

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Thursday, July 9, 2009

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: T-Storms	84	61
Fri: Sunny	86	62
Sat: Cloudy	88	64
Sun: Cloudy	88	65
Mon: T-Storms	86	64
Tue: T-Storms	86	65
Wed: Sunny	88	67



Upstream Elevation Predicted 7/06/09	
Lake Chatuge	1924.95
Lake Nottely	1775.68
Blue Ridge	1686.00

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Mt. Zion Food Drive

The monthly mobile food distribution for families in need will be held at No. Mt. Zion Church of God on Friday, July 10 from 10 am to noon. This outdoor food distribution will be held in the rear parking lot of No. Mt. Zion Church of God on Scataway, rain or shine.

Surplus Foods Distribution

Ninth District Opportunity, Inc., in cooperation with local volunteers, will be hosting a Surplus Food Distribution at the Ninth District Opportunity, Inc at 1294 Jack Dayton Circle Young Harris Georgia on July 15 starting at 9 am until supplies are exhausted.

Old Fashioned Square Dance

Join us each Monday at the Senior Center in Hiwassee, 48 River St. for free Old Fashioned Square Dance lessons. Help us revive this lost art, come once or every lesson. Sponsored by the Towns County Historical Society, PO Box 1182, Hiwassee, GA 706-896-1060, info@townshistory.org

Fashion Show and Luncheon

Tickets for the July 25th St. Francis of Assisi Women's Guild Fashion Show and Luncheon are going fast! Please call 706-745-6400, or stop by the church office located on 2839 Young Harris Highway. Mrs. Rita Casey, 706-781-6636, also has tickets available. Tickets are \$15.

Food Pantry

There will be a free food distribution at Towns County Food Pantry Wednesday, July 15 from 9am to noon. It will be held at the food pantry located at 1294 Jack Dayton Circle. If you are unable to pick up your food, please contact the pantry at 706-896-4783, prior to distribution day. All inquiries and clients are confidential.

Sheriff dismisses two deputies

D.A. Gunter nears completion of shooting probe

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton has dismissed two sheriff's deputies involved in an early morning April 30th shooting incident in Young Harris.

Sheriff Clinton said that deputies Aaron Beavers and Tracy Simmons violated Towns County Sheriff's Office policy when they used excessive force to try and stop a pickup truck from transporting a wounded and bleeding Trevor Shook from his family's residence.

Reportedly, Trevor Shook had been accidentally shot in the early morning hours of April 30th according to a call to Towns County 911.

According to Sheriff Clinton, the two deputies are blameworthy of not using common sense upon their arrival as the incident continued to unfold.

Reportedly, the deputies used deadly force as they tried to shoot out the tires of the pickup truck as it transported Trevor Shook from his home in the early morning hours of April 30th.

The only time an officer uses deadly or excessive force is in the attempt to preserve human life, Sheriff Clinton said.

That wasn't the case on April 30th and the two deputies were dismissed for violating departmental policy regarding the use of deadly force, the sheriff said.

Meanwhile, Enotah

Circuit District Attorney Stan Gunter says that he is nearing completion of the shooting probe that cost the deputies their jobs.

"I haven't reached a final decision," Gunter said. "I still have one question where the deputies are concerned. Their dismissal from the Sheriff's Office was strictly up to Sheriff Clinton."

Georgia Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge Mike Ayers said that the GBI turned over its forensic investigation of the shooting to Gunter approximately two weeks ago.

"(Enotah Circuit) District Attorney Stan Gunter

See Shooting, page 7

Thank Heaven for little girls



The Towns County Recreation Department held its annual Little Miss Recreation pageant at the ball fields last Friday. Pictured (left to right) are the winner Carley Grace Nicholson, Kelly Patterson, and Jadrian Faith Barrett. Nicholson will be the flower girl during the Miss Georgia Mountain Fair beauty pageant on July 20.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Young boy dives from tree; misses water; airlifted out

By Norman Cooper
NORTH GEORGIA NEWS

A 10-year-old boy, reportedly without proper adult supervision at a place known as "the cliffs" on Lake Nottely, climbed into a tree about 20 feet high.

Reportedly, the boy jumped from the tree to dive into the water.

He missed. Instead of hitting the water, the boy reportedly landed on solid rock - causing at least a broken bone according to witnesses at the scene. He slid into the water following his inauspicious landing on the rock.

Towns County resident Joe Powell, a 61-year-old veteran, had been sitting nearby in the shade. He immediately went down to where the boy was. He grabbed onto the boy and held the boy's arm in the water.

Emergency responders, Union County EMS and Union County Fire and Rescue were dispatched at 2:39 p.m. They arrived at the scene at 2:55 p.m.

A helicopter airlifted the child to Scottish Rite Children's Hospital.

See Cliffs, page 2

Thousands celebrate the Fourth at Fairgrounds

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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The sound of children playing and laughing; Blue Grass music echoing through the countryside, accompanied by the tantalizing smells of Boston butt roasts simmering on a gas grill.

It was Fourth of July tailgating at its finest at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds as a record crowd turned out to wish America a very Happy 233rd Birthday.

The masses came from near and far; some from Missouri, Indiana, North Carolina and Illinois; others hailed from Gainesville, Clayton, Cleveland and of course, Hiwassee.

For many the annual fireworks extravaganza was



Fireworks filled the air above Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday night as a record crowd turned out to celebrate America's 233rd birthday.

Photo Lowell Nicholson

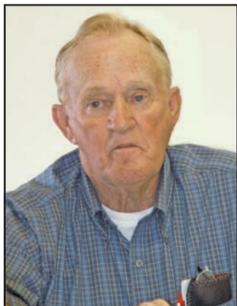
a family tradition of barbecue, Frisbee tosses and gazing at the fireworks rocketing through the air. Others brought high-tech lawn chairs and kicked back and relaxed before the fireworks began. Those individuals

brought a book to keep them company until the main event of the evening.

"I've been coming up here for years," said Steve

See Fourth, page 2

Development authority agrees to settle debt



Morris Phillips is the Development Authority chairman

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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The Towns County Industrial Development Authority has agreed to pay 7 percent interest on the \$338,636.77 court judgment

owed Blairsville-based Colditz Trucking Co.

The group met last week in the Towns County Courthouse during a special called session to discuss additional money that should be paid to the Blairsville-based construction company.

Last month, the Industrial Development Authority agreed to borrow up to \$500,000 from United Community Bank to resolve any debts on approximately 21 acres of Industrial Park property it inherited from the Clay-Towns Development Authority.

At that time, the group agreed to settle outstanding debts with Colditz Trucking and Blankenship, agreeing to pay out more than \$342,000 from the UCB line of credit.

On June 25, Towns

Industrial Development Authority Chair Morris Phillips received a letter from Colditz attorney Rex McClinton of Dawsonville claiming that the Authority owed more than \$395,000 to the Blairsville-based company.

McClinton cited that the \$395,045.95 was owed for the original judgment, interest, attorney's fees and the current amount owed for additional erosion control.

"From what I understand, Colditz Trucking has not cashed the check that we sent on June 22," Phillips told the board. "No one in this room is responsible for this debt. Rather, we inherited this debt from the Clay-Towns Development Authority."

See Debt, page 2

Bank of Hiwassee celebrates a century of business

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis has declared July as Bank of Hiwassee Month.

The bank founded a century ago, was issued a state Bank Charter on June 14th, 1909, organized with initial capitalization of \$25,000 and as of June 14th, 2009, a century later, Bank of Hiwassee, continues to operate under its original bank charter name, Mathis said.

The bank, which over the years has expanded its operations to include Blairsville and Blue Ridge, will celebrate its century of being a part of the Hiwassee community on Saturday with events that include a 10K road race run,

a 5K run/walk and a 100-yard dash.

Mayor Mathis com-
See Bank, page 2



Bank of Hiwassee Director of Marketing, Rebecca King (left) with Mayor Barbara Mathis

BOE weighs revenue shortfalls



Behrens

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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Tough times often prompt tough decisions.

Without a doubt, the Towns County Board of Education is feeling the pinch of a flat economy.

A shortfall of revenues

combined with increased financial burdens imposed by state cutbacks, increased Local Fair Share obligations and mandated salary requirements will impact the 2010 millage rate set by the BOE. How much impact remains a question only the board itself can answer.

The board met Monday night with its Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens during its monthly work session to discuss among other things, how the next year's budget is shaping up.

Sensing that the economy may stay flat for a while, Dr. Behrens has proposed a smaller budget than the current fiscal year, well under the current \$12 million budget. Behrens has trimmed almost \$200,000 from the proposed 2009-2010 budget.

See BOE, page 3

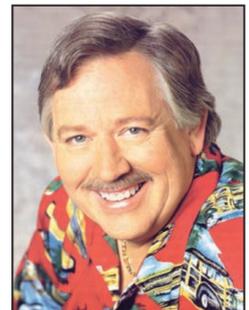
John Conlee to play Fairgrounds

Country music performer John Conlee will be giving two shows on July 16 at the Anderson Music Hall.

Conlee's success began in 1978 after the release of "Rose Colored Glasses," a song Conlee wrote, which became a huge hit as well as his signature song. Soon followed other hits including "Back Side of Thirty," "Lady Lay Down," "Friday Night Blues," "Miss Emily's Picture," "Busted," "I Don't Remember Loving You," "Common Man," "I'm Only In It For The Love," "Mama's Rockin Chair," "Hit the Ground Runnin'," and "Fellow Travelers." All of Conlee's hits have that unmistakable common thread - his unique voice.

Overall, there have been 29 single releases throughout the years with 26 of them charting in the top 20 or better. Eight of those 26 have reached the coveted No.1 spot on the national country charts.

According to the wikipedia website, during Conlee's performance of the song "Busted," fans often



Conlee

take dollar bills to the stage; Conlee collects the money in a bucket and gives it to Feed the Children. In addition, his song "Old School" introduced the phrase "old school" into the lexicon.

Conlee will perform at the Anderson Music Hall on July 16 with shows at 2pm and 8pm. His performance will be free to anyone who buys a ticket to the fair that day.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

