

Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 84 Number 33

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Storms	79 59
Fri: Storms	78 58
Sat: Storms	81 58
Sun: Clouds	83 60
Mon: Storms	82 62
Tues: Storms	82 63
Wed: Storms	82 62



Upstream Elevation Predicted 06/19/13	
Lake Chatuge	1925.86
Lake Nottely	1776.73
Blue Ridge	1687.95

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Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Beauty Pageant
Monday, July 22
Now Taking Applications
See page 7A

Mountain Fling

Arts Crafts Gifts Food	
June 29 9 - 5	
June 30 11 - 4	
North GA Tech • Blairsville, GA	
Presented by: Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild, Inc.	

Towns County Farmers Market

Now Open
Fridays 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
See page 6A

Free Food Distribution

Ort's Beans	Campbell's	White Kernel Sweet Corn
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Tues., June 25 • 2-6 p.m.
Towns County Food Pantry
See page 2A

Fourth of July Boat Parade



July 4 • 10 a.m.
See page 6A

A Taste of the Southern Highlands

June 18 • 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Georgia Mtn. Fairgrounds

Towns County CRCT scores are in

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

Towns County Schools Criterion-Referenced Competency Test scores are in.

Once again Towns County Middle School fared well in CRCT testing, bringing home three top test scores.

However, there is room for improvement at several levels, state test results show.

Fifth grade reading finished with a second place score of 97.65 percent; fourth grade readers finished third.

The remaining grades have some catching up to do. Third graders finished 11th, sixth graders finished seventh, seventh graders finished fourth,



Melissa Williams
and eighth graders finished seventh.

In fourth grade English Language Arts, Towns County Elementary scored a perfect 100. However, that score was a tie with another perfect score,

this one from Union County, also a perfect 100.

In eighth grade English Language Arts, Towns County took top honors with a score of 99.02 percent. Again, that first place score was shared with Union County.

Other grades didn't fair nearly as well in English Language Arts. Third graders finished 12th, fifth graders finished sixth, sixth graders finished fifth, and seventh graders finished 10th.

Math was a sore subject throughout Towns County as well.

The highest place came from fourth graders with a fourth place finish. Third grad-

See CRCT, 13A

Shriners' Summer Ceremonial a winner

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Yaarab Shrine of Georgia held their annual three-day Summer Ceremonial in Hiwassee over the weekend and children's hospitals located in the United States, Canada and Mexico will benefit from it.

The event was just as special to Towns County as it has been over the past three years and the weather couldn't have welcomed them better.

The reputation of the Yaarab Shrine membership is one of love and friendship and they came to Hiwassee in the name of that love to raise money for Shriners' Hospitals for Children.

The system consists of 22 specialty needs hospitals and educational facilities that provide medical attention to any child between the age of birth and 18 years. Healthcare is provided regardless of the patient's or their family's ability to pay.

The loving men and women of the Shrine make this possible and their visit to Towns County helped them make a big donation to the Shri-



Jerry the Clown makes a Towns County toddler's day on Saturday during the annual Shriners' Parade in Hiwassee. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

ners Hospitals for Children.

Randy Mullaly, the Potentate of the Marzuq Temple in Tallahassee, Fla., gathered his members and they were in town to support the Yaarab Temple, which are the Shriners of Georgia, and help raise money over the weekend for the Children's Hospital.

He described the event perfectly at the Luau on Friday night, which was held at the Towns County beach,

"This event is all about

raising money for the kids. We come together and we have fun and enjoy the fellowship, but in the end it is all about knowing there is something more important to life than just yourself," Mullaly said. "Shriners have all realized this as fact and we do this so the kids that need proper medical treatment can have a life as well. Every Shriner here has made a trip through one of our hospitals and not

See Shriners, 13A

Towns' Farmers Market open for business

By Colleen Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Frank Riley and Michael Barrett have an ongoing, good-natured dispute.

Both believe their corn will be better and sweeter than the other's.

Riley claims his corn can be eaten straight off the cob. Barrett claims his corn will be the best by far.

The results of this continued debate will be determined later this summer at the Towns County Farmers Market.

Both Riley and Barrett were part of the Second Annual Towns County Farmers Market grand opening on Saturday at Towns County Beach on Lake Chatuge across from the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

The Farmers Market was moved to a new location this year from the historic county tennis courts.

The gates opened at 9 a.m., and customers were treated to a wonderful variety of items, including fresh produce, herbs, and hand made products.

During the four-hour



Saturday morning was a busy one for vendors at the Towns County Farmers Market. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

event, a steady stream of folks filed through the nicely shaded area where they could shop, talk to vendors and learn about their products, visit with friends - old and new, chat with Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, or pet the friendly alpacas from Cupid Falls Farm.

The Farmers Market is operated under the sponsorship of the Towns County Extension Office of the University of Georgia, in conjunction with the Towns-Union Master Gardeners Association and the Hiwassee Garden Club.

The Farmers Market is managed by the Towns County

Extension Leadership Committee.

One of the goals of the Farmers Market is to "provide a place for local farmers and individuals to sell their produce, and to encourage people to buy local produce" according to Riley, Executive Director, Chestatee-Chatahoochee Resource Conservation and Development Council. Riley also is a member of the Towns County Extension Leadership Committee.

According to Riley, "when I was a kid up here,

See Market, 13A

Flag Day remembered in Towns

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The United States Flag represents the people of the United States of America.

It is an emblem of courage and freedom that was bought and paid for with the blood of American heroes.

It is to be honored on a daily basis as the blood banner of this great nation and any disrespect shown toward it should be dealt with accordingly.

It is the pride of any warrior who followed it into battle and lived to tell the tale.

It is the memory of fallen family and friends who will never set foot on the soil of this great nation again.

It bears the truth that turns us into the greatest country in the world.

It is our flag and it has been paid for, so all citizens should honor it.

That is what the residents of Hiwassee Park did on Flag



The North Georgia Honor Guard prepares to raise the flag at Hiwassee Park last Friday. Photo/Joe Collins

Day last week when they raised "Old Glory" for the first time on the center pole at their new development.

Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis along with Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall joined the North

Georgia Honor Guard, and the residents and guests of the park, to raise the American Flag for the first time in the Baptist Retirement Community located just east of the Towns

See Flag, 13A

Perren: 'Towns sets the bar for graduation rates'

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Board of Education held its monthly meeting last week and there was plenty of great news to report and lot of fresh ideas are taking root at Towns County Schools.

The items on the agenda included some of the usual business - approving the final budget for 2014 and two representatives for the Towns County Library Board, hiring a teacher, a football community coach, and two substitute summer custodians.

The Board received a breath of fresh air from outgoing Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren and new TCHS principal and Athletic Director Jonathan Gibson.

Perren reported that Towns County High School is setting the bar pretty high when it comes to graduation rates. Not only locally, but on a statewide basis, as well.

Perren announced to the board that TCHS has one of the top graduation rates in the entire state.

"Of the 17 high schools at RESA, we had the second



Roy Perren

highest graduation rate with 94.92 percent," Perren said. "Only North Hall with a 95.2 percent rate beat us and we were four percent higher than the third place school."

"In the state, we were 10th out of more than 300 high schools, and that includes several magnet schools. There was Savannah Arts Academy and Columbus High School ahead of us, which are magnet schools," Perren said.

More good news was brought to the floor when Gibson talked about a bold idea that he has initiated.

See BOE, 13A

Lucy Aparo to celebrate 100 years of living

By Colleen Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

In 2010, according to the U.S. census, only .0173 percent of the population in the United States was 100 years old.

On June 25, Hiwassee's own Lucy Aparo will join this distinguished club of Centenarians when she celebrates her 100th birthday.

It's hard to imagine many 100 year olds. Aparo is not only delightful, and lights up the room when she enters it, but she also keeps a schedule that would tire most people decades her junior.

Aparo's parents, Josephine and Rosario, immigrated to the United States from Priolo, Sicily when they were in their 20s so that Rosario would have better employment opportunities. Rosario worked on the railroads after he came to the U.S.

Aparo, the youngest of four children, was born on June 25, 1913, in New Britain, Conn. It was there that Lucy met the love of her life, Jim.

Ironically, Jim's parents had also immigrated to New Britain from Sicily.

Lucy and Jim married, and Lucy began a teaching job at the age of 20 in a two-room schoolhouse in New Britain.

She taught upper grades, fourth - eighth grades, and also served as principal in the schoolhouse.

Lucy said that people got around by horse and carriage during this time.

Later, she and Jim moved to the Tampa Bay area where Jim worked as a land developer in Connecticut and Florida while she taught school.

Lucy taught school a total of 36 years. She said that she has a student who still keeps in touch with her to this day. Recently, when high winds came through Towns County, he called to check on her to make sure that she was safe.

Jim and Lucy have a son, Salvatore (Sal), who is now 74 years old.

Sal and his wife Kathleen have four children and Lucy has four grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren. Sal and Kathleen live in Hiwassee, and take Lucy to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Hayesville every Sunday.

Due to Jim's medical condition, and to be closer to their son and daughter-in-law, the couple moved to Hiwassee for the cooler climate in 1993.

They built a house next door to Sal and Kathleen. Lucy and Jim lived in this home that Lucy loved dearly until Jim's death.

At the time of Jim's



Lucy Aparo

death, Lucy was 90 years old. Jim and Lucy were married for 66 years.

Lucy lived on her own, next door to Sal and Kathleen, for nine years. She just moved into Brasstown Manor last year at the age of 99.

Today, she lives in her own apartment in independent living - not in assisted living.

Each weekday, Lucy starts her day with a "breakfast at Brasstown Manor."

Then she departs bright and early for the Senior Center in Hiwassee, where she engages in whatever games are on the schedule for that day.

It may be Parchesi, Dominoes, or Solitaire - she plays them all.

She admitted to being quite the champ at Wii Bowling. She said that her team at the Senior Center came close to beating another Senior Center team from another county this past season, losing by only three points in a close final match. She hopes to claim victory next season.

When she returns to Brasstown Manor at 1:30 p.m. daily, she participates in the three times weekly competitive games of Bingo. On the other weekdays, she participates in whatever games are happening. Lucy is a firm believer in staying busy.

When not at the Senior Center, at church, or playing games at Brasstown Manor, she is an avid reader - romance novels being a particular favorite genre.

Amazingly, she requires no glasses to read. The only day she rests is on Saturday - then she goes to church on Sunday.

When asked to what she credits her longevity to, Lucy quickly says, "it's genetics - my mother lived to be 105. So, I plan on living to be 110!"

See Lucy, 13A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



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