

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County  
Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

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Thursday, May 14, 2009

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: T-Storms 77 56  
Fri: T-Storms 79 58  
Sat: T-Storms 77 57  
Sun: Sunny 73 51  
Mon: Cloudy 73 48  
Tue: Cloudy 74 50  
Wed: Cloudy 74 52



Upstream Elevation Predicted 5/11/09  
Lake Chatuge 1925.50  
Lake Nottely 1774.14  
Blue Ridge 1688.37

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## Yard Sale

The Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary will have a yard sale on May 30 in Eller's Tire parking lot from 8am until noon. If you have items you would like to donate, call Joan Abrams at 706-896-6178.

## Memorial Day

The Towns County veterans organizations will conduct their annual Memorial Day Service at Towns County Veterans Park in front of Towns County Schools at 12 noon on Monday, May 25, 2009. All interested patriots are cordially invited to attend.

## Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will have a free food distribution Tuesday May 19 at the food pantry 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 food to be delivered. As always all clients and inquiries are confidential.

## OES Yard Sale

The Order of the Eastern Star is having it's Annual Fundraising Yard Sale on May 23 in front of Mr. Eller's Tire Store. If you have donations of used treasures or money to contribute, we will be happy to come by your home and pick up items. Contact Brittany Pack, 706-897-1725, Shirley Stallings, 706-896-7943, Ina Kozesky, 706-896-2995 or Frances Shook, 706-896-2647 to arrange a pickup.

## Correction

An article on May 7 about a motorcycle fatality had incorrect information. The accident occurred on April 28 at Highway 75 and Highway 180.

## Phillips: 'we need to make Lowe's happen'

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD  
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

Towns County Industrial Development Authority Chairman Morris Phillips is adamant about the importance of Lowe's in Towns County.

"Our job as an authority is to bring jobs to Towns County," Phillips said. "Lowe's means jobs - 75 permanent and countless part-time jobs. We've got to find a way to make this happen."

Making it happen means finding 1,100 gallons a day in sewer by June 1. That's the amount Lowe's will need to operate its

96,000 square foot facility on 16 acres on Georgia 76 near the Junction. The retail giant has a June 1 deadline for finding enough sewer capacity to build in Towns County.

The question of where that sewer service comes from was the subject of Monday's conversation between authority members, Commissioner Bill Kendall and City Manager Rick Stancil.

The group met in the Grand Jury Room of the Towns County Courthouse.

Phillips has negotiated with business owners within the authority's Industrial Park. Terry Stroud, owner of Southern Pipeline, has told

Phillips that he's willing to help. Other business owners have as well.

The real question at hand is how much sewer capacity is available within the Industrial Park. The design flow for the park is 3,750 gallons per day with a peak of 11,258 gallons per day. The city must determine how much of that capacity is already being used by the park's current tenants.

Stancil told authority members that he will have to compare numbers and determine exactly how much capacity is available. The city itself has 50,000 gallons a day in reserve

See Lowe's, page 14

## Superior Court Clerk Cecil Dye deems WSB report unprofessional

By Carl Vanzura  
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

"What WSB TV did Thursday on the news was so unprofessional, I couldn't believe it," said the Clerk of Towns County Superior Court Cecil Dye. "If they felt they had a story to do, they should do it, but to go to Jack Dayton's grave and show his grave marker and try to desecrate his name and legacy of all he did for Towns County was a shame. Commissioner Dayton was an honorable man who ran this county without having to raise taxes and kept them among the lowest in the state. Look at some of the things he ac-



Dye

complished, a new health department, a new 911 center, a new recreation department, a new transfer station, a new EMT building, a new jail and several new fire sta-

See Dye, page 3

## Hiawassee and TCWSA seek to resolve differences



Hiawassee City Council looks over sewer upgrade plans.

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

The City of Hiawassee and the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority have moved another step closer to resolving differences between the two entities.

City Manager Rick Stancil informed Hiawassee City Council members that he had a positive conversation with Authority Chairman Gene Mitchell regarding payment for water filter repairs. Mitchell told Stancil that the

authority would like to resolve the matter as soon as possible.

The city had invoiced the Authority regarding payment for the costly water filter repairs. Stancil informed council members that the authority had some concerns about the invoice:

- Employee Overtime: The authority's engineer believes that the city has included a duplicate overtime invoice. Stancil will review the matter.

- The authority has offered to pay 45 percent of the costs per the current contract. The city billed the authority at 40 percent of the original contract amount. Stancil will review the matter.

- The authority has requested that the city use a \$20,000 emergency allocation.

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## Young Harris solicits bids for Meter Reading system



City attorney Cary Cox and councilman Matt Miller.

By Carl Vanzura  
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

The Young Harris City Council met Tuesday, May 5, 2009 for their Regular Meeting. Those present for the meeting were the Mayor, Andrea Gibby; City Council Members: Matthew Miller, Terry Ingram, Jennifer

Mulkey, David Sellers, John Kelley and Donald Keys; the City Attorney, Cary Cox; the City Employees: Gary Willer, Ken Hapner and Shirley Jarrard; City Engineer: Chris Poje; Young Harris College Representatives: Cathy Cox, President, and Jennifer McAfee and David

Seckinger with the Towns County Herald.

Attorney Cox had solicited bids from local banks to finance the \$282,000 for the Automatic Meter Reading system. At the April 7, 2009 meeting a motion was made by John Kelley to accept a fixed 10 year rate from United Community Bank in the amount of 4.53; seconded by David Sellers; four in favor, Matt Miller abstained; Jennifer Mulkey voted no. Matt Miller reported to the mayor and council that if they went with a Lease, Purchase agreement instead of a Tax Free Loan, they would save approximately \$10,000. Attorney Cox said in order to do this the project would have to be rebid. A motion

See YHCC, page 14

## Middle school students visit Herald for Career Day

By David Seckinger  
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

On May 5, three students from the Towns County Middle School visited the Towns County Herald office as part of a career day program, where these students visit one workplace a week.

Eighth grader Kendra Rodriguez said she is good at keyboarding and likes to

read. Rodriguez said she may clean homes as a career after graduation, and this summer she plans on seeing her family.

Seventh grader Michael Martin said he likes to play soccer, and his favorite video game is Halo 3. Martin said he visited Scotland once, and it was cold. He does not know what he wants to do after graduation.

Eighth grader Sonny

Goodman participated on the middle school wrestling team, and he has a horse named Jack. Goodman said he likes Spiderman, musicians Trace Adkins and Toby Keith, and the movie High School Musical.

Their teacher, Dianne Nelson, said the students are part of the Georgia Alternate Assessment Pro-

See Career, page 3



Middle school students (starting 3rd from left) Michael Martin, Kendra Rodriguez, and Sonny Goodman visited the Towns County Herald office for Career Day. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

## Young Harris shooting still under investigation by GBI

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation probe of a recent shooting in Young Harris could be completed within 30 days, GBI Special Agent in Charge Mike Ayers said Tuesday.

Evidence, including ballistics to determine own-

ership of bullets, is still being processed at the state crime laboratory, Ayers said.

"Once all the evidence is in, that information will be forwarded to District Attorney Stan Gunter and he'll be responsible for where this case goes from here," Ayers said.

See Shooting, page 15

## Mercy, Percy, don't let it rain!



Promoter Mike Blackwell, Fairgrounds GM Hilda Thomason, and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Percy Sledge

By David Seckinger  
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

Towns County had another bustling weekend as the 4th annual Arts & Heritage Festival and the Percy Sledge concert took place last Saturday.

Much of this year's Heritage Fest was held inside the courthouse because of cloudy skies and recent storms. Towns County Historical Society vice president Polly Simpson said the skies were also cloudy last year but rain never developed, and she said the clouds kept the temperatures cool.

A good shower quickly passed in the early afternoon, but the sun came out afterwards, and the rain didn't seem to dampen the spirits or affect the attendance of the festival.

The Heritage Fest included square dancing, antique cars, storytelling by Jerry Taylor and Bruce Sims, and music by local bluegrass band The Parker Brothers.

In addition, there were 22 vendors selling arts, crafts, and food. The courthouse sheltered vendors such as soap maker Chanel Cordell, woodcarver Lynn Richardson, seamstress Geneva Dills, sculptor and

See Sledge, page 2

## Clay-Towns authority to disband

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall is poised to follow suit with the Clay County, NC Commission and dissolve the Clay-Towns Development Authority.

The controversial authority, which recently returned all Towns County property to the Towns County Industrial Development Authority, was dissolved by members of the Clay County Board of Commissioners.

David Shook, a member of the Towns County Industrial Development Authority and the Clay-Towns Authority, made the announcement on Monday during a Towns Development Authority meeting in the Grand Jury Room at the Towns County Courthouse. Shook told Towns Au-

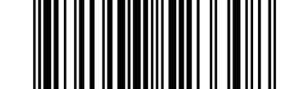
thority members that Kendall is likely to follow suit and disband the Towns County members of the Clay-Towns Authority.

The property that once made up Clay-Towns Authority is now in the hands of the Towns County Industrial Development Authority following a vote in March by the joint Clay-Towns Authority.

Commissioner Kendall recently negotiated a waiver of a \$40,000 fine imposed on the Clay-Towns Authority by the state Environmental Protection Division. The fine was passed

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