

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	78 54
Fri: Rain	76 55
Sat: Cloudy	81 55
Sun: Cloudy	81 53
Mon: Cloudy	78 53
Tue: Cloudy	76 54
Wed: Rain	74 49



Upstream Elevation Predicted 04/20/11	
Lake Chatuge	1923.06
Lake Nottely	1777.02
Blue Ridge	1655.96

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Fish Fry

VFW Post 7807 will host its a fish fry on Friday, Friday, April 22 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

All you can eat fish, curly fries, baked beans, hush puppies, cole slaw and iced tea. All this at a cost of \$9 per person. Now with a non-smoking dining room.

Fish fries will be held the second and 4th Fridays of each month.

Happy 155 Towns County

A beautiful handmade quilt will be on display at the square in Hiawassee from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 14, at the annual Arts & Heritage Festival sponsored by the Towns County Historical Society. The quilt depicts events and items of interest in the past history of the county beginning with the Cherokees' Trail of Tears. Other historical items and pictures of schools and classes of long ago will also be on display in the gazebo.

Events begin at 11 a.m. with welcomes by county and city dignitaries, live music, gospel singing, square dancing, and poetry and old time stories will lead up to cutting of the birthday cake around 3:30 p.m. This will be followed by a performance of our own Elvis impersonator (Roy Perren). Don't miss this day-long event with all kinds of food, music and fun.

Happy Easter

The Towns County Herald wishes you and yours a blessed Easter Holiday as we remember the sacrifices of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and celebrate his resurrection.

Check the Community Calendar and Church Page for holiday events in your area.

Judge lifts SDA grant sanctions against County, cities

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Senior Judge Robert Struble has approved Commissioner Bill Kendall's request through court papers filed last week to lift grant sanctions against Towns County and Young Harris and Hiawassee. The consent order will restore millions of grant dollars at stake for Towns County and the City of Hiawassee. It's unclear if the city of Young Harris had any grant dollars at stake.

The three governments had been declared non-qualified entities because they have not agreed on a Service Delivery Strategy Agreement. Service Delivery strategies are required by law in each community in Georgia to avoid duplication of services, thus, saving tax dollars for residents. A Service Delivery Agreement is required of

counties and cities every decade to determine how and which government will deliver services within each of Georgia's 159 counties.

During several meetings over the past year the county, Young Harris and Hiawassee, and the Towns County Water Authority have worked toward an agreement on how and who will deliver 90 percent of the services to citizens. However, there is one remaining sticking point on which a deadline agreement had not been reached, and which put the county and cities in the non-qualified government status regarding a water service agreement.

Judge Struble has ordered that court proceedings and mediation take place April 26, at the Towns County Courthouse.

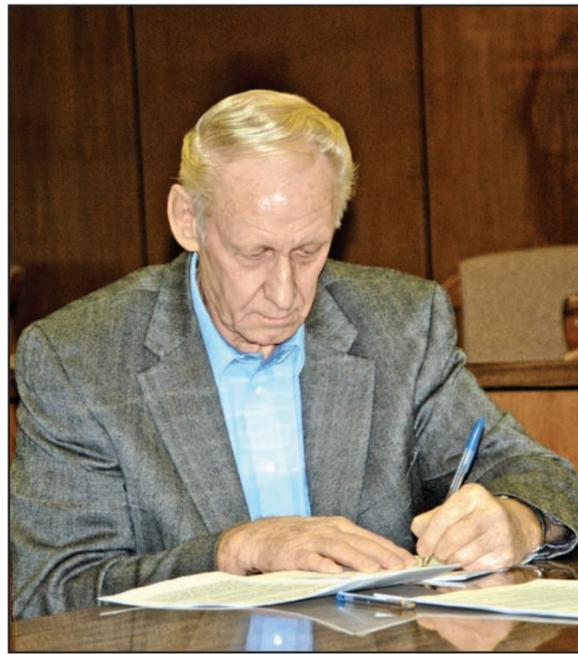
The county has reached an agreement with the City of Hiawassee, but an agreement with the City of Young Harris

remains an ambitious goal.

According to Towns County Superior Court records, the lack of agreement with the City of Young Harris is because of the failure of that city to submit a clear and concise outline of the boundaries of a proposed Service Delivery Area and to define which services would be provided in specific areas within Towns County and how those services would be funded.

Towns County seeks to have the court order a prepared Service Delivery map showing the boundaries of the City of Young Harris' proposed Service Delivery Area, a clear and concise statement as to the proposed services provided in the subject areas and plans for funding of the services.

A service delivery strategy agreement allows local governments within the same county borders to receive state and federal



Commissioner Kendall says a confirmed court-ordered consent order lifts sanctions against the county and its cities. Photo/Charles Duncan

Young Harris Fest a two-day hit

Festival featured fine art, pottery and Poet Laureate Bettie Sellers

By Janice Boling
Towns County Herald
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The Young Harris Spring Fest drew a crowd throughout the weekend.

With more than 60 juried artists and plenty of food vendors, the juried, two-day festival offered everything from fine art, pottery and jewelry to soap-making, home canned jellies, story telling and hand-knitted scarves.

The event was held Saturday and Sunday in Mayor's Park in Young Harris.

The juried artists, great food, and entertainment were featured at the free, family-orientated event. Even the parking was free. Event goers were treated to two days of beautiful artwork, pottery, jewelry, fiber art, pine baskets, candles,



Ansley Burnette signs copies of her book *Frisco Finds A Forever Family* during the festival in Young Harris. Photo/Janice Boling

See Festival, page 15A

Solid turnout for Chatuge cleanup

By James Reese
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In the race for all important tourism dollars, protecting "the Goose that laid the Golden Egg" is a must, The Ridges Resort & Marina General Manager Chad Hooper said.

"Keeping Lake Chatuge clean, that's what it's all about," said Hooper, who led a group of more than 60 community members recently on a tour of duty trash pick-up around the 7,000-acre lake which straddles Georgia and North Carolina.

"We had great support out here in this event," Hooper said. "Almost 60



Coach Brenda Paul's Young Harris College Mountain Lions pitch in and help clean up around the shores of Lake Chatuge recently near The Ridges Resort & Marina. Photo/James Reese

See Chatuge page 15A

Ronnie Milsap here June 18

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Six Grammy awards, 40 No. 1 hits, and winner of the Country Music Industry's Most Promising Young Artist in 1975, Ronnie Milsap's career has come full circle. He's returning to his roots, which include the Northeast Georgia Mountains.

Milsap, who attended Young Harris College on a full music scholarship, will be live in concert on June 18th at Anderson Music Hall at 7 p.m.

Milsap is expected to fill the 2,900 seat, air-conditioned Anderson Music Hall.



Ronnie Milsap

Tickets go on sale May 13th for \$32, handling fee included. A portion of the proceeds go to the Shriner's Hospital.

Milsap spent the first six years of his life in Robbinsville, NC; he was abandoned by his mother, and raised by his grand par-

ents. He later moved to Raleigh to attend a school for the blind. It wasn't long before those closest to him, noticed a natural tendency to pursue music at an early age.

There, he began studying violin and piano for the next 12 years. The lure of music proved powerful for the young Milsap, and while he pursued his studies diligently in order to make the grade at law school, a chance meeting with Ray Charles prompted him to take another path that was about to open for him.

Milsap went on to

See Ronnie Milsap, page 15A

Coach Paul unveils her 2011 recruiting class

Buford team captain Sheresse Williams included on team

By James Reese
Towns County Herald
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Coach Brenda Paul

It won't be long before Coach Brenda Paul has some new help to join next year's Lady Mountain Lions.

Coach Paul, the architect of 452 basketball coaching victories during her illustrious career on the hardwood, announced her list of new signees to the Mountain Lions' roster.

Kaycee Cash from Etowah High School, Keta Robinette from Marion County High School, Jasper, Tenn., Arielle Thomas from North Clayton High School, Sheresse Williams from Buford High School. These future scholar-athletes will join fall signees: Peyton Robertson from Chestatee High School and Rachel

Kelly also from Chestatee High School and finally Ashley Knox from McMinn Central in Englewood, Tenn.

Coach Paul, who coached the Lady Mountain Lions to an 11-13 finish in their first season, said she loved the balance in this signing class.

"Combined with the early signees, this class has

See Coach Paul, page 15A

Kris Kristofferson comes to Hiawassee

Tickets go on sale on Friday at Fairgrounds

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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His graveled voice is iconic, but it's his pen that has built a lasting legacy for Kris Kristofferson.

Whether it was Gospel, Rock 'N' Roll or Country Music, chances are the biggest hits of countless performers were penned by Kris Kristofferson, Rhodes Scholar, educated at Oxford.

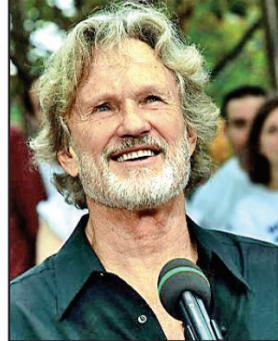
The list of performers that have topped the charts with a Kristofferson-penned song is a long one. David Price, Johnny Cash, Janis Joplin, Faron Young, Roger Miller, Willie Nelson, Ronnie Milsap, Waylon Jennings, Patti Page, Bobby Bare, Joe Simon and yes, Kris Kristofferson.

Kristofferson was inducted into the Songwriters' Hall of Fame in 1985.

Kristofferson's career has spanned more than 40 years as a singer, songwriter and actor, having performed in 91 motion pictures, either on the big screen or television.

On May 21, at 7 p.m. at Anderson Music Hall, the legendary artist known as Kristofferson will perform, most likely before a packed auditorium in Hiawassee. Tickets go on sale Friday at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. The cost of admission: \$42, handling fee included.

Kristofferson's path to



Kris Kristofferson

musical success is far from standard. Born in Brownsville, Texas and raised in a military family, he followed the family tradition by serving in the U.S. Army as an Airborne Ranger helicopter pilot and achieved the rank of captain.

Through the years, Kristofferson has been one of the busiest performers to ever grace the music industry. Rough, gruff and tough, the free spirit of Kristofferson has become an iconic symbol of Country Music, Folk Music and Rock 'N' Roll.

Get in line on Friday, or get left out, these tickets will move fast as Hiawassee welcomes an icon to Towns County.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

