

# Towns County Herald

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Thursday, June 18, 2009

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: T-Storms	87	66
Fri: Cloudy	91	66
Sat: Cloudy	87	61
Sun: Sunny	86	62
Mon: Cloudy	83	63
Tue: T-Storms	82	62
Wed: Sunny	84	62



Upstream Elevation Predicted 6/15/09	
Lake Chatuge	1925.64
Lake Nottely	1776.80
Blue Ridge	1686.76

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## Food Distribution

There will be a surplus food distribution at the Ninth District Opportunity, Inc at 1294 Jack Dayton Circle Young Harris Georgia on June 23 starting at 2 p.m. See inside this week's Herald for more details.

## TCHA meeting

You're invited to the annual meeting for the Towns County Homeowners Association on Thursday, June 18, 7 p.m. at the Senior Center in Hiwassee. Speakers will be Commissioner Bill Kendall and BRMEMC Manager Joe Satterfield. Officers will also be elected.

## Square Dance

Join us every Monday at 7pm at the Senior Center in Hiwassee for free square dance and clogging practice. This is not Western Square Dance rather the old traditional calls our great grandpa's and ma's used in our Appalachian Smokey Mountains sometimes called Big Circle. Sponsored by Towns County Historical Society, 706-896-1060, info@townshistory.org

## July 4th BBQ

Boston Butts are back, for the Station 2 Fire Department's annual 4th of July Barbecue. BBQ plates are \$5, Boston Butts are \$30, and our special sauce is \$5. Pre order your butt at station 2 in Young Harris by calling 706-379-3060. Leave name, telephone number and number of butt's. Pick up is on Saturday the 4th between 10 am and 1pm. All proceeds go toward fire fighting equipment for Towns County Station 2 in Young Harris.

## Humane Society meeting

The Humane Society Mountain Shelter annual board meeting will be held June 25 at 6:30 pm at the Blairsville Civic Center.

## Young Harris shooting incident nears conclusion

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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The Georgia Bureau of Investigation probe of a recent shooting in Young Harris is nearing completion,



Sheriff Chris Clinton

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton said.

"We're waiting on word from District Attorney Stan Gunter and the final investigation results from the GBI investigation," Clinton said. "When the time is right, we'll make a statement that brings all the factors in this case to light.

"Right now, it's still under investigation by another agency and out of our hands," Sheriff Clinton said. "Anytime one of our officers is involved in a shooting, the GBI will be investigating those circumstances."

Evidence, including ballistics to determine ownership of bullets, is still being

processed at the state crime laboratory, GBI Special Agent Mike Ayers said. "(Enotah Circuit) District Attorney Stan Gunter will be responsible for where this case goes from here," Ayers said.

Two Towns County sheriff's deputies were placed on administrative leave because of their involvement in the shooting incident, according to Sheriff Clinton.

The shooting incident, which also involved two Young Harris College Campus Police, happened after Towns County deputies re-

See Shooting, page 2A

## Lake Chatuge claims toddler's life

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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Tragedy touched a Towns County family Saturday evening in the Sunnyside Estates community off Georgia Highway 288.

And Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton says the innocence of youth is the most likely factor leading to the accidental drowning of a 3-year-old child in Lake Chatuge.

"This truly is a tragic situation," Sheriff Clinton said. "Anytime a child dies, it's always a tragedy. It's not supposed to happen to our babies.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of this young child," he said. "Telling a family that one of

their babies has died is the toughest job in law enforcement."

The child, whose name has not yet been released by local authorities, was reported drowned at 8:44 p.m. on Saturday, Towns County sheriff's Lt. Mike Davis said.

"She was found in the water around 8:43 or 8:44 p.m.," Lt. Davis said. "I've worked many death-related incidents in my career, but when it comes to kids, it's always a personal heart-breaker."

The child was in the yard at her family's home playing with a Spiderman ball, a favorite toy of the family dog, Lt. Davis said.

"She wound up on some property across the

street from her home," Lt. Davis said. "It was a vacant home, lakeside property.

"The ball went into the lake and she went in after it," he said. "That's what it looks like happened. The ball was in the lake also. It was just a little Spiderman ball about six or seven inches wide."

The events that led up to the eventual drowning of the child remain under investigation by sheriff's investigators, Sheriff Clinton said.

"The investigation is standard procedure required by the state," Sheriff Clinton said. "From what we can tell, everything involved with this incident appears to be purely accidental."

See Chatuge, page 2A

## Sewer summit scheduled at City Hall

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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Local leaders hope that a summit at City Hall on June 26 will bring a resolve to the service delivery strategy among local government.

The meeting scheduled for Friday, June 26 at 2 p.m. at City Hall, brings representatives of local governments and authorities together to discuss the future growth of Towns County and its municipalities.

The key topic of discussion continues to revolve around water issues and future sewer capacity, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said.

"The county hosted a similar meeting recently and nothing seemed to happen,"

Kendall said. "I told Barbara (Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis) that she could host the next one."

Commissioner Kendall said it is imperative that the county, the cities of Hiwassee and Young Harris and the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority develop a long-range service delivery strategy plan to provide water and sewage for the next decade.

"The county, the cities of Hiwassee and Young Harris and the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority are going to have to sit down and develop a long-term service delivery strategy to avoid water and sewer issues in the future," Kendall said.



City Manager Rick Stancil

The service delivery summit comes on the heels of strong words during a recent Hiwassee City Council meeting. City Manager Rick Stancil told the council that the city has had no action

See Sewer, page 2A

## Bald Mountain Park forms Neighborhood Watch

By David Seckinger  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

The Bald Mountain Park Neighborhood Association included a Neighborhood Watch presentation during their regular monthly meeting last Saturday. The interest in a Neighborhood Watch came after months of burglaries in the area.

Association president Jim Shute said the association was planning to begin a watch a year ago when there was a rash of burglaries in the county. However, after the capture of the burglars, the association members lost interest in a Neighborhood Watch. Shute said he hopes the same thing does not happen this time.



Donaldson speaks to the BMPNA about Neighborhood Watch.

Towns County Sheriff's Office investigator Brian Wilson spoke to Bald Mountain Park residents earlier this month, which led to the arrest of one juvenile and a warrant for the arrest of Christopher Blake Carroll in connection with the burglaries.

Neighborhood association vice president Steve Manning said the burglaries happened north of the Jones Gap and Quinn Cove intersection to summer homes that had been abandoned during the off season.

About 70 people attended the meeting last Saturday, which Manning called a normal sized crowd for their monthly meetings.

TCSO lieutenant Curt Donaldson spoke to the mostly elderly crowd about beginning a Neighborhood Watch in Bald Mountain

See Watch, page 2A

## Traffic stop leads to record drug bust

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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Towns County sheriff's deputies and investigators continue to turn up the heat on suspected drug dealers.

Sheriff Chris Clinton's work force has registered yet another drug bust in a record-breaking year for local drug arrests.

A routine traffic stop by Towns County sheriff's Deputy Mark Marshall has led to multiple drug-related charges for a Texas woman, Sheriff Clinton said on Monday.

Deputy Marshall stopped Billie Regina Jay of Willis Point, Texas on Sunday on Hog Creek Road during a routine traffic stop as she drove her 1996 Cadillac Deville, Sheriff Clinton said.

Following a search of the vehicle, the stop resulted in multiple alleged violations of the Georgia Controlled Substance Act in addition to the traffic violation, Sheriff Clinton said.

Deputy Marshall was

assisted during the traffic stop by an Appalachian Drug Task Force agent as law enforcement during the search of the vehicle driven by Jay, Sheriff Clinton said.

The search yielded more than a pound of suspected marijuana, oxycodone pills and \$3,160 in cash, Sheriff Clinton said.

The arrest brings the 2009 total of local drug busts to more than 230, Sheriff Clinton said. The total number of drug arrests for 2009 is unprecedented beyond any previous year on record in Towns County, the sheriff said.

"We've been busy," the sheriff said.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office also has filed the proper paper work to seize the 1996 Cadillac Deville driven by Jay, which was used to transport the suspected illegal drugs, Sheriff Clinton said.

"As drug arrests go up, crime goes down," Sheriff Clinton said.

See Drug, page 2A

## Gold Wing Riders tour Towns



About 800 bikers got their motors running last weekend in Hiwassee as the Gold Wing Road Riders held a rally at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Georgia district director Bill Livingston said the Riders met for rallies in the area for nine years, but they left for the last four years. "Now we are back again," he said.

Riders have come from as far as Illinois and Connecticut to camp at the fairgrounds and fill up the hotels. Livingston claimed you couldn't find a vacant hotel room in 30 miles. "Our members love this area," he said. "It is obvious by the turnout we had for the event."

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

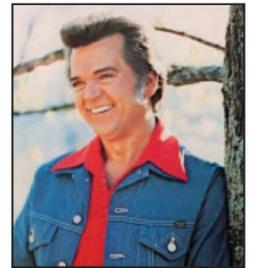
## Twitty musical coming to Towns

Special to the Herald

A musical on the life of Conway Twitty will be performed on June 27 at the Georgia Mountain Fair's Anderson Music Hall.

"Conway Twitty, The Man, The Music, The Legend, The Musical." - It is so much more than a tribute show to American Music Icon Conway Twitty, whose untimely death in 1993 left a void in the world of Country Music. The Musical is Conway Twitty's story told through the eyes and heart of his children. It is a loving musical scrapbook of memories that is honest, touching, funny, heartbreaking and sincere. This production will be a musical journey of his heart, from humble beginnings to Rock and Roll Idol and all the way to a pure Country Legend.

"Conway Twitty, The Man, The Music, The Legend, The Musical." will be touring across the country making stops at venues of all sizes, including Performing Arts Centers, state fairs, and theaters. "I am thrilled to be associated with an Icon in the entertainment world like Conway Twitty and this exceptional never seen or heard new Musical. I had the pleasure of knowing Conway and working with him on certain projects in the past, and it is a true honor to be working with his family along with Scott



The late Conway Twitty

Welch and Randy Johnson," says agent Tony Conway. "The Musical is an entertainment event comparable only to Conway's extraordinary live performances.

Conway Twitty was an American Icon. He was a rock star, a country music legend and a loving father of four. Conway Twitty's career began in Rock and Roll and landed squarely in the heart of America as the leading Country performer of his time with an all time record of 55 number one hits.

For information or tickets call The Georgia Mountain Fair in Hiwassee, Ga (706) 896-4191 or online at GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com. Tickets are \$25 + \$2 handling and \$15 + \$2 handling.

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