

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

www.townscountyherald.net

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

Publication Number 635540 Volume 83 Number 34

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Local Weather and Lake Levels

| | | |
|-------------|----|----|
| Thur: Sunny | 93 | 64 |
| Fri: Sunny | 98 | 67 |
| Sat: Sunny | 96 | 67 |
| Sun: Cloudy | 92 | 66 |
| Mon: Cloudy | 93 | 66 |
| Tue: Sunny | 93 | 67 |
| Wed: Sunny | 95 | 67 |



| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Upstream Elevation Predicted 06/27/12 | |
| Lake Chatuge | 1923.73 |
| Lake Nottely | 1773.54 |
| Blue Ridge | 1673.52 |

INDEX

3 sections, 18 Pages

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Arrests..... | 2A |
| Chamber News..... | 3C |
| Church/Obits..... | 6,7A |
| Classifieds..... | 2B |
| Editorial..... | 4A |
| Elected Officials..... | 4A |
| Legals..... | 3B |

Sports Page 8A

Steve Gerdes



See, Commission, Page 2A

Fireworks

The Annual Fourth of July Lake Chatuge Boat Parade and Fireworks are on tap again this year. All boats must fly an American Flag. The boat parade, which starts at 11 a.m., once again gives a big thanks to Deb and Russ Collins of Deb Collins' Signature Gallery. Boaters are asked to arrive in Nantahala Bay by 10:30 a.m. Fireworks will be held Tuesday evening, July 3 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds at 9:45 p.m. And remember the Fourth of July fireworks at Brasstown Valley Resort. The excitement begins at dark.

Fling

The Sixth Annual Mountain Fling Arts & Crafts Show is Saturday and Sunday at North Georgia Technical College.

Saturday's event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ample parking is available. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Admission is free.

The art show is juried. For more details about the show, turn to Page 7A inside today's Towns County Herald.

The event is a fundraiser for Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc., which was founded in 1998.

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.

Citizens South Bank robbed on Monday

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Towns County Sheriff's Office and Hiwassee Police are searching for a man who robbed a local bank on Monday afternoon.

Towns County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Jeff Edge issued a release that a white male wearing a ball cap and sunglasses entered Citizens South Bank and robbed a teller.

The incident happened shortly after 2 p.m. The male, between the ages of 25 and 35 years old walked into the bank and demanded money, according to the release.

After receiving an undisclosed amount of cash, the man left the bank, according to the release.

The suspect is believed to be between 5-foot, 8-inches and 5-foot, 10-inches tall.

See Robbery, page 9A



Video surveillance cameras caught these images during Monday's bank robbery at Citizens South Bank in Hiwassee.



Towns County Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Barrett and his K-9 partner try to pick up the trail of Monday's bank robbery suspect. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

EMS gets boost from NEGMC

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

Paramedics with the Towns County EMS are now better equipped to save your life and reduce damage when you suffer a severe heart attack, thanks to a donation of 5 special refrigerators by the Northeast Georgia STEMI Program.

The refrigerators, paid for by a grant from The Medical Center Foundation of Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, cools saline used in patient IVs as part of induced hypothermia protocol.

The average cost of these refrigerators is about \$700 according to Tom Edwards, Director of the Ronnie Green Heart Center at NGMC.

Wednesday afternoon at the EMS Center on Jack Dayton Circle in Young Harris, the refrigerators were delivered and presented to Ricky Mathis, Director of the Towns County EMS and staff.

On hand for the presentation was Edwards, Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, and Paramedics Junior Chastain and Jim Shirley.

"I think we've got a really fine, professional crew. We're real proud of them. They do a real good job of saving



Junior Chastain, Jim Shirley, Tom Edwards and Bill Kendall share a smile last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

lives in Towns County," said Kendall.

"When a patient goes into cardiac arrest, blood stops flowing throughout the body, which means vital organs do not receive oxygen," said Edwards. "The brain and heart muscle are especially susceptible to damage if they don't receive oxygen within a few minutes."

"The average body temperature of a healthy person is 37 degrees centigrade. We need for them to be at 34 degrees centigrade when they are brought in," said Edwards.

"Induced hypothermia protocol greatly decreases

the likelihood of permanent damage and increases chance of survival by lowering the patient's body temperature using this cooled saline.

"Old rescue trucks do not have refrigeration systems. Most counties in our region are not equipped with refrigerators. It's hard to manage ice when you're having to refill it constantly. It's difficult to get the patient to 34 degrees centigrade," he said.

"With these refrigerators, the paramedics have the ability to cool the body temperature

See EMS, page 9A

New development picks Hiwassee

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

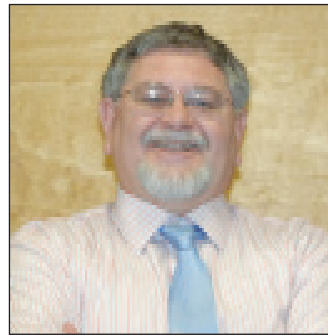
During its June Committee Meeting, Mayor Barbara Mathis and the Hiwassee City Council met with representatives of J.T. Development Inc., and received a briefing on the proposed Mountain View Apartments.

JT Development, a limited partnership, proposed to construct multifamily rental apartments consisting of 52 units at Highway 76 and Ross Lloyd Road in Hiwassee.

The construction budget is set at \$4 million dollars with the city providing water and sewer services to the development.

"The apartment complex will apply for low income housing tax credits from the Department of Community Affairs. Mayor Mathis and the City Council endorse the application," said Rick Stancil, City Manager.

The Council and Committee members received information that the apartment community will consist of 28, one bedroom/1 bath units with 815 square feet and 24, two bedroom/two bath



Rick Stancil

units with 1,105 square feet. Mountain View Apartments also will have an on-site manager, maintenance employees, a state-of-the-art community center, a fitness room, a furnished computer center with free Wi-Fi, picnic pavilions with grilling areas, private patio or balcony, and wonderful lake and mountain views. Anticipated rental rates for the one bedroom unit is \$403 and \$494 for the two bedroom unit. Applicants will need to qualify based on income, credit history, and rental history.

"The developers plan to hire, certify, and train 12 skilled carpenters and four day laborers for the building process," Stancil said.

See Housing, page 9A

Bark in the Park a hit

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

Saturday morning was a beautiful day for folks to gather on the square in Hiwassee for a very worthy cause. Castaway Critters hosted Bark in the Park with close to 100 people in attendance, and that's not counting the four-legged guests.

There were 35 dogs registered for the various events. This unique and fun event netted Castaway Critters almost \$600 and provided a great deal of entertainment for the community.

Proud pet owners were there to show off their four-

See, Bark page 9A



Bark in the Park was a score for Castaway Critters.

BOE sets budget for FY2013

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

The Towns County Board of Education has approved an \$11.19 million budget for FY2013.

The next step for the school system is to set a millage rate to generate the budgeted amount from the tax digest.

Setting the millage rate will come at a later date. The BOE will advertise public hearings to set the millage rate.

However, school systems statewide are feeling the effects of a budget crunch due to a struggling economy and



Melissa Williams

Towns County is not exempt. Budget shortfalls left the Towns County School Board facing some tough decisions as they voted on and approved the proposed budget for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year at a scheduled board meeting on Monday, June 18.

"As a new superintendent, you hate to come into the system helping the board make these tough decisions because they are so unpleasant. I have to watch school board members agonize over these decisions," said Towns County School Superintendent Melissa Williams.

"We have had to make some tough decisions and have taken steps to reduce expenditures for Fiscal Year 2013. We have cut 10 certified teaching positions, 8 of which were filled by 49 percent employees, and we will use existing staff members to fill the vacancies

See BOE, page 9A

Kendall revises county's emergency laws

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall announced at Thursday night's regularly scheduled County Commissioner's Meeting that things are about to change in Towns County.

History is being made with the adoption of Towns County's first Emergency Management Ordinances.

"If we don't have these in place, we could be penalized on the amount of money we receive from GEMA/FEMA in the event of an actual emergency. We hope it never happens, but it's just good business to have them in place," Kendall said.

Before an ordinance can be adopted, there must be two readings of the ordinances and agreements. The first reading took place during the May 17th County Commissioner's meeting with several people in attendance.

The last reading occurred at Thursday night's meeting. The ordinances were read in their entirety by Deputy Clerk Andrea Anderson.

The adoption of these ordinances gives Commissioner Kendall authority to change ordinances already in place in the event that a State of Emergency is declared by the Governor.

This could be anything from a hurricane or tornado,



Commissioner Bill Kendall

severe winter storm, or even pandemic flu.

"Anytime an emergency situation arises, we activate our Emergency Operations Center.

There are 15 different agencies represented within that center. The type of emergency determines who will attend from these various agencies.

This group of individuals with the EOC would then make a recommendation to me," explained Kendall.

The following Emergency Management Ordinances were developed jointly by the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency for use by local governments during times of disaster: Ordinance

See Ordinances, page 9A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

