

# Towns County Herald

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	78 60
Fri: T-Storms	75 60
Sat: Clouds	79 59
Sun: T-Storms	82 61
Mon: Clouds	83 61
Tue: Clouds	84 60
Wed: Sunny	83 60



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/30/2014	
Lake Chatuge	1,924.71
Lake Nottely	1,774.42
Blue Ridge	1,685.79

## INDEX

2 sections, 14 Pages

Arrests	.....2A
Chamber Chronicles	.....9A
Church/Obits	.....6A,7A
Classifieds	.....2B
Editorial	.....4A
Letters	.....4A
Legals	.....3B

## SPORTS

Page 4B



**Veteran's Park Monument Committee seeking names for monument**

See Page 2A

**Back to School**



**Supply Bash and Library Carnival**

see page 9A

See Page 9A



**Food Distribution Food Pantry Aug 5th 2-5 PM**

See Page 9A

**TOWNS COUNTY Farmers Market**

Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## Georgia Mountain Fair comes to a close

By Matthew Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The 64th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair has seen a week of varied delightful fixtures from eras in our history, from today's colorful carnival mechanics to yesteryear's Pioneers.

Each day's attractions were just as exciting as the next, and with craftsmen and women and staying busy wheelin' and dealin', Ferris wheels and amazing country music acts appealed and sealed the deal as the Fair itself became a wonderfully handcrafted work all in its own.

Blairsville's very own Modern Vinyl, assembled in 2008 by brothers Patrick and Connor Smith, along with Micah Tanner, sent the crowd into a fine frenzy as their dance-friendly cornucopia of contemporary pop, hip-hop, and classic rock from the 1950's onward. The stage fit Vinyl's



The 64th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair came to a close on Saturday, but will return in 2015. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

sensibilities perfectly as the colors exploded in front of the eyes of an electrified crowd with their rendition of Led Zeppelin covers, including the classic

See Fair, Page 8A

## Feds declare Towns, Union wineries as part of Upper Hiawasse Highlands American Viticultural Area

Towns County Herald  
News Special

Andrews, NC - After four years of paperwork, petitions, and substantial evidence that Western North Carolina and Northeast Georgia have a unique natural boundary and growing conditions unlike any other neighboring region, an American Viticultural Area (AVA) known as Upper Hiawasse Highlands was designated to the region by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.

An AVA is a designated wine grape-growing region in the United States distinguishable by geographic features, with boundaries defined by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, U.S. Department



Georgia announcement to be made at Young Harris' Crane Creek Vineyards. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

This prestigious designation includes parts of Clay County and Cherokee County

See AVA, Page 8A

## Racing Pigs at Georgia Mountain Fair a hit

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

And the race is on. The pigs were running at the Georgia Mountain Fair as the World Famous Robinson's Racing Pigs and The Paddling Porkers took center stage to entertain patrons attending the Georgia Mountain Fair.

Robinson's Racing Pigs have been entertaining fair and festival goers for 30 years.

It all began in the fall of 1984 when Paul and Carlota Robinson started racing pigs and in February 1985 took their show to the Florida State Fair for their first 11-day showing.

Before the fair ended they had 12 fairs booked and Robinson's Racing Pigs soon became a staple for other fairs around the country. They have appeared on all major TV networks as well



The Paddling Porkers enter the home stretch vying for the grand prize of an Oreo cookie. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Robinsons in the late 1990s, Johnny Carson and Jay Leno and have become the No. 1 fair attraction in North America.

Since the passing of the

See Racing, Page 8A

## Registration for MECHS Aug. 4-6

Towns County Herald  
News Special

The Union Site of Mountain Education Charter High School will hold registration for new students and re-registration for returning students Aug. 4 - 6.

All returning students are required to drop by.

Bring a parent with you. Staff will be available between the hours of 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. to meet with students and parents to assist you with the registration process.

It will only take a few moments of your time. All students who complete a registration packet will be given a gas card.

Our new school year officially begins Aug. 11. Registered students who attend on Aug. 11, will receive a gift certificate to Berry Twisted Yogurt Shop.

Effective Aug. 11, MECHS will begin offering meals to all students at no cost.

More information about the new nutrition program will be provided at registration.

Once again we will be running a bus for students living in Towns County. The bus will depart Towns County High

School at 1:20 p.m., stop at the Old EMC Building in Young Harris at 1:45 p.m., and arrive at MECHS at 2 p.m.

The bus will depart MECHS at 7 p.m., arriving at the Old EMC in Young Harris at 7:15 p.m., and at Towns County High School at 7:30 p.m.

If you have any questions about MECHS Union Site, you may contact Linda Joiner, Registrar, at (706) 745-9575.

We look forward to seeing you for registration Aug. 4-6.

Union Site of Mountain Education Charter High School is located at 218 School Street, Blairsville.

## Children's books becoming a Fair tradition

By Matthew Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Each year, the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' tradition is to be proud host to artists from many walks of life.

This year, one of the many walks found its footing within pages splashed with color and stories with a message for those younger walks of life; children.

Chris Roman and his mother Mary Lou Roman spent their second year at the Georgia Mountain Fair this go-round. He is a design layout artist and she is a muse, each were present at the Fairgrounds to represent father and husband children's book author Keith L. Roman

See Books, Page 8A



Chris Roman, left, and his mother Mary Lou Roman display the works of father and husband Keith Roman. Photo/Matthew Jarrard

## Sheriff Clinton returns as Regional Vice President for Georgia Sheriff's Association



The Towns County Sheriff's Office Trap Shoot also was recognized as the third best fund raiser by the Georgia Sheriff's Association.

Towns County Herald  
News Special

Sheriff Chris Clinton was unanimously re-elected as Georgia Sheriff's Association's Region III Vice President during the Georgia sheriffs' summer training conference last week.

As Region III Vice President, Sheriff Clinton collaborates with the other nine regional vice presidents on many issues facing sheriffs in

Georgia to decide courses of action that best serve Georgia and its citizens. Region III covers 22 counties in the Northeast Georgia area.

Regional Vice Presidents are nominated by sheriffs within their respective regions and elected by sheriffs across the state.

"I'm humbled that Georgia's sheriffs would again

See Clinton, Page 8A

## Sixth Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In comes to Towns Aug. 7-9



By Matthew Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Sixth Annual Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In and its festivities will start its engines on Aug. 7 and will follow closely as it continues on through Aug. 8 and 9 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

It will include a Moonshine Run for Cash event, Folk Show exhibits, Pioneer Village, automotive vendors, mountain crafts and more.

The Cruiz-In, which includes hundreds of Classic Cars and Hot Rods park and ride

for a weekend of live concerts, swap meets, and a drive-thru in Downtown Hiawasse as local shops and restaurants open their doors to car enthusiasts from all over the globe.

"I've covered 4,100 miles," said Promoter Rakes Parrish, who spent his summers as a boy in the Owl Creek Community of Towns County. "I've just been out marketing and promoting this thing. I've been given a good budget and I've been utilizing that budget to the best of my ability. We just did the 'Hot Rod Magazine's Hot

See Cruiz-In, Page 8A

## It looks like there is a new art gallery in Young Harris



The artwork of Linda Rubinstein. If the painting to the right looks familiar, it's Hamilton Gardens. Photo/Matthew Jarrard

By Matthew Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

This past weekend saw the opening of a new potential mainstay in Young Harris as a standalone art show opened its doors in a creative way.

Artists Linda Rubenstein and Estelle Schwarz have set up shop in a quaint house-like location off of Highway 76 East.

Linda, a member of the Mountain Arts Association Inc. in North Georgia, helps celebrate, instruct, and inspire throughout the Tri-State mountain area by offering scholarships to young artists and providing visually stunning projects involving local volunteers.

Oils and pallet knives line the mountainous landscapes and beautiful moments in the forests within those very landscapes.

A founding member of the Mountain Arts Association Inc., Estelle, an award-winning artist from New York, has taken to the mountains kindly and they have embraced her.

Vibrant pastel portraits as well as incandescent landscapes covered the wall she stood next to as she described her mixing of passion with commerce.

"We're thinking maybe a permanent gallery, so we're testing the waters to see if fine art can really be supported here so it can become a permanent destination point," said Schwarz. "I think people will come from places like Chattanooga, or Asheville, or

See Gallery, 8A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

