

# Towns County Herald

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## Excessive rain, flooding causes problems in county

By Mark Novak  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

With all the torrential rain lately, flooding and washouts have become a big concern for many throughout Towns County.

Last week, Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw expressed his concerns for the roads, waterways, downed trees and overall safety of the county residents.

"I was on Hightower (on May 30) and I saw a large stump with a big root ball on it, and it was going downhill with the water like a feather," said Bradshaw. "I've never seen water go so fast and powerful."

Continued Bradshaw: "I went up to Poody Hollow, and it started pouring and I didn't think I was going to get out.

The water was already up to the bank, and by the time I turned around and started to come back, the water was coming over the bank.

"I really thought I was going to get stuck up there and have to get towed out. When the county road department crew went up there later, the road was partially washed out."

The flooding got so bad in some parts that Bradshaw opened the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center as a shelter for residents last week.

"We opened the shelter at Foster Park at 3:45 a.m. for residents of Enchanted RV Park after we had concerns for the residents' safety when the water from the Hiwassee River started to exceed its banks," said Bradshaw.

The commissioner said

he was very grateful to all the county workers who have spent countless hours throughout the days and nights of rain to help keep residents safe throughout this ordeal.

"I just want to thank EMA Director Rickey Mathis, 911 Director Marty Roberts, Clyde Shook the Road Superintendent, Sheriff Chris Clinton and all the deputies, Fire Chief Harold Copeland and all the volunteer firefighters, EMS volunteers, and anyone I may have forgotten to mention," said Bradshaw. "I thank you all for your dedication and hard work during this time."

Hiwassee River Watershed Executive Director Callie Moore also expressed concerns about recent water levels and trees that have fallen to block waterways.

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Raging floodwaters out at Fodder Creek Estates on Wednesday, May 30.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

## Commissioner Bradshaw accepts bid on \$1 million in CDs

By Mark Novak  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw is committed to saving taxpayers money.

And he's been working lately to do just that through a variety of means, including the strategic use of certificates of deposit and the installation of a new countywide phone system.

Commissioner Bradshaw held a called meeting on Friday, June 1, to reveal bids from banks for \$1 million in certificates of deposit.

According to Better Money Habits, a certificate of deposit, or CD, is a "low-risk savings tool that can boost the amount you earn in interest while keeping your money invested in a relatively safe way."

"We're going to go with United Community Bank," said Bradshaw. "We're going to do two CDs, one at \$500,000 and another at \$500,000, a total of two, instead of doing a \$1 million CD."

"As commissioner,



Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw

my job ... is to protect the taxpayers' money and to get the most return that we can, and that's why we did it this way."

Currently, the county has a \$750,000 CD earning a 0.5 percent rate of interest, and that CD is coming due. As it matures, the county will be adding \$250,000 to it in order to bring the total invested to \$1 million.

The county asked for bank bids on the \$1 million in CDs, and United Community

Bank and South State Bank both bid on the CDs, though United outbid its competitor by offering a slightly higher rate of interest.

Presently, the county has two additional CDs, one for \$750,000 that will mature in September and another worth \$1 million that will be maturing in December.

Bradshaw plans to send these two investment accounts out to bid as they mature to ensure maximum return for the taxpayers.

In other county news, the deal to replace the county phone service has sweetened beyond the initial savings of \$18,000 a year.

As previously reported, when Bradshaw was first approached some time ago to switch the county phone system from Windstream to Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, the savings to the county were right around \$18,000 without brand new phones.

A recent development will bring in additional savings of more than \$3,000 and will include new top of the line phones for most county

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## Volunteers needed for 68th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair



A view from last year's 67th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Assistant Editor

The 68th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair is just around the corner, and Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason is looking for community volunteers.

Starting on Friday, July 20, and running through Saturday, July 28, the Fair is geared toward providing wholesome entertainment for area families.

Thomason still needs a couple dozen volunteers to work in several of the food booths on the grounds, as well as in Anderson Music Hall and at the gates.

"The Fair has grown a lot over the years, and without the volunteers, we wouldn't be able to do what we've done," said Thomason. "There's no way that you could pay labor and come out (ahead), so yes, the volunteers are a very, very important part of the Fair."

Added Thomason: "The

Georgia Mountain Fair is a project of the Lions Club (of Towns County), and the Lions Club members and their spouses and families come and volunteer.

"A lot of the people in the county come and volunteer as well, to pitch in and help, and it gives them an opportunity to give back to their community. They also get to meet new people - it's a good way to socialize."

Each year, tens of

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## Annual Seafood Festival a huge success in Young Harris

By Mark Novak  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Third Annual North Georgia Highlands Seafood Festival kicked off a three-day celebration with plenty of seafood, crafts, music, dancing and an opening ceremony that took place on June 1 in Young Harris.

Rainy weather held off for most of the day but started up again just as the opening ceremony began.

Regardless, the ceremony went off without a hitch, as the North Georgia Honor Guard presented the colors and local veterans were honored by

See *Festival*, Page 6A



The Third Annual North Georgia Highlands Seafood Festival took place for three days last weekend in Young Harris Mayor's Park.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

## FOLTC continues book and bake sale tradition

By Mark Smith  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

While the final totals weren't in by press time, every penny raised by the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County at its weekend book, bake and media sale went to the two libraries of Towns County.

The sale itself took place at the Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris between May 31 and June 2, but the proceeds will also benefit the Towns County Public Library in Hiwassee.

"The Friends group is a non-profit organization, and our goal, our mission is to raise

See *Library*, Page 6A



Friends of the Libraries of Towns County volunteers Suzanne Carter and Kathy Day.

Photo by Mark Smith

## TCSO arrests suspect, recovers stolen truck

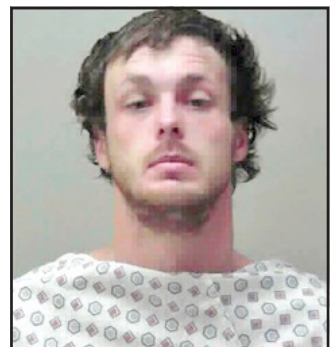
New Special  
North Georgia News

On Thursday, May 24, Towns County Sheriff's Deputies responded to Mining Gap Road in Young Harris in reference to a stolen Ford F-150 pickup.

Upon completing the initial report and returning to patrolling the county, a deputy quickly spotted the stolen vehicle traveling on US 76 turning onto Crooked Creek Connector.

The deputy pursued the stolen truck onto Crooked Creek Connector, where he was able to arrest the driver and recover the Ford pickup.

The driver was identified as Austin Hooper, 25, of Smyrna, Tennessee.



Austin Hooper

Hooper was arrested without incident and charged with one count theft by receiving stolen property and one count driving on suspended license.

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

## Summertime concerts, movies to enliven Hiwassee Town Square

By Mark Novak  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Hiwassee City Council and Mayor Liz Ordiales are bringing night life into the city in effort to draw families together for a night on the town.

Kicking off a series of summertime events, for the Memorial Day Weekend, over 150 people attended the showing of family-friendly movie "Ferdinand" on May 25, and more than 100 people came out for the Holman Aubry Band on May 26, even though rain forced the concert indoors to the Civic Center.

"Part of my vision for the

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Local folks got comfortable on the Hiwassee Town Square to watch the movie "Ferdinand" on May 25.

Photo by Mark Novak

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Lake Levels

Blue Ridge	1,686.76
Chatuge	1,925.76
Nottely	1,776.90

4th Annual Home & Garden Show

June 9th - 10th

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NORTH GEORGIA ARTS TOUR

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Food Pantry Spaghetti Supper

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TOWNS COUNTY FOOTBALL FUNDRAISERS

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June 30th BBQ

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