

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	81 58
Fri: T-Storms	75 61
Sat: T-Storms	73 63
Sun: T-Storms	79 62
Mon: T-Storms	84 62
Tue: T-Storms	84 63
Wed: Clouds	85 65



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/16/2014	
Lake Chatuge	1,924.91
Lake Nottely	1,775.21
Blue Ridge	1,685.98

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Mtn. Arts Association

Summer Fun Gallery July 18th Brasstown Valley Resort

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Runoff Election Ballots



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Back to School Supply Bash

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TCMS scores again with No. 1 CRCT scores

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Towns County Middle School has led the state in two Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests for 2013.

Towns County Middle School was tops in percentage passing seventh grade English Language Arts, seventh grade Social Studies, and eighth grade Social Studies in the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests for 2013.

TCMS led the region in three subjects, seventh grade



Dr. Darren Berrong

ELA, 98.8 percent passing, seventh grade social stud-

ies 97.7 percent passing, and eighth grade social studies 100 percent passing.

Compared to the 183 school systems in the state seventh grade ELA ranked sixth in the state while seventh and eighth grade social studies came in at No. 1 achieving the highest level of student achievement in the state of Georgia.

This is the second consecutive year that seventh grade social studies at TCMS earned the top ranking in the

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64th Georgia Mountain Fair begins this week

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Come one, come all to the 2014 Georgia Mountain Fair.

The nine-day event, which takes place July 18th - 26th at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, will be nostalgic, exciting and historic as the 64th annual Georgia Mountain Fair shows the North Georgia mountains a thing or two about family fun and old-timey ways of yesteryear.

"We had a great turnout last year," said Hilda Thomason, general manager of the Fairgrounds. "They say the weather is going to be much cooler this year."

To accommodate the weather, they will be selling vibrant t-shirts reading *The Fair Is In The Air*, and with it not being as hot, this Friday, July 18, will offer a flower show at 2 p.m. to kick off the events, lasting through Sunday.

Also on Friday, Country Music star Aaron Tippin will share the stage with Caroline Kole, who is a Country Music sensation all of 16 years of age.

On Saturday, the Georgia Mountain Fair Parade will roll through town, beginning at Park Sterling and ending at the



The 64th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair opens this week at the Fairgrounds in Hiawassee. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. From 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., Larry Gatlin and The Gatlin Brothers and Scott Brantley will be performing in the 2,900-seat Anderson Music Hall.

Sunday will cater to Gospel music fans at 11 a.m. as Interfaith Worship with Jerry Goff begins. Then, at 2 p.m., the Gospel Music Show with the McKameys, Primitives and Archie Watkins and Smoky Mountain Reunion.

Monday from 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Connie Smith, deemed

one of Gospel's most talented female vocalists, will be performing while from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Also, plenty of amusement will be had with free carnival rides, after gate admission.

Tuesday kicks off the photography contest and exhibit at 10 a.m. as The Bellamy Brothers and Modern Vinyl headline the music day.

Midway Rides Dollar Day takes place between 2

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Towns County FBLA scores again at Nationals



Towns County Herald News Special

NASHVILLE, TENN. — More than 10,000 of America's best and brightest youth gathered in Nashville to showcase their talents as future business leaders and compete for a chance to make it to the national award stage and the opportunity to win over \$145,000 in cash awards.

Future Business Leaders of America, the largest and oldest business student organization, held its National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on June 28 - July 3. Participants from around the country were in attendance for

this conference to sharpen their core business skills, expand their networks, and participate in more than 60 business and business-related events.

Towns County FBLA proudly represented Georgia with nine competitors who advanced as state winners to earn their place there. This is the greatest number to ever advance from TCHS. Competitors included: Courtney Marshall, McKenzi Moss, Lesleigh Irvin, Allison Page, Mia Manto, Ashley Abrahamson, Nick McConnell, Major Moss and Devin Wheeler. These young business leaders worked tirelessly the entire year to make it to this level of competition,

advancing from region to state to national level. Their dedication and strong work ethic paid off as the results were tallied.

Towns County can now boast to have a first place national winner for the second year in a row! Junior Ashley Abrahamson competed in Spreadsheet Applications, where she placed first. A title claimed for the first time by Courtney Marshall, who placed first in this same event at NLC in 2013. This is Ashley's first year as a competitor. She remarked, "Since this is my first year competing, I was naturally very nervous. I worked

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16th Butternut Creek Festival this weekend

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Blairsville - Beginning hundreds of years ago, the melting pot of Native American, Scottish/Irish immigrants, and African slave cultures began to fuse together, creating the distinctive blend of artistry that the Blue Ridge mountains and Southern Appalachia are known for.

This weekend the High Country Artisans will celebrate the craftsmanship of this region's skilled artists with the 16th Annual Butternut Creek Festival at Meeks Park. More than 75 vendors and entertainers will bring their hard work, blood sweat, and tears, and God-given talents to Blairsville. And their hard work hasn't gone



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Public speaking contest winners

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Senior Center played host to a packed crowd with highly opinionated and matter-of-fact mouths this past Monday evening as the Mountain Movers and Shakers held their annual Student Public Speaking Contest.

Addressing the crowd of nearly 100 people, including Emily Bettis, a representative for Gov. Nathan Deal, Movers and Shakers' member Ash Todd emceed the event.

God Bless America, was beautifully vocalized by Emily Gerdes.

Soon thereafter, vocalists of a different kind followed suit.

Judging by the lack of silence in the room, the judges, made up of retired attorney and church consultant Dale Allison, Towns County Library Branch Manager Debbie Phillips and retiree Chris Todd, the speakers had definitely increased not only their pronunciations but also their poise, proving first-rate dialect takes intellect, dedication and patience.

Colin Lynn, winner of the



Sam Fullerton presents C.J. Owens with his prize winning check. Photo/Matthew Jarrard

event's Most Improved Award as well as the recipient of a \$250 check, spoke of a technology in which we are beginning to become familiar with more and more, within both our military and households.

"What makes drones interesting and unique is that they have the ability to act and react to their surroundings," Lynn said. "Some people are afraid of injury from drones flying around the community. In the wrong hands, the government or other people can use drones without being known. Technology can be a blessing or a

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Former Towns resident charged with intent to entice a child

By Charles Duncan
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A 79-year-old Blairsville man faces charges of criminal intent to entice a minor for indecent purposes, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and furnishing a person under 21 years old with alcohol following a recent undercover sting.

Jerry McGuffey, who moved to Union County from Towns County about a year ago, approached a 17-year-old girl at a recent community event and solicited sex from her, Union County sheriff's Detective Thomas Mangifesta said.

"McGuffey approached a 17-year-old girl who was at the event with her grandmother," Mangifesta said. "He was sweet talking her, talking about going out and spending some time together. She told him that she was only 17; he said 'that's okay, my last girlfriend was 13 years old.' She told him that she wasn't interested."

The girl's grandmother was coming back to meet with her granddaughter and McGuffey handed the girl a piece of paper with his phone number on it, Mangifesta said.

"The girl told her grandmother what had happened," Mangifesta said. "Her grand-



Jerry McGuffey

mother called the Union County Sheriff's Office."

Deputy Jennifer Carnes took the report. She questioned vendors at the event and was told that McGuffey was a regular at Trash and Treasures Yard Sale at the Union County Farmers Market.

The Criminal Investigation Division arranged a sting operation to catch McGuffey.

"He agreed to meet our undercover officer," Mangifesta said. "When we pulled up at the undisclosed location, sure enough, he was sitting there waiting on us."

Believing he was meeting an under-aged teen, McGuffey, who promised to bring beer to the arranged meeting, met the undercover officer with beer in hand.

"McGuffey got out of his vehicle, approached the undercover officer, and he was

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GSP Trooper White named MADD's Trooper of the Year

By Charles Duncan
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Blairsville - Georgia State Patrol Post 27 out of Blue Ridge claimed top honors as MADD's Patrol Post DUI Agency of the Year.

Post 27's coverage area includes Towns County. The award announcement came during the Annual Mothers Against Drunk Driving Banquet at the Union County Community Center.

TFC Cody White was named MADD's Trooper of the Year for his 49 DUI arrests in 2013. That total isn't a personal record for Trooper White, whose personal best is 67 DUI arrests in a year.

By the end of 2013, White's career DUI arrest total was 271 in his six-year career with GSP.

"It's an honor to be a part of the effort to keep drunk drivers off the road," White said. "For every drunk driver we take off the road, there is one less opportunity for law-abiding citizens to have to face the dangers of serious injury."

"Every time there is a drunk driver on the road, innocent motorists are faced with the dangers of a being in a volatile game of Russian Roulette," White said.

Post 27, of which White is a member, set a record with 235 DUI arrests in 2013.

For the second consecutive year, Blairsville's finest have brought home the top award from the Mothers Against Drunk Driving banquet at the Union County

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TFC Cody White accepts MADD's Trooper of the Year award last week at the Union County Community Center.



TFC Tony Saunders accepts Post 27's Patrol Post of the Year Award.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

