

# Towns County Herald

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Rain	83 64
Fri: Rain	81 65
Sat: Rain	83 66
Sun: Rain	85 67
Mon: Rain	86 67
Tue: Rain	86 67
Wed: Rain	86 68



Upstream Elevation Predicted 06/10/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,926.67
Lake Nottely	1,776.76
Blue Ridge	1,686.84

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## Funny Money presented by Licklog Players

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## TOWNS COUNTY Farmers Market

Saturdays 9am-Noon

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## JUNE 19 & 20



## Union County Saddle Club Arena

## Copeland: 'No one injured in house fire'

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County Fire and Rescue responded within three minutes of a call concerning a home that caught fire Tuesday night, June 2, on Bell Street off the Hiwassee Square. Minutes after arriving on the scene, firefighters had the blaze under control, and no one was injured, including the home's lone resident, Joann Keyes.



The call came in at 8:39 p.m., and Firefighter Trey Moore was first on the scene at 8:42 p.m., sizing up the situation and securing the two propane tanks on the property. Lt. Wayne Canterbury arrived with Engine 1 shortly thereafter, assuming pump operations, and Firefighter Travis Gibson met Moore and Lt. Canterbury with Tanker 1.

Justin Ledford, Austin Denton, Jeff Scott and Trey Moore. "Division Chief Doug Mills arrived on the scene and established command," said Towns County Fire Chief Harold Copeland. "Two attack lines were deployed, and Capt. Royce Nicholson led suppression efforts with firefighters Tanker 2 responded from Young Harris with Capt. Jeff Krokono and Firefighter Tyler Keyes, and father and son teams Marty and Dylan Roberts, and Billy, Evan and Tyler

## Pet-A-Pet a hit with locals

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Humane Society Mountain Shelter kicked off its Fourth Annual Pet-a-Pet on Saturday, June 6. "This is our Fourth Annual Open House to get the community to come see what we do," said Mountain Shelter Director Lisa McConnell. "This year we're starting Kidz Camps to teach humane education, and that's with our new Dawg House."



The Dawg House was created with children in mind, with cartoon paw prints leading inside and across the dedicated building, and a multitude of activities within to encourage learning about and interacting with dogs and cats. "It's Kindergarten through sixth grade, but depending on the demand, we may expand, too," said McConnell. "We're teaching spay, neuter, vaccination, heartworm,

how to treat your animal dos and don'ts - humane education, because so many people don't

## Sheriff: 'It was just a drill'

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

For residents wondering about the myriad of deputy patrol cars from around the state that were out and about the county last week, Towns County hosted the annual CHAMPS Maintaining Instructor Status Summer Conference at Brasstown Valley Resort and Towns County Schools.



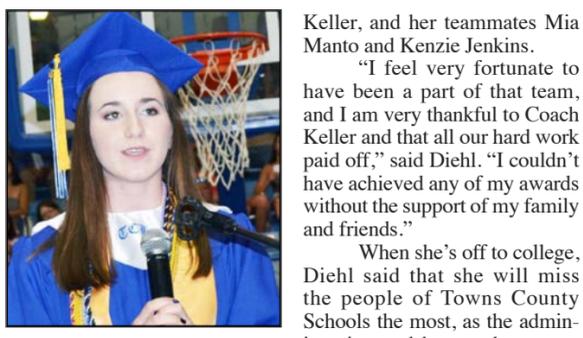
School resource officers from more than 80 counties arrived Sunday night, May 31, at Brasstown Valley. "What we've done on this conference is a little different than what we normally do with the CHAMPS Instructor Training, which they get ongoing," said Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton. "We had

an opportunity for this one to actually incorporate the ALERRT training, so that's been the primary training of this CHAMPS conference. It's an opportunity, with unfortunately all the things that go on, to bring the newest, best tactics to the situation."

## Valedictorian bids farewell to TCHS

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County High School Senior Danielle Diehl has had the senior year dreams are made of - she is the 2014-2015 Valedictorian and STAR Student, and was part of the Lady Indians golf team that won first place at the state tournament in May.



Even her Valedictory Address provided ample opportunity for celebration, as she started by taking a "selfie" from the podium, her classmates bedecked in full cap and gown regalia in the background of the picture. Her speech centered on her positive feelings towards her school and classmates, with words of guidance to a school system that has had its fair share of comings and goings of teaching staff and administration this school year.

"We've all grown up in the same place and have been shaped by similar circumstances, so we will always share our childhood together," said Diehl. "Our futures will take us different ways, but we will always be Towns County Indians. I will never forget the class of 2015 and the impact they had on me, and I will always miss them and the experiences we shared."

"Turnover in leadership is healthy in a school," Diehl said in her speech. "We are sad to see the old ones go, but the new ones have a fresh opportunity to have a new vision for our school system. One where Towns County students are challenged to achieve their highest potential. Creating this new vision is in your hands now - Dr. (Darren) Berrong, Dr. (Connie) Hobbs, Mrs. (Erica) Chastain."

Now that graduation is over and she has her entire future to look forward to, Diehl plans to major in either chemical, environmental or civil engineering at Georgia Tech. "I'm 17 years old - of course I want to change the world. Don't we all?" said Diehl. "We're all trying and improving the environment is important to me because I'd like to spend my life creating a world that is better when I leave it than when I arrived. I want to make a positive difference. I want my life's work to be spent creating and building things that improve and enhance people's lives," she said.

All told, the 17-year-old valedictorian delivered a message of hope for the future, a challenge to the school system and to her fellow graduates to constantly better themselves and strive for excellence at every opportunity. "This is a special place," Diehl said at graduation. "Students here are excited for school because of the numerous school

events - pep rallies, spirit weeks, field days, the list continues - that our gracious administrators plan for us. Students here all know each other. "We have a sense of camaraderie with our fellow classmates that comes from walking the halls with the same group of people year after year. Students here actually make friends with their teachers and administrators. This school has an opportunity for greatness, and I hope one day it can be known as a place of high academic standard."

On winning the state tournament, Diehl is especially thankful to Golf Head Coach Brett

## Barrett, Perren speak to Shakers

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

On Friday, June 5, the Movers and Shakers held their weekly meeting at Mary's Southern Grill.



Truman Barrett

Speaking on two very different topics were Truman Barrett and Roy Perren. Barrett is a man who needs no introduction. A veteran with two tours of duty, a former Towns County Probate Judge, and a former Towns County Sole commissioner, he now owns Rock Hills Farms in Hiwassee, which plants fruits and vegetables with organic fertilizer and supplies a number of local farmers markets.



Roy Perren

On Friday, he spoke on the importance of organic fertilizer, the culture of Southern Appalachia, and how he got started in the fertilizer business. "Back in the 1980s, Joan Crothers and some other ladies came to see me. And they wanted to start a Take Pride in

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## H&G Show a rousing success

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

It was a good weekend for new homeowners or homeowners looking to upgrade their houses. On Saturday, June 6, and Sunday, June 7, Expo Management hosted a Home and Garden show at the Event Center at Fieldstone.



Jim Parks

Homeowners and potential homeowners wandered through aisles of companies that included pillow sellers, tile grouting, lighting, glass and mirror sellers and installers, spa and sauna services, landscaping services, gutter and cleaning services, and homebuilders. Every hour or so, experts took the stage in the back to host demonstrations on everything from healthy cooking to home decoration.

Anderson has been doing Expo Management for 27 years. This is his 420th Expo. "The whole concept is taking a consumer, a homeowner who wants to build a home or enhance a home, and putting them together with the businesses that are here, whether it be lighting or construction or a spa, or whatever it might be this year. So it's just putting hom-

Many companies from the North Carolina and North Georgia areas were represented. They didn't come to necessarily sell anything, but to market themselves and build relations and contacts. "What we're doing is actually putting would-be homeowners together with people who can help them accomplish what they want to accomplish,

either build a house or they have a house and they're wanting to make it better." Expo Management owner Bill Anderson explained. Anderson has been doing Expo Management for 27 years. This is his 420th Expo. "The whole concept is taking a consumer, a homeowner who wants to build a home or enhance a home, and putting them together with the businesses that are here, whether it be lighting or construction or a spa, or whatever it might be this year. So it's just putting hom-

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## Wine and Jazz Fest returns

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Appalachian Wine, Jazz & Art Festival, now in its second year, is on its way back to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Friday, June 12, and Saturday, June 13. "We had about 1,000 people last year, and we're expecting hopefully around 1,500 this year," said Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason. "We've got 11 wineries from Georgia and North Carolina that are participating, and we have 13 fine art booths."



Hilda Thomason

Four area restaurants will also be participating in the festival: The Copper Door, Brother's at Willow Ranch, The Oaks Restaurant and The Chophouse. "There will be places throughout the craft area where people can sit around and listen to the music, and enjoy the music and the wine and the food," said Thomason. "They can purchase the food. The food is very reasonable. There will be sliders and lobster rolls, and there will be cheese and grapes and fresh fruit. We'll have sweets and barbeque. There will be lots of things to eat."

chase the food. The food is very reasonable. There will be sliders and lobster rolls, and there will be cheese and grapes and fresh fruit. We'll have sweets and barbeque. There will be lots of things to eat."

Festivities begin Friday evening, running from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., and all day Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thomason reached out to performing arts venue The Velvet Note in Atlanta, and the

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## The Voice star visits Towns

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Saturday, June 6 was a big day for Marco Morello, the owner of Fortitude Jewelry. Not only did Fortitude have its ribbon-cutting ceremony today, but it also hosted a concert by country music artist Casey Weston.



Casey Weston

Weston, a 22-year-old professional musician, rose to stardom by performing on season one of the reality TV show *The Voice*. She has released three records and is working on a fourth. "I've got the songs all ready for the fourth and I'm doing a Kickstarter online to promote it," she said.

friend Marco. "Marco is one of my greatest fans and friends," she said. "He's just an all-around

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