

Blooming...from Page 1A



'A Blooming Affair' kicked off with the season opening on Saturday, April 15.

that was extremely apparent at the dedication Saturday morning.

Volunteers have worked to repaint the Paris Pavilion, refurbish the bridge and clean out the overgrowth throughout the 33 acres of gardens – and that is only the tip of the iceberg.

Visitors and volunteers gathered near a small stone along the exterior fence of the gardens, just shy of the Paris Pavilion, for the dedication. This stone, marked "Towns County Park, 1983," was the sight of a similar dedication years ago, and seemed only fitting for the occasion.

"This day is all about the gardens," said Grace Howard, Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge Board Member. "This property was initially designated as the Towns County Park and was dedicated in 1983.

"Dr. John Kaye and Frank Riley were both engaged in the beginning up here in securing grant money to make this possible.

"To help with the planting of the garden, the Lions Club volunteers worked diligently. They cut trails. They planted. They did all kinds of things to make this garden a possibility.

"So, we selected this spot as a spot to mark this day as a new beginning for our garden, which was our theme last year, and this year to continue our restoration, preservation and enhancement."

As part of the dedication, Dr. John Kaye gave an invocation and read a proclamation declaring April 15 as "Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge Day" throughout the county.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw also spoke during the dedication, congratulating the volunteers on the tremendous accomplishments made at the gardens.

"I want to thank all of



Anne Mitchell, Noel Turner and Commissioner Bradshaw at the recently renovated bridge inside the Hamilton Gardens.

the people involved for all of the hard work they have done to get this place ready," said Commissioner Bradshaw. "We appreciate you so much for everything that you do. You've made this absolutely beautiful.

"We're thankful that you're here. We're thankful that God has allowed us to have such a beautiful place to work on and to take care of."

Howard and Commissioner Bradshaw cut the ribbon at the gardens' main gate before wandering, visitors in tow, down the path through the gardens to the newly renovated walking bridge.

Volunteer and Hiwassee City Councilwoman Anne Mitchell conducted the bridge dedication ceremony, explaining that the bridge will also be dedicated in honor of her grandchildren, a request that was made by her son and daughter-in-law who provided funds for the new bridge.

"The second part that made this bridge possible was this team," said Mitchell. "They worked so hard to make sure this could be possible."

After the dedication, Hamilton Gardens took part in the Easter festivities with a visit from the Easter Bunny,

with hugs to go around and photos courtesy of Lynn Buck of WoodmenLife.

As part of "A Blooming Affair," the gardens will be hosting a series of events throughout April and May, including plant sales every weekend from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the gardens.

On April 29, the gardens will be hosting a Run/Walk for the Rhodies 5K beginning at 8 a.m. at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. To register for the 5K, visit www.active.com. After the race, there will be a concert featuring Buck & Oz from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tickets for the concert will be available at all plant sales.

The gardens will be hosting a Mother's Day Tea and Fashion Show on May 13, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. For tickets to the event, visit Britt & Capri Boutique.

Finally, the Towns County Homeowners Association will be hosting a Hamilton Gardens Benefit on May 20, and tickets can be bought through the association.

General admission into the gardens is free, though donations are welcome. The gardens open at 8 a.m. and close at dusk.

Grand Jury...from Page 1A

possession of methamphetamine; possession of a controlled substance; drugs not in original container.

Neil Anthony Perna, criminal damage to property in the second degree; criminal trespass.

Roger Dale Auberry, two counts possession of a controlled substance; possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance; obstruction of an officer; drugs not in original container; entering an automobile; theft by taking; obstruction of an officer.

Tommy Christopher Gibson, terroristic threats; two counts driving under the influence (less safe) (alcohol); obstruction of an officer; failure to report accident.

Misty Dawn Ekeberg, AKA Misty Stephens Ekeberg, possession of methamphetamine.

Thomas Lee Jones, AKA Thomas Mack Jones, possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug-related objects.

Jacqueline Kay Ford, criminal attempt to commit a felony; three counts aggravated assault.

Sharon Denise Allen,

possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute; crossing the guard line with contraband; two counts possession of a controlled substance; possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance; possession of methamphetamine; three counts drugs not in original container; possession of drug-related objects.

Anthony Scott Barrett, two counts aggravated stalking.

Gwendalynn Fay Smith, five counts making a false statement; false report of a crime.

Eric Joseph Davis, escape.

Frances Darlene Dyer Carpenter, violation of Georgia Controlled Substances Act; violation of oath by public officer.

Dena Robin Beasley, AKA Denna Robin Beasley, making a false statement; driving under the influence (controlled substance); driving under the influence (less safe) (combined influence); driving under the influence (less safe) (drugs); driving with license suspended; expired tag.

Steven Douglas Anderson, possession of

marijuana with intent to distribute; possession of marijuana, less than an ounce; possession of drug-related objects; six counts possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute; eight counts possession of a controlled substance; three counts possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance with intent to distribute; possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance; three counts trafficking in illegal drugs; possession of a Schedule I controlled substance with intent to distribute (bath salts); trafficking in ecstasy.

David James Lagasse, possession of cocaine; possession of drug-related objects.

Amanda Michelle Ellis, burglary in the first degree.

Lisa Marie Triplett, AKA Lisa Marie Manis, two counts burglary in the first degree.

John Terrell Youngblood, three counts aggravated assault; two counts aggravated assault, Family Violence; aggravated stalking; making a false statement; three counts battery, Family Violence.

Nathaniel Jerome Edwards, battery, Family Violence.

Danny Lee Barnard, five counts criminal attempt to commit a felony; three counts false imprisonment; four counts criminal solicitation; recidivist.

Clifford Jack Shook, AKA Jack Clifford Shook, five counts criminal attempt to commit a felony; three counts false imprisonment.

Cleveland Edward Wade, five counts criminal attempt to commit a felony; three counts false imprisonment; making a false statement.

Cody...from Page 1A

Cody begins the process of making hominy by planting corn, six to seven acres every year, to be exact.

"You can't find white corn anywhere these days," said Cody. "So, if I don't grow it, then I won't be able to find it. You can use yellow corn or white corn, but I like to stick to the old timey recipe of making it, which calls for white corn, because that's all they had back then."

After the corn has been harvested, it then goes through a corn sheller to be removed from the cob. From the sheller, the kernels begin the process of being turned into hominy.

Unlike most modern recipes, Cody follows a strict recipe that harkens to the olden days, first filtering water through ashes using a white bag, similar to the way tea is made with a tea bag. Cody suggests using only white oak or any hard wood for the ashes.

"A few years back, my wife's father made homemade hominy," said Cody. "So, I got the idea that I was going to make hominy for myself. I ended up using a little different of a process than he did, though.

"He would drain water through the ashes. That's how you get lye to make the hominy. After he drained the water through the ashes, he would replace the water, but I came up with a different idea.

"I put the ashes in a white sack and then drop them down into the water until it starts boiling, until the corn turns red. It'll take all day to make hominy, from 5:30 in the morning until 5:30 or 6 p.m. is when it's usually done."

While each pot may not be the same, each one tastes equally delicious. Cody brought samples of homemade cornbread and hominy to the meeting for all those present to enjoy afterward.

Also during the meeting, the historical society received a print of a drawing of Young



Towns County Historical Society President Sandra Green showing off this drawing of Young Harris Elementary by former Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens.



Historical Society Officers, L-R: Ina Kosesky, Betty Phillips, Frances Shook and Jason Edwards.

Harris Elementary School from Ronald Gibson. Society President Sandra Green showed off the print to the group while Gibson explained the importance of the drawing.

"I'm very excited to give this to the historical society," said Gibson. "I'm glad that you all are accepting this gift and will cherish it and give it a good home.

"This school doesn't

exist anymore, so it's something we won't see another one of anytime soon."

The print will be kept at the Old Senior Center, where the historical society meets the second Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Next month's meeting will feature Dr. Lanier Nicholson, who plans to share about the history of medicine in Towns County.

Hiwassee flushing hydrants throughout city this week

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The City of Hiwassee is flushing all fire hydrants within city limits between Tuesday, April 18, and Thursday, April 20, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day.

Flushing will occur in conjunction with the Towns County Fire Department and the City of Hiwassee Water Treatment Plant.

"Periodically, it should be every two to three years," said Liz Ordiales, Hiwassee Mayor Pro Tem. "The city and the fire department work together in flushing the hydrants to ensure we have the proper flow, the proper static pressure. Going forward, we're going to be doing this every two years to make sure that everything is flowing correctly."

While the flushing of the fire hydrants will not affect customer access to water, it may interfere with water pressure if a hydrant is close to a residential home.

Essentially, a hydrant flushing is the act of circulating water throughout the hydrant to eliminate silt, rust, debris or stagnant water, as well as maintain water clarity and quality in the distribution pipes. It can also be used to determine the quality of the hydrant and to check for leaks or inoperative hydrants.

"I'm sure that once we do this, we will find some hydrants that either need to be repaired or are completely inoperable," said Ordiales. "Those hydrants would become our number one priority moving forward after the flush."

During the flush, the water is safe to consume and use. However, there may be a slight change in the appearance of the water due to the pressure of the water being pushed into the pipes. According to Ordiales, this will not affect the quality of the water and will only last until the flush is complete.

"The only effect it will have on the citizens is, since we're opening up these valves and water is flushing out, they might see some murky water or some cloudy water," said Ordiales. "If it's cloudy or milky looking, that's only oxygen. If it comes out and it's a little brown, just let the water run for a few minutes and everything should go back to normal."

The flush will begin the morning of April 18 at 8 a.m., starting at the City of



Hiwassee Mayor Pro Tem Liz Ordiales

Hiwassee Water Treatment Plant, then moving throughout the city from there. During the flush, standing water may be seen throughout the city due to the nature of the process.

"The water will flush out into the street," said Ordiales. "Then, we keep a tally of how much water we've spent because, on an annual basis, we do a water audit. We have to account for the majority of the water that we pull out of the lake and put back in.

"This flushing has to be done sequentially, from the lowest point until the highest point, and then you'll work your way up."

While the city hopes to have all fire hydrants flushed by April 19, an extra day has been included for optimum

results and to account for any possible obstacles the city may face during the flush.

Although this is a scheduled necessity for the city, Ordiales also said that this process is a step toward making sure all facets of the city are in the best condition for the citizens, something she feels is of the utmost importance.

"This effort is to make sure that we provide great fire protection for our citizens," said Ordiales. "This is extremely important and vital to the safety of our city, as we saw what happened last year with all of the fires coming so close to Hiwassee. I want to make sure that we're ready to tackle any kind of fire that we come across."

Get your Vidalia onions from your local 4-H members

Spring is in the air and that means cookouts are right around the corner! Be sure to be the talk of the neighborhood with the freshest sweet Vidalia onions around! The Towns County 4-H program is selling 10 lb. bags of Vidalia onions for \$10 each. Proceeds go to help fund programming for the students in the 4-H program; such as Camp,

educational trips, community service outreach and public speaking competitions. An online order form can be found at www.facebook.com/Townscounty4h. You can also visit or call the Towns County Extension office to place an



order at 67 Lakeview Circle, 706-896-2024. Order deadline is April 28th and delivery will be the second week of May! These onions will be fresh off the farm from South Georgia; do not miss out on being a part of this great fundraiser!