

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: T-Storms	80 65
Fri: T-Storms	82 61
Sat: Clouds	87 63
Sun: T-Storms	83 65
Mon: T-Storms	81 61
Tue: Rain	82 60
Wed: Sunny	79 57



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/23/2014	
Lake Chatuge	1,924.87
Lake Nottely	1,774.84
Blue Ridge	1,686.06

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SPORTS Page 9



UCSO offering Basic Personal Safety Class

Citizen's Law Enforcement Class See Page 2



Back to School Supply Bash see page 3

Towns County Farmers Market



Fridays 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Rec Department Basketball Fundamentals Camp



July 28th-30th Boys and Girls

See page 9

Williams, Perdue, Woods and Wilson take Towns

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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You can't blame Robert Williams for feeling a bit nervous; after all, this is the first time he's ever run for public office.

As the votes came in Tuesday, the nerves reverted to a cool calm and with each precinct tallied; Williams began to feel comfortable with the title of Towns County Board of Education member, District 1.

And, that's the way the evening ended. When the votes



Robert Williams

were compiled, Williams had a commanding lead, and a seat on the Board of Education.

With just tiny Tate City left with a partial vote count remaining, Williams took Macedonia, Hiwassee and Young Harris precincts en route to a 690 to 472 vote win over Dodie Ledford Thomas to win the seat to replace Michael Anderson, who did not seek reelection to the Board of Education.

On Tuesday night, Williams said that he ran for the seat because he had the best

See Runoff, Page 10

Georgia Mountain Fair underway in Towns

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Georgia Mountain Fair swung open its gates on Friday as the beginning of the annual entertainment line-up began and itself flooded with patrons.

Aaron Tippin opened the Fairground's musical acts, unleashing his popular music style most often times compared to Hank Williams with his blue collar holler.

Caroline Kole, a high school junior and Country Music prodigy opened for Tippin.

She currently is touring with Reba McEntire and has opened for such Country Music legends as Alan Jackson and Martina McBride, and Charlie Daniels.

She performed her latest single *Money to Me*, currently heard on Country Music stations nationwide.

"I'm getting to see and hear acts I've never heard of before by coming here," said Nyssa Mooney, a 26-year-old portrait artist from Gainesville who came to the Fairgrounds to see the old-timey crafts and to give her nieces a Fair to remember.



The Midway was busy last week despite rain at times and cloudy skies. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

"I have friends who went to Young Harris College," said Mooney, "And I've visited here numerous times before but I've never been to the Fairgrounds." "The rides look brand new, too," she said. "That's not something I'm used to when going to a Fair. I feel safe with my nieces riding them. There's so much to do here, it's amaz-

ing." On Saturday, the 64th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair Parade was a main part of the weekend's festivities as the Grand Marshal of the parade, 3-year-old Zoey Brooke Wilson led the parade through the iffy weather from Park Sterling to

See Fair, Page 10

Manto crowned Miss Georgia Mountain Fair

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Following the act of Country Music legend Connie Smith isn't easy, but being crowned Miss Georgia Mountain Fair at Anderson Music Hall in Hiwassee on Monday night isn't an easy act to follow either.

Mia Manto one of Towns County's own can testify to that.

Manto was crowned Miss Georgia Mountain Fair from among nine gifted and intelligent young women at Anderson Music Hall on Monday night.

When the evening began, the young women took to the stage and the spotlight grew as the night went along.

Eventually, the entire

See Crowned, Page 10



Towns County's Mia Manto becomes Miss Georgia Mountain Fair on Monday Night at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

College bass championships return to Chatuge

Towns County Herald
News Special

YOUNG HARRIS – The 2014 Carhart Bassmaster College Series National Championship is expected to break its high attendance record when it returns to Young Harris College and Lake Chatuge, Thursday-Saturday, July 31-Aug. 2.

"We had the largest fan attendance in the history of college fishing last year at Young Harris, and we are really excited to return for the second year in a row," said College Series Tour-

nament Manager Hank Weldon, who noted that a Bassmaster Elite Series-style fishing expo held at the College will likely make the event even bigger and more highly attended than last year.

The expo will feature the Elite Series stage as seen on The Bassmasters TV show on ESPN2. There will be numerous vendors and sponsors onsite, and the local community will also bring in exhibitors.

"We are thrilled that YHC will again have the opportunity

to host this national championship," said YHC President Cathy Cox. "Our campus community, and truly the entire regional community, really enjoy welcoming the anglers from colleges and universities across the country to our beautiful campus and surrounding area. YHC's bass fishing program is a huge asset to us, and I am so proud of our team that continues to grow and thrive."

For the second time in the See Bass, Page 10

Wright ready to begin journey of a lifetime

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

VFW Post 7807 honored Jared Wright this last week presenting him with a glazing of both the eyes, as well as ribs, while veterans, family, and friends gathered for a dinner in the Wright's honor.

Wright will be deployed come Aug. 31 to become a surface warfare officer in the United States Navy.

Having assembled all's attention toward the podium, Post Commander Mel Halfon began the evening's proceedings by addressing the bravery amongst the crowd, as well as thanking Daniel's Steak house for serving up a hot and delicious dinner for those who served.

"Back in WWII, Sgt See Wright, Page 10



Jared Wright talks with veterans at VFW Post 7807 last week. Wright is on his way to become a surface warfare officer. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Escaped Colwell Detention Center inmate captured in NC

Towns County Herald
News Special

Georgia Department of Corrections inmate, Cody Patrick O'Donnell, escaped custody while on a Colwell Detention Center work detail in the Woods Grove area of Towns County, on Wednesday, July 16, approximately 1:45 p.m.

Shortly afterward, the Towns County Sheriff's Office was notified of the escape.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton and several deputies responded including two K-9 teams.

K-9 Sarge tracked the inmate to the location where a jet ski-style watercraft had been stolen. The inmate's brown prison jumpsuit was located at the scene of the theft. O'Donnell had stolen clothing from a residence prior to stealing the watercraft.

Towns County Sheriff's Office requested and received assistance from the state Department of Natural Resources who began a patrol of the lake.

A short time later the stolen vessel was located in the area of Jack Rabbit Campground



Cody Patrick O'Donnell in Clay County, NC. Towns County Sheriff's Office interviewed witnesses and determined that O'Donnell had stopped and asked one man directions, before running the water craft aground approximately a half mile south of Lee's Country Store in Clay County, NC.

Sheriff Clinton notified Clay County Sheriff Vic Davis

See Inmate, Page 10

GDOT to spend \$4.8 million in Towns County to build new bridges

Towns County Herald
News Special

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation announces a project that will replace aging bridges and improve safety in Towns County. Talley Construction Company of Rossville, will build two new bridges on State Route 17/75 south of Hiwassee.

The bridges on state Route 17/75 over the Hiwassee River 6.5 miles south of Hiwassee and the state Route 17/75 Bridge over the Hiwassee River 3.6 miles south of Hiwassee will be replaced in one contract.

Both bridges were built in 1939 and do not meet current design standards.

The new bridges will have 12 feet wide lanes and 10 foot wide shoulders.

"Bringing aging bridges up to current standards is a priority for Georgia DOT. These bridges built in 1939 and are only 23 feet wide without shoulders. The new bridges will be 44 feet wide, providing wide shoulders as a safe place for motorists to get out of the travel lanes if they are having car trouble or are involved in a crash," explained Bayne Smith, Georgia DOT District



These two bridges on State Route 17/75 were built in 1939.

See Bridges, Page 10

Active shooter drills sharpen skills for local law enforcement

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

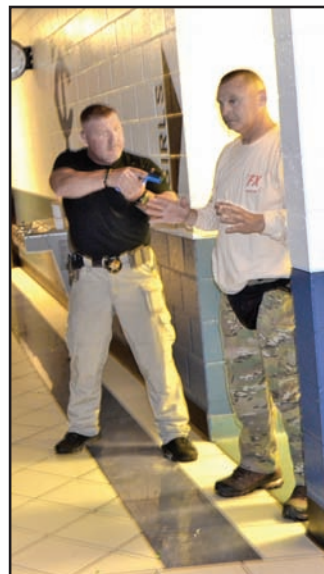
An Active Shooter Alert Exercise was performed last week in the vacant summer halls of Towns County High School as Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton, and Hiwassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright, were joined by Lt. Mark Gerrells of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office.

Lt. Gerrells has been a multi-agency law enforcement trainer for over 25 years, having led several alert courses this year already, with up to 14 offered annually, Lt Gerrells and the Towns County Police Department were present for the day's training.

Having demonstrated what the training entails in a potential threat, the Simunition training leaves a colorful impression.

"I train anything with the use of firearm force or tactical training to sniper. We blend those to fit a solo patrolman. That officer has a duty and a responsibility to stop the shooter. At that cost, we try to structure these classes to that the officer as the individual can go into a school, post office, or any type of business where there's a situation of an active shooter in process and be able to confront that shooter. We're trying to give them those tools necessary to respond in the correct way. It's needful training and I think every department should do it once a year."

Officers are trained at their local school in their own environments, so they're familiar with the floor plan.



Two active shooter drills took place at TCHS last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The scene is set with many scenarios on display, infiltrated by force-on-force Simunition, which is a kit mimicking a real working handgun, almost identical to one an officer would carry. The rounds appear to be regular bullets, but the multicolored, non-lethal marking cartridges for both pistol and rifle, which were used on Wednesday, show they're a faux yet painful threat.

"The bad guy has one color, the good guy has another color. In the aftermath you can tell what happened by the end

See Drill, 10

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

