

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County  
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50 Cents

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Thursday, May 7, 2009

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: T-Storms	80 56
Fri: T-Storms	79 57
Sat: T-Storms	79 50
Sun: Sunny	79 53
Mon: Cloudy	76 52
Tue: Cloudy	76 54
Wed: Cloudy	74 50



Upstream Elevation Predicted 5/04/09	
Lake Chatuge	1924.00
Lake Nottely	1771.81
Blue Ridge	1684.73

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## Arts & Heritage

The Arts & Heritage Festival, sponsored by the Towns County Historical Society, will be on the square in Hiwassee on Saturday, May 9, starting at 11 a.m. There will be live music, storytelling, square dancing, arts, crafts, antiques, vintage automobiles, games, food vendors, and historical displays. Also, pictures will be taken of classes that attended Towns County High School and several of our oldest citizens will be honored. In case of bad weather, the festival will be held at the school.

## WSB-TV

WSB-TV will air their report of the Salary Standard Ordinance for Towns County elected officials on Thursday, May 7 during the 5 pm and 6 pm news.

## Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will have free food distribution Tuesday May 12 from 2-6 p.m. The pantry asks that you enter Jack Dayton Circle on the Funworld side for a more orderly distribution. If you are unable to pick up your food, please call 706-896-4783, prior to distribution day, so that arrangements can be made for delivery.

## County maps

Matthew Green, Senior Marketing Consultant from Community Link is selling ads for the updated Towns County Map. Towns County Chamber is under contract with Community Link and they will be printing the new map. If you would like to pick up some of the current maps for your business, stop by the Towns County Chamber or call 706-896-4966.

## Food Drive

The monthly mobile food distribution for families in need will be held at North Mt. Zion Church of God on Friday, May 8 from 10am to noon. This outdoor food distribution will be held in the rear parking lot of the church, located on Scataway Road.

## Saturday fairs and giving thanks

By David Seckinger  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Last Saturday was booming with activity throughout Towns County. There was a job fair in Young Harris, a health fair in Hiwassee, and a BBQ lunch to honor those who volunteered for the Towns County Food Pantry.

Chatuge Regional Hospital's annual Health Fair began last Saturday morning with the first light of day. Kathy Kitchens, utilization reviewer for Chatuge Regional Hospital, said the event has been going on for more than two decades.

This year the hospital had over 30 vendors including Hospice, American Red Cross, Towns County Drug Free Coalition, S.A.F.E., Lifelink, and Emory Heart Clinic. In addition to the ven-



Over 200 people and 30 vendors attended last Saturday's Health Fair at Chatuge Regional Hospital. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

dors, well over 200 people showed up for the event.

Kitchens said they try to cover a little bit of everything at the fair such as vision screening, breast exams, blood pressure checks, body fat testing, living wills counseling, and diabetes testing.

Later that morning, Sharp Memorial United

Methodist Church held a Job Fair. Mission committee member Donna Reynolds said they had fifteen businesses setting up booths, including Brasstown Valley Resort, North Georgia Tech, and Mary Ann's Country Kitchen.

In addition, there were

See Fairs, page 3

## Two motorcycle accidents, one fatality

By David Seckinger  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Two separate accidents involving motorcycles on April 28 leave one man dead.

The first incident happened around 1 p.m. when Rabun County resident Nancy Rawlins Tobias was making a left hand turn onto Highway 180 from Highway 75 north in her 2006 Toyota Tacoma.

While making the turn, Rawlins failed to yield to Hall County resident James Gregory Beaman, who was traveling south on Highway 75 on a 2006 Honda ST1300

motorcycle. There was a head on collision when the motorcycle struck the right front of the car.

Tobias has been charged with failure to yield and second-degree vehicular homicide. The Georgia State Patrol is conducting a supplemental investigation.

Later on Tuesday, around 3:30 p.m., Union County resident Jimmy Reece and passenger Margaret Bolen on a Harley Davidson motorcycle rear-ended Towns County resident Johnnie Ash in a Ford Edge while traveling on Highway 76. Ash was making a left hand turn onto

Waldroup Road, and Reece was unable to slow down in time before hitting the vehicle and skidding 108 feet.

Reece was charged with following too closely. Both Reece and Bolen were taken to the hospital for their injuries.

"As the weather gets nicer, we're likely to see more motorcycles and scooters on the roadway," said GSP Corporal Jonathan Barrett. "But as motorcyclists become more numerous, so do crashes, sometimes involving fatalities. We all need to do our part to make our roads safer for everyone."

## Towns Promotion Rally benefits business

By David Seckinger  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

The Towns County Promotion Rally last Monday brought in numerous businesses and civic organizations coming together to help improve tourism.

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds general manager Hilda Thomason said 150 people committed to attend the rally, and they expected even more to show up.

Thomason had some good news at the rally. The upcoming Percy Sledge concert tickets are selling well, and many people are coming to the concert who have not visited Towns County before.

Speakers at the rally included Cindy Bradshaw with the GMF Junior Board



This bevy of beauties attended the Towns County Promotion Rally (L to R) Hayley Burch, Katie Polstra, Cheryl Barrett, Mickey Shearouse, Hilda Thomason and Kaylyn Hopper.

of Directors, Elois Anderson with the Bank of Hiwassee, Carmolita Haney with the NE Georgia Board of Realtors, Amber Allen with the Holiday Inn, Jack Parrish

with Lake Chatuge Rotary Club, and Sonny Mahan with Blue Ridge Mountain EMC.

See Rally, page 3

## High schoolers celebrate prom New Orleans style



The Towns County High School junior and senior class of 2009 attended this year's prom last Saturday night, May 2, at the North Georgia Tech campus in Blairsville.

The theme of the prom was Midnight Masquerade (based on Mardi Gras). The prom colors were green, purple, and gold, but the students were not required to wear masks.

Best dancers were Ben Hogsed and Nicole Mason. Best dressed were John Bleckley and Holly Meyer. Cutest were Kaleb Garrett and Heather Poole. King and queen were Josh Gilliland and Ember Zimmerman. Photos by Lowell Nicholson



## Two arrested in shooting

Special to the Herald

Two Towns County deputies along with two officers from Young Harris College Police Department responded to a 911 call from a Young Harris residence in reference to a gunshot victim.

After law enforcement arrived, multiple shots were fired resulting in a police vehicle being struck, as well as a pickup truck being driven by the brother of the gunshot victim. A YHCPD officer was sent to the emergency room for a minor injury and

is recovering at home. The gunshot victim was shot prior to law enforcement's arrival.

Two men were arrested and are currently charged with obstruction of law enforcement officers.

At the request of Sheriff Clinton, the Georgia Bureau of Investigations is currently investigating the case. When the investigation is complete, further information will be released.

On May 5, GBI Special Agent in Charge Mike Ayers said the mater is still under investigation.

## T.C. Herald launches new website

Visit us today online at [www.TownsCountyHerald.net](http://www.TownsCountyHerald.net).

By Janice Boling  
NORTH GEORGIA NEWS

The Towns County Herald's brand new website is now online. The latest local news is at your fingertips. All you need is an internet connection. Visit our new website today at [www.TownsCountyHerald.net](http://www.TownsCountyHerald.net).

Front page stories, sports pages, opinion editorial pages, and photos are posted online every week.

Many other features are in the planning stages and will be available soon.

Take advantage of special online advertising rates! Your business can be the first thing people see when they visit Towns County Herald.net. A limited number of large rotating banner ads and smaller stationary ad spaces are available. Call today for more information (706) 896-4454.

## State Board approves stimulus funds to Towns County School

By Carl Vanzura  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

The State Board of Education approved the allocation of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) — or "stimulus" — funds to local school districts. The board approved the allocation of funds that go to the education of Students with Disabilities (IDEA) and economically-disadvantaged students (Title I).

Once districts have submitted budgets, they can begin spending the first half of these funds, with the remaining funds scheduled to be available in the

fall. Under ARRA, Georgia school districts will get a total of about \$351 million in additional Title I funds and \$314 million in additional IDEA funds.

In addition to the Title I and IDEA funds, ARRA is expected to provide Georgia schools with other funding. Estimated funding includes - More than \$22 million in Education Technology State Grants - More than \$10 million in IDEA grants for pre-school students - About \$900 million in "fiscal stabilization" funds that the Governor can use for K-12 education.

See Stimulus, page 3

## Poole to compete for Adeline Idol

Special to the Herald

Heather Poole, a Junior at Towns County High School and a member of the TC chorus, will be one of three contestants for the title of "Adeline Idol" at Smokie Mountain Melodies' annual show Saturday, May 16. The show, Front Row Center '09, will be held at the Performing Arts Center, Fannin County High School, in Blue Ridge. Curtain goes up at 7 p.m.

Each area high school was invited to send an outstanding singer to Smokie Mountain Melodies to audition. Heather was selected as a finalist, along with students from Union Co. High School and Murphy High School. The three finalists will perform on the show, with the winner and runners up to be selected by audience vote. The award for first place is \$500, with \$300 going to the second place winner and \$200 to third place.

Heather is the daughter of Millie and Leonard



Poole of Young Harris. She enjoys singing classic rock and country music, and is a regular performer at the Young Harris Mountain Home Music Hall.

Tickets to the show are \$15 for adults, and \$8 for students. Tickets for groups of 12 or more are \$12 each. Tickets ordered online are \$16. Call Gail McGuire at (706) 781-6134 for details.



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