

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Sunny	81	57
Fri: Sunny	82	57
Sat: Sunny	83	60
Sun: Sunny	84	62
Mon: Clouds	85	63
Tue: Clouds	85	64
Wed: Clouds	85	66



Upstream Elevation
Predicted
6/30/10
Lake Chatuge 1924.90
Lake Nottely 1775.70
Blue Ridge 1685.80

INDEX

3 sections, 22 Pages

Arrests.....	2A
Church/Obits.....	2,3C
Classifieds.....	2B
Editorial.....	4A
Calendar.....	4A
Legals.....	3B
Sports.....	10A
Television	8A

Chamber Chronicles

Page 6A

Early Voting

Early voting continues this week for the July 20 Primary.

More than 200 locals have cast ballots during the early voting process.

To cast early ballots, go to the Board of Elections and Registration at 91 Berrong St. in Hiawassee, better known as the Old Rock Jail.

Opportunities to cast ballots are plentiful – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Tuesdays, ballots can be cast from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Towns County voters also can cast ballots on Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The last opportunity to vote on Saturday prior to the Primary is July 17, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The voting office will close at noon on Friday, July 2, and remain closed on Saturday, July 3 and Monday, July 5, in celebration of the Fourth of July holiday.



Qualifying

Qualifying for judgeships, Independents and non-partisan races continues through Friday at noon. Enotah Circuit Senior Superior Court Judge David Barrett qualified on Monday as did Enotah Circuit Superior Court Judge Lynn Alderman. She will face opposition as Dahlonega Attorney Ridge Rairigh qualified Tuesday to seek that Superior Court judgeship. Qualifying also includes nonpartisan races. In Towns County, three Board of Education seats are up: Chairman Michael Anderson; Vice Chair Emily Phillips and Bob Gibby. Candidates qualifying this week will be on the November General Election ballot. Check the Towns County Herald July 7th edition for a complete list of candidates qualifying this week.



Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will hold its free food distribution on Tuesday, July 6. The distribution will be held at the Towns County Food Pantry on Jack Dayton Circle from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more details call (706) 894-4783.

Community invited to park ceremony

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall welcomes county residents to join him in the closing ceremonies to purchase 50.3 acres for a new county park.

The event also is a celebration of the lives of Ralph and Johnnie Irene Foster, the namesakes of the new park.

Foster Memorial Park will be a lasting legacy to the Fosters, and their enduring community spirit.

The closing on the land at Mining Gap Trail begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Towns County Courthouse with a community celebration to follow at the Towns County Beach Recreation Area.

The festivities include free food and fun, Commissioner Kendall said.

"The Georgia Moun-

tain Fairgrounds are donating the hot dogs, Ingles of Hiawassee is donating the chips, hot dog buns and the fixings," Commissioner Kendall said. "The girls in the office will bring cole slaw and baked beans.

"We're real excited about this event," he said.

Also, the Towns County Fire Department will put on a water show at the event, Commissioner Kendall said.

The property, which comes from the Johnnie Irene Foster Charitable Trust, is on Mining Gap Trail. It will be used for recreational ball fields, hiking and walking trails and will be Towns County's version of Meeks Park in neighboring Union County.

The park will be named Foster Memorial Park in honor of its owners, Ralph and Johnnie Foster. Ralph Foster passed away shortly

after retiring from B.F. Goodrich in September 1980. Johnnie Foster passed away June 14, 2009.

"At my sister's passing in 2009, she had no idea what would become of the property," said Nancy Broshears, Johnnie Irene Foster's only sister.

In the spring, Jean Kendall, Commissioner Kendall's wife, approached Nancy Broshears about the property for Towns County to use as a park.

"I knew immediately that would have been what my sister would have wanted – something beneficial to many people for years to come as a memorial to her and her husband Ralph," Nancy Broshears said.

Commissioner Kendall said the purchase

See Park, page 3A



Ralph and Johnnie Irene Foster in the late 1970s at Woods Grove Baptist Church. The new Towns County Park will be named Foster Memorial Park in their honor.

Expect a Fourth of July blast



Locals can expect a busy beachfront this weekend as locals and tourists alike make way for the Towns County Recreation Beach area off Georgia 76 across from the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan
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The Fourth of July in Towns County is always a blast.

On Friday, the fun begins with a community celebra-

tion at the Towns County Courthouse at 11:30 a.m.

On Saturday, the Little Miss Recreation Pageant, for young ladies ages 2-6, is scheduled, followed later in the evening by the Ray Stevens Concert at Anderson Music Hall.

See Fourth, page 2A

Electric bills on the rise

By Charles Duncan
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According to BRMEMC, the increase is being implemented in an effort to ensure operational stability for the EMC as total kilowatt-per-hour sales have been on the decline as operational costs continue to increase.

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The continued economic malaise has prompted Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation to increase its customer rates effective Thursday, July 1.

The increase is across all customer categories and factored into both the customer charges in addition to kilowatt-per-hour sales.

For customers using a minimum of 500 kilowatts per month, the increase will take their electric bill from \$62.12 to \$68.69 per month. Customers using a minimum of 1,000 kilowatts per month will see their bills jump from \$114.93 to \$121.65 per month.

The more kilowatts used per month lessens the rate increase. A customer using a minimum of 1,500 kilowatts would see their bill increase from \$170.61 to \$174.63 per month.

See Electric Bills, page 5A

Towns tickles its taste buds

By Shawn Henrikson
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For the fifth consecutive year, Northeast Georgians got in touch with their taste buds at the Taste of the Southern Highlands.

Area restaurants came together once again at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds to provide delicious, unique dishes for event patrons to enjoy. Several of the chefs could be seen visiting other booths and trying each other's offerings.

Though thunder could be heard in the distance, the rain held off long enough to allow the annual party to go on as scheduled.

Amy Gibby Rosser, di-



The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds were covered in patrons testing the local food fare during the Fifth Annual Taste of the Southern Highlands last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

See Taste, page 3A

Butterworth, Clinton to speak to GOP faithful

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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District 50 State Sen. Jim Butterworth and Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton will be the guest speakers when the Towns County Republican Party holds its monthly meeting July 6 at Daniels Steakhouse in Hiawassee.

The meeting begins promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Sen. Butterworth will let locals know about the happenings under the Gold Dome as the 2010 General Assembly Session was a long and grueling affair.

Part of Sen. Butterworth's discussion likely will include his support for funding Georgia Bureau of Investigation crime laboratories in Moultrie and Columbus.

State lawmakers provided necessary appropriations for the labs in the FY 2011 budget, but Gov. Sonny Perdue vetoed the funding when he signed the final appropriations bill.

"Closing these labs would adversely affect thousands of people throughout Georgia, from law enforcement officers and the court system to crime victims and their families," said Sen. Butterworth. "These crime labs provide crucial services to law enforcement officials trying to quickly and efficiently solve crimes, ensuring justice is served and



State Sen. Jim Butterworth



Sheriff Chris Clinton

Georgians are safe."

Crime labs are run by the GBI. Laboratory scientists and technicians in specialized disciplines collect, analyze, and interpret all aspects of physical evidence for officers, investigators, and district attorneys throughout the state. The analysts employ the most recent scientific technologies. Statewide availability of laboratory services are

See GOP Meeting, page 3A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



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Jasmine Forrester and the Towns County Lady Indians are selling doughnuts this weekend to pay their way to a state softball tournament. Photo/Charles Duncan