

Towns County Herald

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Thursday, June 4, 2009

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: T-Storms	74	59
Fri: T-Storms	74	56
Sat: Cloudy	81	60
Sun: Cloudy	84	62
Mon: Cloudy	82	61
Tue: T-Storms	81	61
Wed: Showers	80	60



Upstream	Elevation Predicted	6/01/09
Lake Chatuge	1926.77	
Lake Nottely	1776.59	
Blue Ridge	1687.44	

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Bark in Park

Dogs and cats will be available for adoption at the Bark in the Park on Saturday, June 6 on the Square in Hiwassee. Sponsored by Castaway Critters, for more info, call 706-896-6327.



Yard Sale

The Towns County Food Pantry will be having a huge yard sale June 5 and 6, 8am-3pm. Rain or shine. The yard sale will be held at the food pantry located at 1294 Jack Dayton Circle. All proceeds will benefit the Towns County Food Pantry. For more info, call 706-896-4783.



Youth Football

Registration for Towns County Youth Football will be held on June 6, June 13, June 20, June 27 and July 11 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the High School Football Field. The cost of registration is \$60. Call Jimmy Smith at 706-896-2622 or 706-835-6176.

For more info on the program, see this week's sports section.



Bluegrass

Saturday, June 6 from 5:30-7:30 pm on the Hiwassee Town Square, Cindy Musselwhite and friends, Tony Duck and Jason Michael will perform songs of their bluegrass heroes, as well as their own original material. Call 706-896-4988 after 4 pm to see if weather conditions have cancelled the show.



Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will have a free food distribution for Towns County residents on Tuesday, June 9 from 2-6pm. Those that are in need are encouraged to come. If you are unable to pick up your food, please call us at 706-896-4783, prior to distribution day, so arrangements can be for food to be delivered to you.

Chili Cook-off catches fire

By David Seckinger
TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD

The Towns County Fire Corps held its first Fire in the Mountains Chili Cook-off last Saturday in the Hiwassee Square. Fire Corps Secretary Joan Crothers said they had 28 chili cookers participating in the event.

First place winner Santa's Coolest Chili, Tammy Hollingshead won \$300; second place winner King Black Bear took home \$200, and the Towns County Lions Club won \$100 for third place. In addition, Century 21's "Fire Alarm Chili" was awarded Best Booth and the People's Choice award.

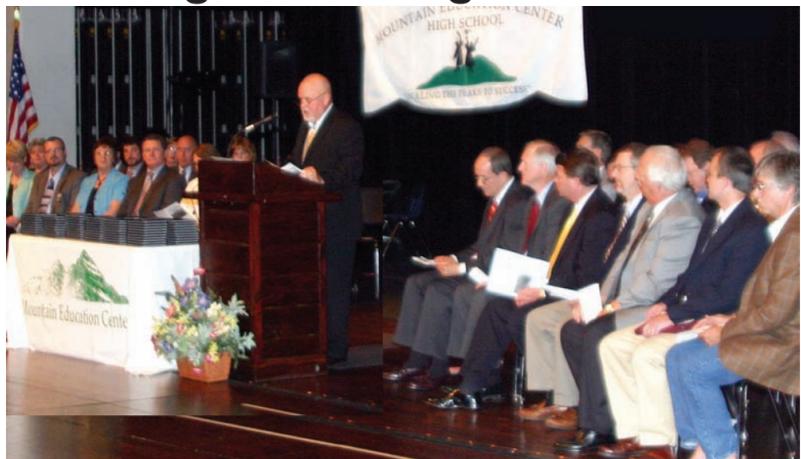
Crothers said the Fire Corps exceeded their goal of \$5000, which will help the Towns County Fire Department buy equipment, oxygen tanks, dress out gear, and supplies.

See Chili, page 3



Century 21's "Fire Alarm Chili" was awarded Best Booth and the People's Choice award. Photo by David Seckinger

MEC High School graduates 241



MEC Superintendent and Principal Mitchel Barrett speaks at the MEC graduation Norman Cooper/NGN

By Norman Cooper
North Georgia News Editor

Mountain Education Center High School celebrated the graduation of 241 students. The school and number of graduates has grown so large, there are three graduation ceremonies.

The ceremony in Fannin County last week had 117 students from Union County, Towns County, and other counties.

Sara Bottinelli of Union County is the Valedictorian of Mountain Education Center High School. She had been a home school student, joined MEC and is graduating a year earlier than expected.

Graduates are finishing high school and starting a new journey in their lives, Sara said. "You can take it all in and be proud of See MEC, page 5

Culinary Arts are thriving in Northeast Georgia

By Charles Duncan
TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD
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BLAIRSVILLE — Dana Chastain's career as a real estate agent spiraled downward almost as fast as General Motors and Chrysler.

The 32-year-old from Mineral Bluff had to reinvent herself as the region's housing industry hit rock bottom. Northeast Georgia had experienced more than its share of economic recession; the house market was flatter than a pancake.

Chastain always liked to cook and discovered that she was skilled in the kitchen.

"I've always liked to cook, I've been cooking since I was 8 years old," Chastain said. "Everybody used to call me Betty Crocker."

It wasn't long before she made her way to North



Culinary art students take a break last week at North Georgia Technical College. Photo by Charles Duncan

Georgia Technical College's Blairsville campus.

"I was driving by going to show property in Blairsville and I came back through and I saw a sign: 'Now taking new students in Culinary Arts.' So I stopped in and applied."

The rest is history as Chastain has charted a new course to a new career in Culinary Arts.

Nestled among the hardwoods along Georgia

515, the Blairsville campus is rapidly emerging as the place to go to experience life in a professional kitchen.

The brainchild of retired U.S. Sen. Zell Miller, the school's Culinary Arts program is flourishing in the midst of the greatest economic downturn in U.S. History.

Led by Chef David Drake, the Blairsville cam-

See Chef, page 3

Basketball team comes clean for summer camp

By David Seckinger
TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD

Players from the Towns County High School Girl's Basketball Team participated in a fundraising carwash last Saturday to help them pay for basketball camp this summer.

Coach Jim Melton said the annual carwash will hopefully raise a couple thousand dollars, and the Lady Indians will visit camps this summer at Clemson, University of Georgia, Union County and Pickens County.

Hayesville resident Debbie Graham said she was there to get a carwash and a lunch. She said she was glad to be there because her car was really dirty.

"Sonya Nicholson sold me a ticket and said it would be a worthy cause and I agree," said Graham.

Freshmen and seniors sported hoses and sponges,

towels and brushes. They could not have asked for more beautiful weather as they cleaned up Chevrolets

See Carwash, page 5



Members of the TCHS Girls Basketball Team participated in the annual carwash. Photo by David Seckinger

Middle School Honor's Day



Towns County Middle School students Duane Stamps was chosen this year's Best All Around winner while Adam Cox received a Computation Award in Math. Look inside this week's Towns County Herald to see the other Honor's Day recipients. Photos by Lowell Nicholson

Turner plays Fairgrounds

By David Seckinger
TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds general manager Hilda Thomason said the Anderson Music Hall fell short 100 tickets of having a sold out show.

No joshing! Josh Turner performed last Saturday night at the Fairgrounds, which included a beautiful stage show.

Thomason said some of the band got to enjoy golf and fishing in Towns County before the concert.

The Fairground's next show will be a musical on the life of Conway Twitty on June 27.

And contemporary Christian performer Sandy Patti will perform a Christ-

mas concert during Thanksgiving weekend on Nov. 28.



Josh Turner played for a packed house on Saturday. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Hiwassee City Council weighs Lowe's proposal

By Charles Duncan
TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD
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Mayor Barbara Mathis was expected to recommend that the city of Hiwassee grant the necessary sewer capacity to Lowe's Home Improvement Store this week.

The Tuesday agenda for the Hiwassee City Council shows that a resolution would be presented before the council to approve necessary sewer capacity for the Lowe's project.

Mayor Mathis recently said she would ask the Hiwassee City Council to approve the necessary sewer allocation for Lowe's from the city's available reserves.

Bottom line: Mathis said her goal was to assure that the 75 permanent jobs and countless part-time jobs offered by Lowe's come to fruition in Towns County.

"I strongly believe that utilizing city reserves to bring jobs to Towns County is appropriate for the short term and for this project," Mathis said. "Alternatives such as taking sewer from existing businesses or removing public facilities from existing sewer services are not permanent solutions."

Local officials have been working long hours trying to find a way to provide 1,100 gallons a day in sewer to Lowe's. That's the amount the retail giant needs

See Lowe's, page 5

Additional graduating seniors

When the Towns County Herald ran its high school graduation section on May 21, we accidentally left out three graduates from the class of 2009.

The Herald would like to apologize for the honest error and run their pictures now. As the old saying goes, better late than never.

We wish these graduates the best in all of their future endeavors. In addition, we would once again like to congratulate all of this year's graduating seniors.



Ashley Senecal



Kaylor Kard



Heather Branch

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



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