

Schools open...continued from page 1A

"We always expect big things from our students," he said. "This is a good group of seniors and we look forward to see what they end up accomplishing. I know they all have goals that they want to achieve."

Roy Perren, principal of Towns County High School was excited to be back in the halls for another exciting school year.

"We're looking forward to getting the kids off to a real good start this

year," Perren said. "It's exciting every time you get a new group of seniors. It's always something to watch them mature during their four years in high school. It's exciting to see them finally reach that point where they're getting ready to graduate."

One new face is on board. Dr. Mark Stallings, a two-time Teacher of the Year in Gilmer County, who retired in the area, will teach science part-time, Dr. Behrens said.

"We're extremely lucky to have Mark on board," he said.

Also, Daniel Isaacs has stepped into the shoes vacated when Towns County Marching Band Director Frank McKinney retired last year.

"Daniel has been with us for a while working with Frank," Dr. Behrens said. "He knows our band and our talent and we are expecting big things from that group this year."

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flat statewide economy.

Dr. Behrens made sure that continued shortfall of revenues, increased financial burdens imposed by state cutbacks, increased Local Fair Share obligations and mandated salary requirements won't impact the upcoming millage rate set by Board of Education members.

To accommodate the schools system's needs without raising the millage rate from 4.784 mills, Dr. Behrens has kept a tight band around the proposed 2010-2011 budget.

"We don't need a tax

increase," Dr. Behrens said. "That's where we are at this point and we're excited that we won't need a millage rate increase."

"Of course this is tentative; we'll have to advertise the tax digest," he said. "This is a tentative approval of the proposed budget and millage rate. The final approval won't come until next month."

Things aren't looking any better for education statewide.

According to Jeannie "Sis" Henry, executive director of the Georgia School Boards Association, state

lawmakers have cut education funding by \$4.5 billion since 2002.

These cuts, called austerity reductions, have basically left local school boards faced with picking up the slack for mandated sick leave for teachers and other 10-month employees as well as textbooks, maintenance and operation of school buildings and transportation.

The true cost of operating schools is much greater than what the state funds and local taxpayers continue to pick up the tab for the state.

Food preservation and baking contest

The City of Young Harris, Georgia will be hosting its first ever Food Preservation and Baking Contest on August 28th, 2010. Ribbons will be awarded for first, second and third place in each category. Categories for canning include jams and marmalades, jellies, preserves and butters, canned fruits and vegetables, sauces, pickles and relishes and dried foods. Baking categories include all cookies, breads, cakes and pies. Food preservation entries can be dropped off at City Hall on August 25 and 26 between 10 AM and 2 PM each day. Baked goods need to be dropped off on August 27th between 9 AM and noon. Judges for the event include Sid Kurrimbukus, Executive Chef at Brasstown Valley Resort and Spa, Robert Brewer of the Towns County Extension Office and Mickey Cummings of the Union County Extension Office. Winning a ribbon in either category will be quite the southern honor. All submissions will be displayed at the Young Harris Art Festival on August 28th and 29th between 10 AM and 5 PM each day. Entry Forms for submission can be picked up at the Union County Canning Plant, The Senior Citizens Center in Blairsville, the Towns County Extension Office in Hiawassee or City Hall in Young Harris, Georgia or by calling 706-897-6179 and requesting that the forms be sent to you. All of the food preservation entries will be returned unopened. The baking submissions must be tasted for judging. We are asking each of the entrants in baking to donate their baked item so that it can be sold af-

ter judges tasting and the proceeds will be donated to the local food pantry. So whether you've been canning and baking for many years or you're still perfecting your method the 2010 Canned Foods and Baked Goods Contest will be

a first that you don't want to miss. We are encouraging everyone to pull out and dust off that old family recipe or take that recent find and enter it in the Young Harris contest for an inaugural ribbon to be awarded on the 28th. NT(Aug11,2)SH

Three charged in drug sting

Special to Towns County Herald

Cooperation between the Towns County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) and Appalachian Drug Task Force (ADTF) resulted in drug arrests in two separate cases in Towns County recently.

On July 21, agents from both offices made a felony drug arrest for the distribution of Marijuana. Lori Dawn Palmer, 39, of Hayesville, allegedly sold a quantity of marijuana from inside a local business in Hiawassee.

On July 26, TCSO and ADTF investigators made two felony drug arrests which originated from an anonymous tip. Dennis Lloyd Collins, 39, Hayesville and Anthony Wayne Debord, 35, Mount Orab,



Dennis Collins



Anthony Debord



Ohio, were allegedly found to be in possession of a felony amount of marijuana that was packaged for distribution. A vehicle driven by the suspects was also seized.

Investigators en-

courage all citizens who have knowledge of illegal drug activity to call the Towns County Sheriff's Office Anonymous Tip Line at (706) 89-3697. All calls are confidential, no caller is asked to leave their name.

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Lake Chatuge Tour of Homes

The Northeast Georgia Board of Realtors in partnership with The Ridges Resort in Hiawassee proudly presents the 2010 Lake Chatuge Tour of Homes. The tour will take place Saturday, August 28 and Sunday, August 29. Tour the most beautiful homes on Lake Chatuge by boat! The boat leaves from the Ridges Resort in Hiawassee, GA at 11 AM, 2

PM and 5 PM. (Ask about the driving tour that's also available.)

Tickets are \$35 per person. Only 25 bout tour tickets available for each tour time. Reservations required.

Special room rates available at the Ridges Resort in Hiawassee for tour guests. Ask for the Lake Tour special when making your reservation.

Tickets may be purchased from the Towns County Chamber of Commerce 706-896-4966, the Ridges Resort 706-896-2262 or through the Northeast Georgia Board of Realtors at 706-781-3030.

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Carolina Christian 2nd annual golf tournament

Carolina Christian Academy will be holding their 2nd annual golf tournament on Saturday, August 21, at The Ridges Golf Course. The tournament will begin at 8:30 AM with a shotgun start. Tournament highlights: Four-man select shot, Hole-in one, Closest to the pin (on all par 3s),

Longest drive, Putting contest, Chipping contest, Door prizes. \$5000 in cash and prizes: 1st - \$1000, 2nd - \$500, 3rd - \$250.

Participant package: \$350 per team of 4 includes: 4 mulligans (1 per player), 50/50 contest, Closest to pin, Entry into the chipping and putting contest and lunch. TAug11,2)SH