

Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 84 Number 39

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Storms	82 60
Fri: Clouds	83 58
Sat: Clouds	84 62
Sun: Storms	81 62
Mon: Storms	79 61
Tues: Storms	80 60
Wed: Storms	80 60



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/31/13	
Lake Chatuge	1,924.89
Lake Nottely	1,774.75
Blue Ridge	1,685.91

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Sports Page 10A

Sheriff Chris Clinton is the keynote speaker at the Mountain Movers & Shakers meeting, Friday, 8 a.m. at Mary's Southern Grill



Headstart/Pre-K Orientation Aug 7th



Back to School Bash August 1st Front of School



Georgia Moonshine Cruizin August 8th, 9th & 10th Ga Mtn Fairgrounds

Free Food Distribution



Towns County Food Pantry Tuesday, August 6th 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

TOWNS COUNTY Farmers Market

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

Georgia Mountain Fair comes to a close

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

The Georgia Mountain Fair - 2013 version - has come to a close.

Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said it was a good year with a lot of positives happening over the course of the 10-day event.

"Attendance was up, revenues were up, the crafters were excited, we had all the booths full," Thomason said. "It was one price for admission and the music shows."

"That was a big impact for us," she said. "A lot of folks came back to the Fair this year because of that."

Thomason said folks were excited in 2013, paying a lot of nice compliments about the operation.

"Folks were really complimentary of what we've done this year," she said. "They liked having free parking, and not having to pay extra for the music shows."

"All the crafters were really happy," she said. "We had



Towns County waved good-bye to the Georgia Mountain Fair on Saturday. Next up: Georgia Moonshine Cruizin beginning Aug. 8th.

a lot of great compliments from those folks. The food folks were happy, they did really well."

It didn't hurt that on July 20th Gov. Nathan Deal, Speaker David Ralston and 4-year-old Towns County Grand Marshal Christian Taylor led the 63rd Annual Parade.

"Well, Nathan Deal is the governor, and, you can't get much higher than that for your Grand Marshal," Thoma-

son said. "It really made a big difference having those folks, the Governor, the Speaker and Christian out in front of the parade."

"It was a throw back to the days when the Fair brought traffic to a crawl in Hiwassee," Thomason said. "It didn't hurt to get national exposure from CNN Headline News," she said.

See Fair, Page 9A

Townsend to inaugurate Sturgeon's Amphitheater

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Ellijay - If you loved the music of Waylon Jennings, you'll love Waymore's Outlaws.

All you have to do is kick back, close your eyes and you'll swear you're listening to the Outlaw himself.

Of course, the voice you're listening to is that of Blairsville native Tommy Townsend.

Townsend and Waymore's Outlaws help inaugurate the brand new Sturgeon's Amphitheater on Aug. 10th in Ellijay.

The amphitheater isn't hard to find. It's at 7661 Highway 515 North in Ellijay. The gates open at 5 p.m., the shows start at 8 p.m.

Townsend and Way-



Tommy Townsend and Waymore's Outlaws will perform at Sturgeon's Amphitheater Aug. 10th in Ellijay at 8 p.m.

more's Outlaws will be joined by Confederate Railroad as James Sturgeon's masterpiece amphitheater kicks off the first of what will be

many a mountain concerts. "It truly is an honor to be a part of this excitement," said

See Tommy, Page 9A

Marshall a national champion

By Kayla Taylor
FBLA President

Towns County's Future Business Leaders of America team completed a clean sweep at the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

The feat marks the first team in NLC history that one team has been so dominant in nationals competition.

Kayla Taylor, Kara Harris, Mia Manto, Courtney Marshall, McKenzie Moss and Alana Calhoun all placed on the national stage in their respective events.

Marshall claimed a national title in Spreadsheet Applications. More than 8,000 of Amer-



Towns County FBLA competitors in Anaheim, Calif.

ica's best and brightest youth gathered in Anaheim, Calif. to showcase their talents as future

business leaders and vie for a chance to make it to the national

See FBLA, Page 9A

Sheriff's Association honors Clinton

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton, his department, and the community have done it again.

For the fourth consecutive year, Sheriff Clinton, his department, and the Towns County community, have come through for the Georgia Sheriffs' Association Youth Homes.

Sheriff Clinton and TCSO were recognized recently by the Georgia Sheriffs' Association as being a "Top 10" contributor to the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes.

The Georgia Sheriffs' Association each year recognizes sheriffs in the counties that are in the Top 10, per capita, for donations to the Georgia Sheriffs'



Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton picks up more deserved hardware for his annual Trap Shoot fundraiser from the Georgia Sheriffs' Association and Youth Homes Executive Director Terry Norris.

Youth Homes. This award is one that Sheriff Clinton is most proud to receive on behalf of Towns County's residents.

"As a county, we let these children know that we care

about them, about their well-being. I can't think of a greater thing we can do for Georgia than to invest in our youth," Sheriff Clinton said.

See Sheriff, Page 9A

Traffic stop leads to felony drug arrest

By Charles Duncan
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A routine traffic stop by Towns County sheriff's deputies last week led to drug charges for a 46-year-old Rossville man.

Andrew Martin Rawlston is charged with multiple drug-related charges, Towns County Sheriff's Office reports show.

Rawlston was arrested on Thursday, July 25th, sheriff's reports show.

The routine traffic stop resulted in drug charges for Rawlston following an investigation by sheriff's deputies, Towns County



Andrew Martin Rawlston sheriff's reports show.

An investigation following the traffic stop resulted in felony charges being filed against Rawlston, sheriff's reports show.

Rawlston is currently being held at Towns County Detention Center.

He is faced with charges that include possession of methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and possession of drug related objects, Towns County Jail records show.

No additional details were available at press time.

Kendall takes issue with Enotah Circuit budget

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall signed the 2013 Enotah Judicial Circuit Budget, as did Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris.

So did the multi-member commission boards of White and Lumpkin counties.

In the 2013 Enotah Circuit Budget, the State of Georgia pays the support staff of all circuit paid employees including judges, district attorneys, and public defenders.

Historically, the county who had received the tax based funding for wages and benefits from the circuit paid these support personnel.

Flash forward to today. Being paid by the state requires each county to match state benefits at the 57 percent level as opposed to half that if support staff is paid by each county.

Commissioner Kendall, has yelled foul.

He says it violates Towns



Commissioner Bill Kendall

County's Taxpayers Fairness Act legislation, meaning, it's not fair to the Towns County taxpayers, Kendall said.

Kendall balked at the 2014 Enotah Circuit Budget was voted on.

There was a clause in the draft that required each county to accept state benefits for elected circuit member's support staff. The clause just didn't sit well with the Towns County commissioner as these positions are considered to be county positions.

"I just couldn't sign the

See Enotah, Page 9A

Collins named advertising director for NGN and TCH

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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NGN/TCH Inc. Publisher Kenneth West has chosen Joe Collins as the new advertising director in Union and Towns counties.

Collins, 50, comes to the position after serving in a writing capacity with the Towns County Herald, sister newspaper of the North Georgia News.

At the Herald, Collins served as a staff writer and Sports Editor.

"We're proud to have Joe with us in this capacity," West said. "In this business, you have to surround yourself with people that you know and trust."

"Joe Collins is one of those people that I want going to bat for the North Georgia News and Towns County Herald," West said.

"He's proven his work ethic over the past year," West said. "I know that people here know and respect Joe, and we're proud to have him working with us."

Collins was a standout athlete at Union County High School where he played several sports, but, mainly, basketball and golf.

The 6-foot, 5-inch Collins



Joe Collins

was a mainstay on the basketball court and golf course for the Union County Panthers.

Collins also is a top flight golfer, carried over from his playing days in high school and professionally.

He will continue to write his weekly column, Tips from the Range, West said.

As for Collins, he's excited about his new duties.

"It's such an honor to get to work for Kenneth West," Collins said. "Kenneth is a fine man and a wonderful human being."

"The opportunity to serve as advertising director for the North Georgia News and Towns County Herald is exciting," Collins said. "It's humbling to hold that much trust in the eyes of Kenneth West. It's easy working for such a good and honest man."

Heather Poole joins the Herald as staff writer

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Herald's search for a staff writer is over.

Publisher Kenneth West and Editor Charles Duncan have selected Towns County High School graduate, and Young Harris College senior, Heather Poole.

"We had about two dozen applicants," Duncan said. "We

See Poole, 9A



Heather Poole

National bass fishing title to be decided at Lake Chatuge

TCH Special

School's out for summer for the majority of college students across the country, but for 136 collegiate bass anglers, the biggest test of the year still lies ahead.

Sixty-eight, two-angler teams, representing 49 colleges and universities are doing their homework in preparation for the Carhartt Bassmaster College Series National Championship to be held on Lake Chatuge here in Hiwassee, Thursday through Saturday.

Leading the way for host Young Harris College will be All-American bass anglers Brad Rutherford and Matthew Peeler.

Up for grabs are scholarships, school bragging rights and a berth in the 2014 Bassmaster Classic.

The college bass fishing championship will mark several "firsts."

This will be the first time in its eight-year history that the event will be held outside the



Brad Rutherford

state of Arkansas, the first time for a Carhartt College Series weigh-in to take place on a college campus, and the first time a team from outside the United States will compete in the championship.

Since the inception of the college bass tournament program in 2006, the National Championship has been held in

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

