

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	79	63
Fri: Rain	81	64
Sat: Rain	84	63
Sun: Showers	82	64
Mon: Rain	85	63
Tue: Rain	84	63
Wed: Rain	86	64



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/11/12	
Lake Chatuge	1923.43
Lake Nottely	1772.69
Blue Ridge	1672.66

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Sports

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Early Vote

Early voting for the July 31 Primary is underway in Towns County.

The Towns County Herald urges everyone to exercise their voting rights.

Yard Sale

Don't regift it, sell it at the Farmers Market Yard Sale.

Local residents can come out to the Towns County Farmers Market at the Tennis Courts across from the Fairgrounds and sell items at The Market.

Turn to Page 2A for more details about The Market and how it is doing.

Cookbooks

Chatuge Regional Nursing Home has collected the best recipes from group members, family and friends and compiled them into attractive keepsake cookbooks 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.

String Band

Back by popular demand is the FFA String Band of 1965 and 1966 State Champions.

The band returns to Mountain Home Music on Saturday at 8 p.m.

See Page 3A inside today's Towns County Herald for more details!

Safety Course

A safety driving course will be held on July 24th at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

During July and August this year, all educators, past or present, can attend the course for \$5.

Anyone associated with education is eligible, teachers, administrators, maintenance personnel, school bus drivers, Sunday School teachers, and home school teachers just to name a few are eligible.

See Page 11A for more details.

Towns deputies give it their all in training

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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The Towns County Sheriff's Office is working hard to ensure that local residents, as well as visitors to the area, have the most qualified law enforcement personnel at their disposal.

The TCSO Standard Operating Procedures, as well as certification through the Georgia Police Accreditation Coalition (GPAC), require periodic training in all areas of law enforcement.

On Thursday, June 28, the Towns County Sheriff's Office held a mandatory training for its Sworn Deputies.

"The Towns County Sheriff's Office places great emphasis on maintaining high standards of professionalism and proficiency in all aspects of law enforcement.

The training provided by staff POST Instructors, the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, and the Georgia Sher-

iff's Association helps meet that goal.

The state of Georgia requires a minimum of 20 hours in-service training each year for all certified law enforcement officers.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office endeavors to provide an additional 20 hours of in-house training for a total of over 40 hours per year," said Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton.

"All deputies are certified in the use of less-lethal weapons systems, including Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray) and the ASP (Armament Systems and Procedures) baton, when they go through the police academy known as Basic Mandate," the sheriff said.

"These less-lethal tools allow a law enforcement officer to use methods to control offenders who resist or become combative, but are not likely to cause great harm to the offender," he said.

"They are vital tools which protect both the offender and the law enforcement offi-



Towns County Sheriff's Deputy Wayne Whidden gets his eyes washed out after a shot of pepper spray during recent law enforcement training exercises. Photo/Libby Shook

cer," Sheriff Clinton said.

Recently, according to Sheriff Clinton, deputies received eight hours of POST (Police Officer Standards and Training) credit provided in-house at the Towns County

Detention Center location.

Rusty Walker of the Blairsville Police Department is an OC Spray and ASP Baton Instructor. He instructed both classroom and hands-on refresher training in the use of OC

Spray and the ASP baton.

"As part of ongoing in-services and required training, periodic refresher courses are conducted and available to

See Training, page 12A

Fourth Fireworks lights up sky

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Despite the storm clouds looming on the horizon, Hiawassee celebrated our country's Independence Day last Tuesday night with a fireworks display at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

Parking was limited as some families arrived earlier in the day and spent their afternoon at the beach across the street before the night sky was lit up to celebrate our nation's birthday.

Both the beach and fairgrounds were filled with families from all over Georgia and the Southeast.

License plates from Alabama, Florida, most of metro-Atlanta, and a few South Georgia counties were all represented in Hiawassee.

However, for a few moments some spectators were concerned about the weather as the sky filled with clouds and a few rumbles of thunder were heard around 7 p.m.

"We were worried about the thunder earlier today," said Joelle Golden. "My daughter was very much looking forward to seeing the fireworks tonight and I didn't want her to be disappointed."

By 8:30 there was very little parking and the highway was lined with rows of cars at



both the fairgrounds and the beach.

While waiting for sundown, children passed the time admiring the fire trucks and even a game of red rover broke out on the lawn behind the beach.

"They are loving red rover," said a Blairsville's Kelly

Kennedy. "We've got children from all different families here playing together."

Laurel James, of Hiawassee, reminisced about watching the fireworks from Bell Mountain and recalled getting stuck the last time her family and

See Fireworks, page 12A

Campbell bids farewell to fans

By Charles Duncan
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For 54 years, Glenn Campbell has delighted crowds worldwide with his iconic voice and gentle guitar instrumentals.

He's sold 45 million records, won countless industry awards, has been nominated for an Academy Award and a Golden Globe, was hand-picked by John Wayne to co-star in the original True Grit and somewhere along the way had time to raise eight children.

Three of those children, Cal, Shannon and daughter Ashley will accompany him to Anderson Music Hall on Friday for his final appearance at The Hall, part of his Good Bye Tour.

Diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in the summer of 2011, Campbell decided not to just fade into the sunset.

Rather, he decided that there was no better way to expose the disease than to conduct a farewell tour. Keeping himself in the public eye, Campbell decided, would bring awareness to the disease and generate more research for a cure.

The icon who gave the



Glenn Campbell

world *Gentle On My Mind*, *By The Time I Get To Phoenix*, *Rhinestone Cowboy*, *True Grit*, *Wichita Lineman* and *Southern Nights*, will perform at the Music Hall at 7 p.m. on Friday. Tickets are still available for the show and cost \$45 plus \$2 handling. "Glenn Campbell is truly one of America's performing legends," said Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' General Manager Hilda Thomason. "We didn't give it a second thought when we learned we had the opportunity to bring him to Anderson Music Hall. "His career speaks for itself," she said.

See Campbell, page 12A

Boat Parade highlights Fourth

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County celebrated our nation's freedom on the Fourth of July with the annual Fourth of July Boat Parade on Lake Chatuge.

Thirty-five boats participated in the event with prizes awarded for the most red, white and blue and the most creativity.

The weather couldn't have been more cooperative as the boats passed single file under Anderson Bridge to the cheers of adoring spectators.

Hundreds of private boaters and watercraft flanked the parade as it made its way around Lake Chatuge celebrating Independence Day.

The contrast of beautiful sunshine, crystal clear mountain lake water and the historic colors of "Old Glory" made for a most impressive and emotional day for those in attendance.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office led the boats around the parade route followed by Parade Grand Marshal Russ Collins and his wife, local watercolor artist, Deb Collins.

The judges had a very difficult time deciding which boats would claim the two \$50 prizes donated by the Towns County Tourism Association.

The Tourism Association, along with the Towns County Chamber of Commerce and Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, sponsored this event to not only celebrate Independence Day but also to give visitors an added special attraction for fun and enjoyment.



The Fourth of July was an exciting time in Towns County. Parade enthusiasts soaked up the sun and fun on Lake Chatuge. Photo/Lowell Nicholson.

"We want people to have fun and enjoy what Towns County has to offer," said Jane Holland, executive director of the Tourism Association, who was busy cooking hot dogs with Harry Bates, an Army veteran of the Korean conflict and Vietnam.

"The Fourth of July is the greatest day in our nation's history," claimed Bates as he helped prepare lunch for the parade participants.

The excitement was

building as the judges announced the winners.

The red, white and blue winner was the DeGroot family, who traveled all the way to Towns County from Hempstead, Texas.

The Baldwin family, from McDonough, took the coveted most creative prize, as they vacationed in Towns County.

"We worry that younger

See Boats, page 12A

Family Connection receives grant funds

By Libby Shook
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Towns County Family Connections has received a state grant from the Governor's Office of Children and Families.

The funds make it possible for the agency to continue the excellent services they provide to the families and students of Towns County.

"We were just awarded a continuation grant from the Governor's Office of Children and Families for our third year of funding," Family Connection Coordinator Amy Rosser. "This year the amount is \$31,362.

"Funding from this grant will be used to ensure school readiness and improve school performance among middle school students, grades six through eight, by promoting youth development and leadership activities," Rosser said.

Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams said every penny helps.

"In this day, it takes all the resources a school system can find to provide complete educational opportunities for students," Williams said. "This is true regardless of your school size and location, but especially so for smaller, rural schools.

"In Towns County, we are extremely fortunate to be able to partner with Family Connections to offer enhanced learning experiences for our students," Williams said. "With our schools taking such a hit, being able to partner with a program such as Family Con-



Amy Rosser

nections makes it possible for us to continue to provide needed services to meet the needs of all our students and their families.

"In this world it takes more than a good school and more than a good home," she said. "It takes all of us working together."

It really does take a village to meet the diverse needs of many of the children in this community.

Fortunately, Towns County Family Connections has taken a giant step towards ensuring that those needs will be met by partnering with not only the Towns County School System, but Stephens Masonic Lodge, the City of Young Harris, and Young Harris College as well.

"Stephens Masonic Lodge partners with us on the

See Connection, page 12A

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