby Shook  
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They're back! And Hiwassee and Towns County couldn't be happier.

The Georgia State Harley Owners Group or H.O.G., returns to Hiwassee this weekend.

It's the second year in a row Georgia H.O.G. members have chosen Towns County as their choice for their annual destination retreat.

Everyone had such a great time last year, Hiwassee was voted the rally site for 2012, said Towns County Tourism Association's Katie Polstra, manager of the Ramada Lake Chatuge Lodge.

"Having the H.O.G. Rally come to our community two years in a row is a tremendous feat," Polstra said. "This is the first time in their history that the H.O.G. Rally has voted to come to the same community two years in a row.

"This was accomplished, in part, through the hard work of local leaders and the enthusiasm of our community," she said. "H.O.G. members were overwhelmed by the community welcoming them last year and asking them back with many members of the community wearing T-shirts for the



The 2012 H.O.G. Rally gives locals a euphoric feeling as they await their visitors arrival on Thursday. The event is one of the community's top tourism ventures and attracts a crowd of Harley owners.

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and Ramada Lake Chatuge Lodge.

Saturday afternoon the community fun begins. All local residents and visitors are welcome to the Ridges Resort & Marina for live music and great food. The Ridges Resort will start serving a low country boil at 6 p.m. for purchase.

Everyone is invited to check out the motorcycles, sit by the lake, and take in the music while enjoying a great meal.

See H.O.G., page 14

## Towns marks 40th LEO Club

By Libby Shook  
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Leadership, Experience, Opportunity, these are just a few of the rewards young people gain as a LEO Club member.

They also happen to be the values that create the acronym for the club name.

LEO clubs provide young people volunteer opportunities and encourage them to develop leadership qualities by participating in social service activities.

Tuesday, Aug. 28th, was an exciting evening for the Towns County Lions Club as their newly created LEO Club held their installation service for Charter officers as well as inducting the 19 Charter members.

They currently have 31 LEO members total in the club.

Parents and several special guests, Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams, TCHS Principal Roy Perren, school board member and parent Donna Hedden, and Jenny Stowers, director of 21st Century Program, were present for this historic occasion.

Lion Steve Helwig, State LEO Club Coordinator/Program Chair, District 18, traveled from Bogart, to honor and induct the new members.

Past District Gov. James Webb installed the new officers. Lion Laurie Main and Lion Deborah Saylor are club advisors.

Helwig has been an active member of the Lions Club for the past 21 years and "has had a long and illustrious his-



Towns County High School has become the 40th LEO Club in the State. LEO clubs provide young people volunteer opportunities and encourage them to develop leadership qualities by participating in social service activities. Photo/Libby Shook

tory with both the Lions Club and LEO Clubs," said Main as she introduced him as the guest speaker of the evening.

"He has worked extensively with the Lighthouse, Leader Dog, and Camp for the Blind programs," said Main.

Helwig has received several prestigious awards during his years with the Lions Club, including the International President's Medal, Lions Clubs International Leadership Medal, and was inducted into the 18-D Hall of Fame in 2009.

"Lion Steve travels the whole state helping establish LEO clubs. He exemplifies the Lions' motto, 'We Serve'. We are privileged to have you as a friend and mentor, and honored to have you speak at this important occasion," said Main.

Helwig takes his responsibilities to heart.

"I take my position as state chair very seriously. I'm not just here for the night. I'm here for whenever you need me," Helwig said. "We now have 40 LEO clubs in the state with Towns County being number 40 and we have 8 in North Georgia.

"I believe the young people today have a heart and passion for service, better than I've seen in the last couple of generations," he said. "It's up to us, both Lions and parents, to foster, nurture, encourage, and reinforce them as they take on challenges. They truly want to make their world better and as State LEO Chair it reenergizes me each time I interact with them," Helwig said.

Helwig said that as mentors, it's their job to "train them,

See LEO, page 14

## Prebid process moves forward for Rec Park

By Libby Shook  
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall is making good on his promise to keep it local as the R.W. Allen Construction Services representatives met with 40 plus local sub-contractors and suppliers at the Towns County Courthouse Court Room last week.

The objective: to go over the pre-bidding process for work to be done on the 26,000-square foot Foster Memorial Park Recreational/Community Center that will be built on Mining Gap Road.

Commissioner Kendall welcomed the group and turned the meeting over to Senior Project Administrator Tommy Goodyear.

"We appreciate the good turn out," Goodyear said. "Typically we don't have this kind of excitement about a project.

"We are hoping to have the metal building here by the second week in November," Goodyear said. "Our goal is to get this project completed with 100 percent local participation. We are expecting to have the concrete poured by the second week in October. We hope to have it dried in by winter so we'll have work for you during the winter months."

Goodyear introduced Project Manager Mark Day and Project Estimator Drew Wren.

"Drew will be the contact person during the bidding phase and will be available to answer questions and assist with the bidding process. After that Mark will be the main contact person. Once the construction



Commissioner Bill Kendall

begins, a superintendent will be here 100 percent of the time," said Goodyear.

"I know when Drew and Mark go over the paperwork, it's going to sound like a lot. If you have any questions, pick up the phone and call us. We'll walk you through it," Goodyear said.

Wren told the eager participants that the plans will be out Thursday and a bid date has been set for Sept. 13th at 2 p.m.

"Questions for this project will be due by Sept. 4th. There will be a set of plans here at the courthouse available for view only. Bid packages will be posted to the FTP site," said Wren.

"It should be noted that bidders are responsible for all work, labor and materials listed, and specifications for the work package being bid," Wren emphasized.

Day told the group that they needed everything included in specifications.

"How many days it will take and how quickly you can

See PreBid, page 14

## Singing Stars delight Enchanted admirers

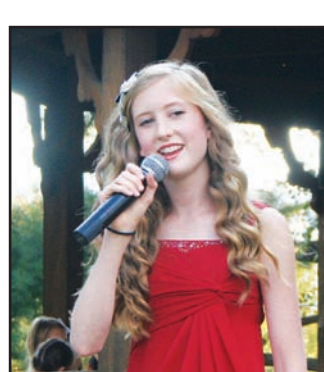
By Libby Shook  
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Enchanted Music on the Square in Hiwassee was enchanted indeed on Aug. 25th, as the Singing Stars for a Better World took center stage and wowed almost 100 people attending the amazing performance.

Special guest 2012 North Georgia Idol Palmer Mireille, 14, of Young Harris, along with six other performers, from ages 7 to 15, entertained and delighted all who were fortunate enough to be a part of the audience.

Mireille is no stranger to the stage as she has been performing on the Courthouse Square since she was 6 years old and won the coveted title of Towns County Kids Idol at the young age of 8.

She has performed in and won numerous singing contests in Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee with her most recent accomplishment being the recipient of a Platinum Performer Award after winning a competition at Rising Star Productions in Chattanooga, Tenn.



Palmer Mireille

others to follow their dream," Mireille said.

Mireille delighted fans with her own unique version of Carrie Underwood's Good Girl.

She also performed a stellar rendition of Whitney Houston's I Will Always Love You. She hit the notes spot on and did herself and Houston proud.

Mireille wrapped up her evening's performance with I'll

See Enchanted, page 14

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