

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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50 Cents

Publication Number 635540 Volume 83 Number 32

Wednesday, June 13, 2012

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy	79	60
Fri: Storms	77	57
Sat: Cloudy	78	56
Sun: Cloudy	79	59
Mon: Sunny	80	59
Tue: Cloudy	81	60
Wed: Cloudy	82	61



Upstream Elevation Predicted 06/13/12	
Lake Chatuge	1924.16
Lake Nottely	1773.93
Blue Ridge	1672.96

INDEX

2 sections, 18 Pages

Arrests.....	13A
Church/Obits.....	8,9A
Classifieds.....	2B
Editorial.....	4A
Elected Officials.....	4A
Legals.....	3B

Sports Page 10A

Tashina Eller



Candidate for Coroner
See Page 2A

Big Meet

Towns County Democratic Party will host a multi-county meeting on Thursday June 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Senior Center in Hiwassee on Berrong Street.

Guest speakers include Jana Hill, candidate for District 8 State Representative, and Steve Oppenheimer, candidate for Public Service Commissioner.

Democrats of Rabun, White, Fannin, Towns and Union counties are invited to hear their candidate speak.

WWII Vets

Towns County World War II Veterans, male or female, from all branches of military service are needed to fill the positions of Grand Marshals for the Georgia Mountains Fairgrounds Annual Parade. The parade will be held on July 20.

As Grand Marshal, you and your service to this great country will be honored.

Please call Walt Scott, USMC Retired, at (706) 896-2009 or Bud Johnson, USN Retired, at (706) 970-0195.

Also, you can visit Commissioner Bill Kendall, at the Courthouse.

Cookbooks

Chatuge Regional Nursing Home has collected the best recipes from group members, family and friends and compiled them into attractive keepsake cookbook that makes a perfect gift.

The books are selling for \$12.50 each.

For more details on how to get a cookbook, call Tabitha Crawford or Rita Bradshaw at (706) 896-2231.

Hamilton Gardens rededicated by Chamber

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds proudly held a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday morning to celebrate the re-opening of the newly restored Hamilton Gardens' Garden Shop.

Towns County Lion Club members, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Manager Hilda Thomason, and Towns County Chamber President Candace Lee were on hand to join in this exciting moment in Towns County history.

Since 1982, the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds has operated the Hamilton Rhododendron Garden for the enjoyment of local residents and tourists. This historic garden has been a focal point for Towns County over the past 30 years and has attracted many visitors

to our area. In an effort to raise revenue for the upgrades and repairs, the original greenhouses, built over 30 years ago, have been restored Garden Shop revamped.

Rows of rhododendrons, locally grown annuals and perennials, as well as a variety of greenhouse grown wildflowers will surely lure you to purchase a plant to help save a plant. All the profits from the sale of any plant will go toward garden projects and restoration.

The Hamilton Gardens are recognized as one of only six Rhododendron Gardens open to the public in the United States and has received the honor of a grant from the American Rhododendron Society this year for their efforts in restoring the original greenhouses.

"Our goal with the



Visitors take a walk through the greenhouse plant section last week at Hamilton Gardens on the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds compound.

Photo/Lowell Nicholson

to give visitors a historical walk-through of Fred Hamilton's original quest and to share their combined knowledge of what it took to establish this "Jewel of the Mountains."

Guided group tours and cart tours are encouraged. The Hansens' have a

way of making horticulture and history really come together.

The newly restored Garden shop is located near the entrance to the Hamilton Gardens in the upper parking level of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

See Gardens, page 12A

First Arts Fest a hit at Ridges

By Libby Shook
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Blue skies, sunshine, and what a day to take a stroll through the beautiful grounds of The Ridges Resort Saturday morning as they hosted their First Arts and Crafts Festival with 75-plus vendors represented.

By late afternoon, the blue skies turned cloudy, but the undaunted crowd continued to meander through the vendor area. This was a very special day at The Ridges as they were celebrating their 25th anniversary.

The arts and crafts were all exceptional and some of the most talented juried artists and crafters from all over the southeast were represented.

Blairsville's Paul Grossman featured some beautiful woodwork items including handmade bowls of various sizes. Grossman told a story of a "big bowl" he had donated to the Union County Historical Society. The bowl was made from a Bradford Pear tree that had been cut down from the Union County Courthouse



Helena and Paul Grossman pose with Paul's work at the First Ridges Arts and Crafts Festival. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Square. "I made a bowl out of it and donated it to the Historical Society because I just felt it was a piece of history that just belonged in the museum," said Grossman.

Curtis Shumate, of Blackwater Barrel Company in Daleville, Miss., is fairly new to the arts and crafts scene. He has only been doing shows for about eighteen months. He had some very unique items including Adirondack chairs and benches, cabinets, wine racks, and tables. "All my stuff is made from 150 year old white oak that has been taken from recycled wine

barrels. No two pieces are alike," said Shumate.

Another unique vendor was Susan Mick of Otto, NC. She works under the name Tippecanoe Antique's Trader featuring tree bark framing. All of her materials come from nature. She uses different kinds of tree bark, lichens, and moss to create her frames.

"My specialty is antique prints which show off beautifully in tree bark frames. I like mixing the old with the new," said Mick.

There was something for everyone regardless

See Arts, page 12A

An open letter from Sheriff Chris Clinton

Many of you are aware that during this past legislative session, the State of Georgia banned synthetic marijuana such as K-2, or spice.

This came as a result of serious medical issues, and even death occurred in several cases in which young people in Georgia tried the drug.

The chemicals used in the drug are intended to mimic the THC found in marijuana.

One of the major problems with these drugs is the fact that the chemicals' effects are sometimes thousands of times that of marijuana.

These chemicals are extremely dangerous and parents and grandparents need to be aware that young people are being targeted by the manufacturers of these chemicals. They are often marketed as "legal," "safe," versions of marijuana.

The fact is, these chemicals are not safe.

Recently, law enforcement officers in Georgia



Sheriff Chris Clinton

have started to encounter new variations of K-2 spice-type drugs that may not be covered under the latest revisions of the law. The illicit manufacturers of these drugs have been working to change their formula in an attempt to side step the new law and in some cases may have succeeded.

When the new law was first enacted, the Towns County Sheriff's Office visited businesses to make sure they were aware of the law. I am receiving information that now the manufacturers are in fact attempting to

See Clinton, page 12A

The Rev. Jim Blair bids adieu

By Libby Shook
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Sunday morning marked the end of an era for the Rev. Jim Blair as he stood before his congregation at Hiwassee United Methodist Church, delivered his last sermon, and left the many members of the congregation longing for more.

Blair announced his retirement a few weeks back leaving his congregation saddened and shocked. He has been their pastor for the past eight years and he and his wife, Katie, have

See Blair, page 12A



Katie and Jim Blair share a smile. Jim, the pastor at Hiwassee United Methodist Church retired Sunday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Art of Gold Gallery is now open

By Libby Shook
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Young Harris, known for its beautiful valley and splendorous mountain views, now has another attraction that is sure to bring more visitors and revenue in to this small town community.

The Art of Gold Gallery, a fine art gallery, well stocked with the original art of regional artists, held its open house on Sunday evening.

See Gallery, page 12A



Vickie and Bob Levy, left, and Debbie Vaughn, right, celebrate Ron Wallace as Artist of the Month. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Making history at Ridges

By Libby Shook
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Saturday marked the 25th anniversary of The Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuge and what better way to commemorate this special event than to share it with the Lake Chatuge Antique Classic Boat Rendezvous hosted by the Blue Ridge Chapter Antique and Classic Boat Society.

"The ACBS has been here since the opening of The Ridges, 25 consecutive years," said Ridges' General Manager Chad Hooper.

The Blue Ridge Chapter was formed on April 8, 1986 at Lake Lure, NC.

Today they boast almost 300 members throughout the Southeast.

There were 30 antique wooden boats on site Saturday, each with a unique name and a unique story. In fact, the name almost told the story.

Randy Cunningham, Boat Show Chairman, and his wife Linda started this event 25 years ago.

"I joined the society/chapter probably 30 years ago," Randy Cunningham said.

He has been coming to Lake Chatuge since he was a teenager.

"We have a cabin on Lake Chatuge. The Field-



Linda and Randy Cunningham

stone (now known as The Ridges) was being finished," he said. "They were brand new and had just opened. We came to the Fieldstone and told them that we had antique boats. They were receptive to it and we've been here ever since."

Cunningham and his wife own three antique boats, are avid collectors and passionate about what they do. He is proud to be affiliated with ACBS and The Ridges Resort.

John Walton of Blue Ridge has been a member of the Blue Ridge Chapter ACBS for 18 years, a hobbyist for 20 years, and owns six antique boats. Of

See Boat Show, page 12A

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