

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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The Stables at Brasstown Valley open to local community service

By Wayne Weible
Special to
Towns County Herald

When one local community service reaches out to another, good things happen for the people of the community. That seems to be the case with the establishment of an equestrian club at Young Harris College recently working with the stables at Brasstown Valley Resort.

The number of participants has grown and the interest has climbed with the increase. The club originated with a Young Harris student named Kim Hammond, whose interest in horse riding led her to want to develop an equestrian club for the school. She had a vision that such a club would help college students interested in horse riding to develop better horsemanship skills. The result in the time period from the beginning has been extremely positive.

Kim noted that it took some time in getting the approval for the club with the usual formalities and red tape involved. "I just pushed on knowing that sooner or later, we could get the club started. Her persistence paid off with the equestrian club beginning in August 2013.

Kim has moved on now, turning things over to Tasha Davidson, the new club president.

When asked her ambitions for the equestrian club she replied, "Next year we hope members develop into better equestrians improving their riding form, learning how to saddle more effectively, ride more confidently; learning more successful horsemanship over all."

Members of the equestrian club meet at Brasstown Valley Stables twice a month. When asked how the club has helped her, student Jenna Penland replied, "Before I joined the



equestrian club I could not ride a horse and now I can, thanks to our instructor, Judith Weible."

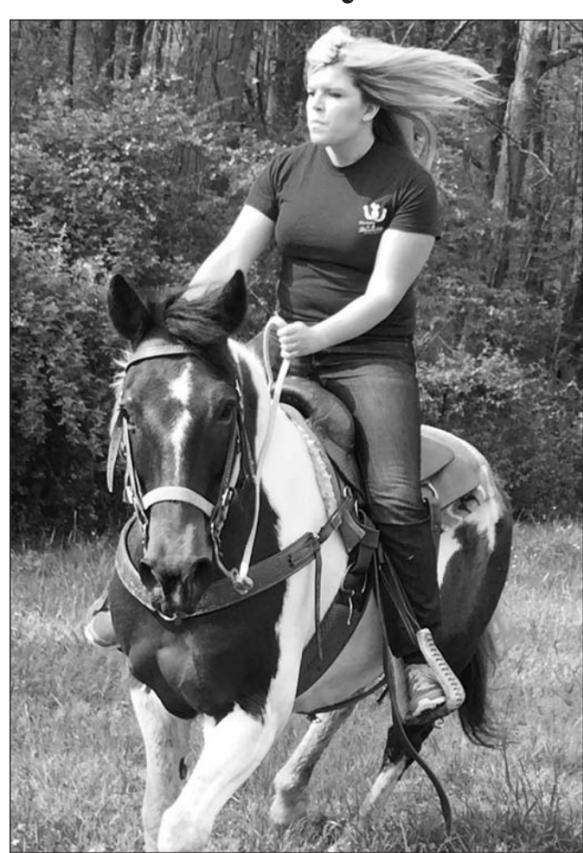
Another member, Beka Wylie also commented, "It has improved our skills in working together, which has accomplished great things for our club."

There is consensus from the club members that the favorite activities at Brasstown Valley Stables are the actual riding of the trails. However, the members also enjoy the daily care of the horse, saddling and unsaddling and obstacles courses. Next year they hope to start drill-team work.

One member of the club, Sarah Boudreau, has benefitted somewhat more than the others as she now works at Brasstown Stables. When asked about it, Sarah stated, "Yes it has been a great opportunity for me. I like working with both people and horses, and especially helping people, so my summer job here at Brasstown Stables will allow me to do all these things. I will also be working with the horse riding summer camps.

Judith, who has worked at Brasstown Stables as an instructor for approximately three

years commented on how she is working to develop the students during this year and what plans are for the future: "As their instructor, I have really enjoyed teaching this young group of people. It has been a privilege to work with them each week. They have showed great teamwork and respect both for each other and for the staff and horses at the barn. She adds, "In some capacity we will offer some one-to-one activities so I can bring each rider up to the same level. All in all, it has been an exciting year and a wonderful marriage between Young



Harris College and Brasstown Valley Stables."

Jerry Hamilton, Stables Manager at Brasstown Valley Resort, noted he was pleased with the development of the club and the working relationship with the college. He added, "I would like to see that all these students learn horsemanship to the fullest and can one day go onto professional riding in whatever capacity they choose."

Tasha Davidson finishes by offering a huge thank you to barn staff including Lori deSmith for all her hands-on help and a thank

you to Charles Burton, General Manager of Brasstown Valley Resort, for his flexibility in allowing the club to meet and use the facilities. Tasha also offered gratitude to Cathy Cox, President of Young Harris College, for allowing such clubs to thrive at the school.

Brasstown Valley Stables is a first class facility offering daily trail rides, private lessons, equine team-building exercises and a summer camp for children between the ages of 6-15 years.

Call Brasstown Valley Resort for more information.

Benson gets first look at Indians basketball

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indian basketball team held its first summer practices on Thursday, June 4, and Friday, June 5.

And so far, new Indian Head Coach Rob Benson is impressed with what he's seen.

"I think they're a really coachable group," said Coach Benson. "I am just really, really impressed with the upside, that we've got a lot to build on. There are a lot of good skillsets there, a lot of good athletes and a lot of basketball IQ. And so as we build on that, that's what I mean by the upside."

Coach Benson drilled with the boys, taking turns running plays up and down the court to show his Indians exactly what he expected of them.

"What I believe is, there's an expectation, and the expectation is that we're going to play hard every night and we're going to compete every night," said Coach Benson. "I believe that if I'm going to set that expectation, then I need to coach hard."

"As far as getting out there and playing, sometimes I'll get out there and run a couple of drills with them, but a lot of times I look at it as every moment's a teaching moment. Every



moment I can see something, I'll say hey, let's look at this, let's do this, and I jump right in there and show them what I'm talking about."

His philosophy that "every moment's a teaching moment" allows Coach Benson to adapt on the

move, and to concentrate on strengths and weaknesses as they become apparent on the court.

"These kids, they're very coachable, I love their athleticism," said Coach Benson.

TCYFL Camp sign ups begin Saturday

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Youth Football Camp will take place Saturday, July 11, from 8 a.m. until noon at the Towns County High School practice football field, and signup begins Saturday, June 13, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center.

Interested young athletes and their parents should bring a copy of their child's birth certificate at signup, as it will be provided to the Smoky Mountain Conference as proof of age.

The camp will be free, but a one-time payment of \$90 will be required at the time of signup in order to cover costs of playing during the season, including insurance, a game jersey that kids will get to keep at the end of the season, and a trophy at the end-of-year banquet.

Athletes can also sign up on Saturday, June 20, and Saturday, June 27, at the new rec center between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., as well as the day of the camp, July 11.

Again, in order to be accepted on one of the teams, parents will need to provide a copy of their child's birth certificate at the time of signup, along with the \$90.

Kids who played last year will not need to provide copies of their birth certificates at signup.

Teams are broken down into categories according to age: Pee Wees are 5 and 6-year-olds; Termites are 7 and 8-year-olds;



Mites are 9 and 10-year-olds; and Midgets are 11 and 12-year-olds.

This year will be Youth Football Director Jimmy Smith's 19th year directing the Towns County program, as well as

the county's second year in the Smoky Mountain Conference.

Youth football kicks off its regular season on Saturday, Aug. 15, when the Franklin Panthers head over from North Carolina to play at Towns County.

Vogel Kids Fishing Rodeo, June 13

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2015. Time: 8 a.m. - noon. Location: Vogel State Park, 405 Vogel State Park Rd., Blairsville, located 11 miles south of Blairsville on Hwy. 129/11. Cost: \$5 per vehicle parking fee.

Vogel State Park and The Vogel Volunteers will host a Kid's Fishing Rodeo. Wolf Creek will be stocked with trout for children 12 years and younger to fish. Your child must be present at the registration tent for sign-in and to receive a free t-shirt prior to fishing. The first 400 children will receive a t-shirt. Also the

lucky ticket holders will receive a prize. Park staff and volunteers will be helping by giving out bait, baiting hooks, taking fish off, and giving out prizes. Prizes are donated by the local businesses. A limited supply of loaner rods/cane poles, corn and worms will be available. So please, bring your own if possible. All fishing laws are to be followed. We want to teach the children to protect & conserve the resources while having fun.

Information: 706-745-2628 or www.GeorgiaStateParks.org. NJun10.F2JSH

RELAY FOR LIFE
Logo for Relay for Life event.

GLOW RUN
5K Race/Walk

June 20, 2015 at 9 PM. Registration will begin at 8 PM. Brasstown Valley Golf Course Young Harris, GA. Entry Fees: \$30 PER person includes a T-Shirt. Awards will be given to Overall M/F, Masters M/F and to three in age groups beginning 10 and under through 70 and over.
Name: _____ Gender: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Age: _____ Shirt Size Y M S M L XL
Amount enclosed: _____

Waiver: In consideration of acceptance of this entry, I waive any and all claims for myself and my heirs against Brasstown Valley Resort and Spa, the American Cancer Society employees, volunteers, sponsors, for injury or illness which directly or indirectly results from my participation in this event. I further state that I am in the proper physical condition to participate in an event of this nature.
Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Parent Signature if under 18)

After the race, there will be a party at Brassies Grill. Relay for Life will provide 1 ticket for a drink after the race. Parking will be available at Equani Spa and adjacent parking areas. E-mail: townscountyrelayforlife@gmail.com for additional information and/or a registration form. Questions contact Martha Cunningham 706-896-5916 or Cameron Lopez 706-768-1357.

VFW Golf League news

The Hiwassee VFW Post 7807 golf league plays at Chatuge Shores Golf Course every Thursday at 9 a.m. The league is open to all veterans, regardless of post affiliation. This week's

competition was won by Bill Kiser, J.C. Berrong, Frank Geddings and Glenda Geddings. They scored a blistering 65 which is 7 strokes under par. Good job guys and gal!

2015 Summer Day Camp ages 6-12

Summer is just around the corner and that means hot weather and Summer Day Camp for boys and girls ages 6 thru 12.

This summer the Recreation Department will offer day camp for 4 sessions, each session being two weeks, running Monday thru Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Day Camp begins June 8th.

Sessions will be as follows: Session I: June 8th thru June 19th. Session II: June 22nd thru July 3rd. Session III: July 6th thru July 17th. Session IV: July 20th thru July 31st.

The fee for the two week session is \$120 or \$60 per week. The fee is payable to the Towns County Recreation Department.

Day Camp offers children sports game activities, social game activities, field trips, nature hikes and much more.

Give your child a lot to do this summer and sign them up for Day Camp. You may send your child to any or all of the sessions. Children need to bring a swimsuit, towel, sprayable sunscreen and sack lunch. The Recreation Department will furnish the ice water for the campers.

Registration will be the first Monday of each session at The Towns County Recreation and Conference Center located 150 Foster Park Rd.

For more information please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

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AT THE RUBBER GYM - BY THE MIDDLE SCHOOL
310 WELLBORN STREET, BLAIRSVILLE, GA
DOORS OPEN 7PM - BELLTIME 8PM
ADULTS \$10 - AGES 11 & UNDER \$5
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