

Towns County Herald

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Fire Board recognizes Sellers for 37 years of service

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Retired Towns County Fire Capt. David Sellers spent nearly four decades as a county first responder, and the Towns County Fire Board honored him for his service on Monday, June 5.

In its most recent regular meeting, the Fire Board awarded Sellers a commemorative fire axe and thanked him for the many duties he has performed over the years, duties that have protected the lives and properties of innumerable county residents.

Sellers casts a long shadow when it comes to fighting fires in the mountains, having been around since the beginning days of the Towns County Fire Department, which thrived under his leadership as chief starting in the mid-1980s.

But he fought fires even before the onset of the first countywide fire service, back when Young Harris Mayor Irene Berry decided the city needed some fire protection around 1980.

"David and I worked together for about 35 years at Station 2 – he was always there," said George "Bud" Dyer, who was fire chief of the Young Harris Fire Station, and is now a member of the Fire Board.

When the Towns County Fire Department sprang to life during Commissioner Truman Barrett's time in office, Sellers became the department's first chief, a title he held for several years, and he asked current Towns County Fire Chief Harold Copeland to be the county's first assistant chief.

Together, from humble beginnings, Barrett, Sellers



L-R: Roger Dyer, Marty Roberts, Cliff Bradshaw, George "Bud" Dyer, David Seller, Clint Hobbs and Harold Copeland. Hugh Howell not pictured. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

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Rec Center plays host to Spring Home & Garden Show

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Third Annual Northeast Georgia and Western North Carolina Home & Garden Show by Expo Management Inc. provided local businesses and service providers an opportunity to show off home and lawn gears and gizmos to thousands of patrons on June 10 and June 11.

"This is the third annual home and garden show," said Bill Anderson, president of Expo Management. "We'll have about 4,500 people between the two days, so we'll have a big turn out. We have just about anything and everything someone needs for



Jim Parks of HGTV's "News Space" fame. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Grant money to pave way for strategic city plan

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

A recently acquired grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission will be used to develop a strategic plan for the City of Hiawassee.

Hiawassee Acting Mayor Liz Ordiales applied for the \$30,000 ARC grant earlier this year, and that money will go toward the development of this Hiawassee Strategic Plan.

The breakdown of the grant is \$21,000 from the ARC, with a \$9,000 match coming from local sources.

According to the project announcement, which came to the Towns County Herald from U.S. Rep. Doug Collins' office:



Hiawassee City Hall

See Grant, Page 6A

Fishing tournament lures more than 100 teams to Chatuge



Brian Moore and Seth Utt of Eastgate Life Academy after weighing in at the Georgia Bass Nation High School 2017 State Classic on Saturday, June 10. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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Young Harris City Council determines SPLOST projects

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Rather than spring-cleaning, the City of Young Harris is doing a SPLOST cleanup, or clean out, and began such at the Young Harris City Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 6.

Each year, the city is granted a specific amount of SPLOST money to fund city projects, maintenance and other endeavors that would help better the city.

At last week's meeting, Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby presented the council with the remainder of the yearly-allotted SPLOST monies – which is roughly \$320,000 – asking the council to determine what projects the funds should go toward.

"What money we have is what money we have and we



Young Harris City Clerk Shirley Jarrard and Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby. Photo/Lily Avery

need to finish up projects this year," said Mayor Gibby. "We have to finalize our project list and, by the end of the year, get everything finished."

addressed much needed maintenance to Mayor's Park, such as new light fixtures; interior and exterior gate updates and a possible drop

First, the council

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Martina McBride to play the Fairgrounds on June 23

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

While it may not be the Fourth of July just yet, Martina McBride is bringing Independence Day to Hiawassee, or the song at least.

Beloved Country Music star Martina McBride will be hitting the Anderson Music Hall stage at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Friday, June 23.

This will be McBride's first trip to Hiawassee, though not her first trip to Georgia, as the majority of her fan-base comes from the Southeastern region of the U.S.

And while it may be McBride's first show in the

area, she is more than ready to spend some quality time with her fans in the mountains.

During the June 23 show, the audience can expect to hear a little bit of everything from McBride, including songs from her most recent album, "Reckless."

"I'm going to be doing a lot of my hits during this show," said McBride. "I'll also be doing songs from my new album, Reckless, and a couple of cover songs. It's going to be a fun night. My whole goal is to create an environment where everybody can forget about this crazy world we're living in for a couple of hours and just really enjoy music and being together."



Martina McBride

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Free concerts in Town Square every Saturday evening

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

For the past 17 years, from Memorial Day until Labor Day, music can be heard throughout downtown Hiawassee every Saturday evening.

The same was true on the afternoon of Saturday, June 10, as dozens upon dozens gathered around the gazebo on the Downtown Hiawassee Square with family, friends and canine companions to enjoy an hour and a half of entertainment during the Music on the Square concert series.

"This got started in 2000 and this is our 17th year," said Mardi White, event organizer. "It was started by the late and beloved Eugene Jakel and



More than 100 people attended the Music on the Square event in town on Saturday, June 10. Photo/Lily Avery

JoAnne Leone. It started as a small venue on the Hiawassee Square and we probably had

50 people in the audience and small groups of music.

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S.A.F.E.
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