

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Storms	84 60
Fri: Storms	78 57
Sat: T-Storms	81 58
Sun: T-Storms	78 55
Mon: Cloudy	77 55
Tue: Sunny	76 56
Wed: T-Storms	77 56



Upstream Elevation Predicted 8/27/09	
Lake Chatuge	1922.60
Lake Nottely	1770.80
Blue Ridge	1681.70

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Chamber Newsletter Page 5A

Cornwell Reward

A \$50,000 reward has been established at United Community Bank to assist in the safe return of 38-year-old Kristi Cornwell.

Cornwell, a former Towns County sheriff's deputy, is still missing following her Aug. 11 abduction near her home on Jones Creek Road in Union. To help, contact Kenya Patton at (706) 835-1212 or UCB at (706) 745-2151. For more details see page 14 A.

Health Seminar

Has your get up and go got up and gone?

Attend the Health & Wellness Seminar, Sept. 5 at Daniel's Steakhouse and meet Health Coach Teri Norsworthy to discover the path to more energy, an enhanced immune system while learning how to manage stress and feeling better. R.S.V.P. with Emily Appling, call (706) 379-0900 and leave a message.

Hiwassee River Watershed

Everyone is invited to join the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition at 6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 10 at Poteete Creek Park on Lake Nottely for the 6th Annual Trout Dinner. For just \$10 a person, local farm-raised smoked trout will be served along with baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, cornbread, your choice of homemade desserts and a drink. Tickets can be purchased in advance from a board member or the at the HRWC office. For details, call (828) 837-5414.

Clearance sale

The VFW Thrift Store is having a Buy One, Get One Free sale on clothes, shoes, and purses this month. Plus many more deals. The VFW Thrift Store is at the corner of Berrong and Lakeview in Hiwassee near the Towns County Library. Hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Willie Nelson comes to town Red-headed stranger comes here Oct. 31

By Charles Duncan
TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD
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The Red-Headed Stranger is headed to Hiwassee.

Willie Nelson, actor, activist, singer, songwriter and the penman behind Patsy Cline's smash hit, "Crazy," has agreed to come to Anderson Music Hall to perform on Halloween, said Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason.

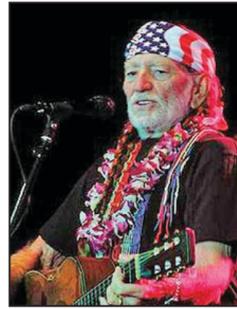
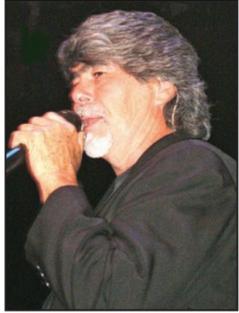
"On Saturday, Oct. 31st, Willie Nelson will be in concert at Anderson Music Hall," Thomason said during last week's Towns County Chamber of Commerce Member Appreciation Day. "Willie will be here on Halloween. It's really an exciting time."

Tickets go on sale Sept. 18 at the Georgia

Mountain Fairgrounds Box Office, Thomason said.

Tickets for Level 1 are \$45 plus a \$2 handling charge, seats in Level 2 cost \$35 plus a \$2 handling charge, Thomason said.

Nelson will be in town exactly one week after the popular Three Dog Night



Willie Nelson comes to town on Halloween
Photo/Ga. Mtn Fair

concert at Anderson Music Hall. Tickets for the Three Dog Night concert go on sale Sept. 11 with tickets for Level 1 priced at \$35 plus a \$2 handling charge; seats in Level 2 cost \$25 plus a \$2 handling charge, Thomason said.

Randy Owen played the Fairgrounds last Friday.
Photo/David Seckinger

See Willie Nelson, page 7A

Chamber members feel appreciated

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Chamber members will soon learn that new President Angel Long isn't afraid to get wet. Long and her dedicated support team pulled off Member Appreciation Day despite an unappreciated damper courtesy of Mother Nature.

More than 125 Chamber members and local residents braved the elements to enjoy the event on the Downtown Square.

"Considering the weather, it's been a very good day," Long said. "The whole point of this day was to thank the community for the support that they've given the Chamber throughout the year."

The event, a meet and greet social, was all about the community, Long said.

"We're really trying to get folks to come out and bring their families too," she said. "We really wanted the entire community to come out. We invited the EMS folks; we invited the Sheriff's Office folks."

"We really just wanted



Chamber ambassador Jane Holland serves hotdogs to local business owners.
Photo/Lowell Nicholson

to thank the entire community for their support," Long said.

The gathering also proved to be a meet and greet Long, who recently came aboard as the Chamber's new president.

"It really helps to have the support of the fantastic team that was already in place when I got here," Long said. "It's also great to have the support of the incredible board of directors. I've had nothing but support since I got here and that's a wonderful feeling."

Mike and Sally Clark, of English Country Gardens said they had a wonderful

experience.

"It was great to meet everyone and network with them," Mike Clark said. "Rain or shine, it was important to be here. The rain didn't hurt, the plants enjoyed it and we enjoyed it too."

Chamber members continue to rely on each other as the economy recovers. Jason Champlain of Mountain Parties said it's events like this that help get the word out about local businesses.

See Chamber, page 5A

Indians ready to take on Wildcats

By Charles Duncan
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Ready or not, here come the Towns County Indians.

Offensively, the Indians will score early and often. On the defensive side of the ball, there are still a lot of questions to be answered, Head Coach Kyle Langford said.

"We're going to be okay offensively," he said. "We'll run John Swilley and

Mat Hogsout there at quarterback. Both of those guys are going to see plenty of action. When Mat's not under center, he'll be some where close to the football. He's a talented athlete and someone that you want to trust with the football."

"When John Swilley's not under center, he'll be out there catching a pass," Coach Langford said. "We know we can score if we do

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Coach Langford gets interviewed by local cable station.
Photo/Jim Bryant

Tourism Association looks forward to future



Chad Hooper

By Charles Duncan
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Though the Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruise-In was a huge success, members of the Towns

County Tourism Association believe things will only get better.

The Cruise-In, which is sponsored by the Towns County Tourism Association, is a go for a second year at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and Chad Hooper, general manager of Ridges Resort at Fieldstone says things will only get better. Hooper said that the second go-round, local businesses and governments will be even more ready for the event than the first go-round.

"We've learned from experience," Hooper said. "And we've got a year to plan the second Cruise-in." The event is likely to

expand to five days or more next year, with the goal of including more of the local population in the event, Hooper said.

"That's something we need to explore real close," Hooper said.

Hooper, still exhaling from the event, said the Cruise-In was way above every expectation.

"It's a comfortable feeling to have events like this, especially with the way our economy is today," Hooper told Tourism Association members during a called meeting last week at the Ridges. "We were scared

See Tourism, page 7A

Presley Post Office gets a new home in Hiwassee

By Charles Duncan
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The historic Presley Post Office is getting a well-deserved facelift at its new home, under the trees behind the Towns County Courthouse.

The Towns County Historical Society in concert with Blue Ridge Mountain EMC and the Georgia Department of Transportation coordinated the move from its rural roots in central Towns County to the Square in Downtown on Thursday.

Historical Society members continue to put in the long laborious hours to bring some luster back to

the historic post office that went into service at the start of the 20th century.

Boards from the historic McKinney Feed Store will be recovered and used to help restore the historic post office. The flooring will be historic era, also coming from the McKinney Feed Store building.

The post office, a rural one-room facility on the headwaters of the Hiwassee River in central Towns County, has been a part of Towns County for many years. The post office served an area that included

See Presley, page 5A



Presley Post Office

Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Busy weekend on tap at Fairgrounds

By Charles Duncan
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The leaves haven't started turning, but it's high time to start thinking about festivals.

The first of the season kicks off Saturday morning at Music Hall Road on the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds as the first Blue Ridge Mountain Festival of the Arts gets underway. The two-day event is sponsored by the Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Association.

The festival features artists and vendors located along the winding, shady pathway inside the Pioneer Village. Patrons can discover the way our forefathers lived in the historic village.

The village includes a one-room schoolhouse, barns, a blacksmith shop, a saw mill, a smokehouse and several old home places.

Artists from throughout the Southeast are sched-

uled to attend the event, each participating in the fine arts and handmade crafts.

Also, it wouldn't be the Fairgrounds without music. Local artists will perform in several locations throughout the Fairgrounds.

And of course, there will be plenty of North Georgia Mountain food on the menu.

Also on tap on Friday, Towns County Drug Free Coalition invites everyone to attend a hoedown and barbecue on at 6 p.m. at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds upper pavilion.

Tickets to the event are \$20 with children 10 and under getting in free. The event is Western style square dancing, the Virginia Reel and Line Dancing, all by caller Jim Duncan. Come one, come all, bring a lawn chair and learn how to dance. For more details, call

See Festivals, page 5A

YHC star an All-Star

By Charles Duncan
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Former Young Harris College Mountain Lion baseball star Mark Thomas continues to excel at the professional level.

Thomas, a 21-year-old catcher drafted from the Mountain Lions by the Tampa Bay Rays in 2006, appeared in the New York-Penn League All-Star Game last week in State College, Pa.

Thomas, a 6-foot, 1-inch, 180-pound catcher, entered the game as a defensive replacement in the sixth inning, and helped the American League defeat the National League 4-2. Thomas lined out to the shortstop in his lone plate appearance in the game.

Thomas played high school baseball at Alpharetta High School prior to his stellar baseball career with YHC. He was chosen by



Mark Thomas

the defending American League champions in the 22nd round, 649th overall, during the 2006 First Year Player Draft.

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