

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Rain	81 67
Fri: Rain	83 65
Sat: Clouds	86 64
Sun: Clouds	87 66
Mon: Clouds	88 66
Tue: Clouds	88 65
Wed: Clouds	87 64



Upstream Elevation Predicted 08/05/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,924.08
Lake Nottely	1,773.57
Blue Ridge	1,684.51

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McConnell Baptist Church
August 25th
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Historical Society to recap Heritage Day Monday August 10
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TOWNS COUNTY Farmers Market
 Locally Grown

Saturdays
Come out for fresh produce or come sell at no charge
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SPORTS
Softball
August 8th
George Walton Academy

Deyton honored by Sheriffs' Association

By Shawn Jarrard
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

Jekyll Island – Towns County sheriff's Deputy Aaron Deyton risked his life to apprehend a suspect last October, and the Georgia Sheriffs' Association honored him for his act of heroism at its annual Summer Conference on Wednesday, July 29.

Hundreds attended the awards ceremony intended to recognize deputies across the state who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, and Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton introduced Deputy Deyton and recounted his particular story of bravery in the face of grave danger.

On Oct. 1, 2014, Deputy Deyton was stabbed in the line of duty, but despite his grave injuries, continued to assist in apprehending the suspect who had been pulled over on a traffic stop by Hiwassee Police Officer Tracy James.

The GSA awarded Deputy Deyton with a medal of valor for his conduct, and he received a standing ovation from a crowded room that included nearly 100 Georgia sheriffs, Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle



Sheriff Chris Clinton, Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle and Deputy Aaron Deyton, and the executive directors of both the GSA and the National Sheriffs' Association.

This marks the second occasion Deputy Deyton has received a medal of valor for the courage he displayed the night he was injured, as his home sheriff's office recognized him in a local awards ceremony on July 14.

"I don't think I've done anything anybody else wouldn't have done in the same situation," said Deputy Deyton after the ceremony on July 14 at the

Towns County Courthouse. "We all do the same job. I think that I've done what every other cop, especially in Towns County, would have done. You get hit, and it kind of makes you mad – you're going to go after who hit you and make sure they don't hit anybody else."

Deputy Deyton returned to light duty a few weeks ago, and he looks forward to pursuing his interests in police investigation with the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

Hiwassee man faces multiple charges

By Shawn Jarrard
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

A 29-year-old Hiwassee man has been arrested and charged with aggravated battery, two counts of aggravated assault, two counts of felony cruelty to children, one count of misdemeanor cruelty to children, and three counts of battery in violation of Georgia's Family Violence Act, following a July 25 domestic violence incident, according to the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

Damian Wade Moody is accused of assaulting a female and two of her children during a domestic violence incident on Konaheta Drive, the Sheriff's Office reports in a press release.

On Saturday, July 25, Towns County sheriff's deputies responded to a residence on Konaheta Drive in Hiwassee. Several neighbors had called 911 reporting a domestic



Damian Moody
 violence situation in progress, according to sheriff's reports.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton heard the radio traffic and responded with the deputies, as did a city of Hiwassee police officer, according to sheriff's reports.

Upon arriving at Konaheta Drive, deputies made contact with a female victim and two of her children, who had each escaped the residence.

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Ray Stevens fills Anderson Music Hall with sound of laughter

By Shawn Jarrard
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

After a two-year hiatus from touring, Georgia-born Ray Stevens is back in the saddle again, and he's never sounded more Ray Stevens.

Anderson Music Hall was the third stop on Stevens' new touring schedule on Saturday, Aug. 1, and fans from all over the Tri-State region greeted Stevens with hoots and hollers, applause and laughter.

Always a consummate entertainer, Stevens seemed to soak up the energy of the excited crowd and give it right back, dancing and singing his way through classics and to his more modern hits.

"I made my very first record in 1957," said Stevens, before launching into a musical rendition of his own career. "For three years I couldn't get arrested with a hit. So in 1960, I thought, well, I've got to do something a little different, something weird to attract attention."

This prompted Stevens to perform a bit from his classic *Sergeant Preston of the Yukon*,



Ray Stevens
 which would prove a herald of things to come stylistically speaking. And the crowd went wild.

"Believe it or not, in 1960, that record was taking off like a rocket, going to be a big hit," said Stevens. "Then we had to pull it off the market, because in my exuberance, I had neglected to get permission from the people that owned the characters of *Sergeant*"

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School bells will ring Aug. 6

By Shawn Jarrard
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 Staff Writer

Towns County Schools are gearing up this week to open their doors for the arrival of students on the morning of Thursday, Aug. 6.

"I'm ready for the kids to come back, and I think the teachers are ready to come back," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Darren Berrong. "Summer's over – time to get back to work."

Teachers returned to school Monday to meet with their principals and take the first two days back to get their classrooms ready for the first day of school.

Open house was Tuesday night, and gave students and their parents the opportunity to meet with teachers and get acquainted with class schedules for the upcoming semester.

"On Wednesday morning, we will have a system-wide faculty meeting or staff meeting, where we'll have a breakfast, and we'll do some presentations and introduce



Towns County High School Marching Band is ready to perform.

all the new staff to the entire system," said Dr. Berrong.

This year brings a host of changes to Towns County Schools, notably new principals at the high school and middle school, in Dr. Connie Hobbs and Erica Chastain, respectively, as well as new athletic director, longtime Girls Basketball Head Coach Jim Melton.

Students will also be

meeting many teachers that are new to the system this year, and Dr. Berrong feels that the overall atmosphere heading into the 2015-2016 school year is overwhelmingly positive.

"The last few weeks, with everybody falling into place, it kind of feels like the stability is beginning, so I'm

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RV Park on hold per injunction

By Shawn Jarrard
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Jan and Noel Waite of Hiwassee received an injunction against further development of an RV park by the property owner of a lot of land adjacent to their property, until further notice, in a Superior Court case that remains ongoing.

Senior Judge G. Grant Brantley of Cobb County Superior Court granted the injunction at an interlocutory injunction hearing on Thursday, July 23.

As previously reported, the Waites have brought a lawsuit against the City of Hiwassee, Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis, City Manager Rick Stancil, adjacent lot owner Kenneth Stines and Towns County.

The lawsuit contends that



Kenneth Stines, left talks with Noel and Jan Waite, right.

the City of Hiwassee failed to honor its intergovernmental agreement with the county, that was signed into law in November of 2000, which granted the county "full authority ... to implement the Towns County Revised Subdivision Regula-

tions" within Hiwassee City Limits.

According to the lawsuit, this became evident to the Waites when, in 2014, defendant Stines sought to build mobile

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Dehler ready for new challenge

By Shawn Jarrard
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

Hiwassee-based attorney Mark Dehler will be shutting down his private legal practice over the course of the next month or so to concentrate on his new job – executive director of Georgia's Judicial Qualifications Commission, beginning Sept. 1.

And he can't wait to start.

"One of the things that excites me about this is that it involves the entire state of Georgia," said Dehler. "Cathy (Cox) and I have lived here now for eight years, and I was born in Southeast Georgia, Cathy's from Southwest Georgia, I was raised in Decatur. One of the things that I look forward to in this job is reengaging with the entire state."



Mark Dehler

"I've worked on many different statewide political campaigns that allowed me to do that, and I enjoyed doing that. This gives me an opportunity, as I said, to reengage with the entire state of Georgia – I'm Georgia born and raised."

The JQC was created by constitutional amendment in 1972 in order "to conduct

investigations and hearings with respect to complaints of misconduct by Georgia judges, and is also authorized to issue opinions regarding appropriate judicial conduct," according to the JQC website, www.gajqc.com.

Apart from Dehler as executive director, seven members make up the JQC: two judges of any court of record appointed by the Supreme Court of Georgia, three lawyers with at least 10 years of experience each appointed by the State Bar of Georgia, and two non-State Bar citizens appointed by the governor.

"My job as the executive director is to make sure that the office is running, and to take in the initial complaints that are made," said Dehler. "The members of the public, they

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Cruiz-In succeeds again

By Mason Mitcham
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

The Seventh Annual Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In hit its brakes at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds over the weekend as classic hotrods and muscle cars styled and profiled for the thousands in attendance.

From Thursday, July 30 through Saturday, Aug. 1, the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds hosted the annual Moonshine Cruiz-In.

The Moonshine Cruiz-In is a car show uniquely suited for Southern Appalachia, which has its roots in the production of actual moonshine. It is promoted by Rakes Parrish, who is from Mississippi but has roots in Towns County. His grandmother lived in Towns County, and he used to come here to spend the summers with her on Owl Creek.

When he got the idea to do a show at the Fairgrounds, Parrish at first had a different name picked out, until he talked to Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall.

"I was telling them all about the show," he recalled. "And Mr. Kendall raised his hand and said, 'You know what made this town with these cars? It was moonshine. So I vote if everybody else does that we say something about moonshine.' So we called it the Moonshine Cruiz-In. And everybody likes the moonshine," he said.

Hilda Thomason, Fairgrounds General Manager, said that using the Fairgrounds as a venue meant that Parrish was able to provide plenty of diversions to the participants in the car show.

"We definitely thought it was a great idea to have it here at the Fairgrounds. And we've got the perfect place down here to have it with the parking and the vendor booths and he's got all kinds of vendors set up. You can buy arts and crafts, and he's got food booths and a swap meet going on in the parking lot where you can buy used parts and parts for cars and things," she said.



Rakes Parrish

On the first day of the Cruiz-In, cars of all different shapes, sizes, and colors filled the Fairgrounds' parking lots. Some were reminiscent of 1920's-era mob boss vehicles. Others sported flaming smokestacks.

Arts and crafts vendors lined the Pioneer Village. Trailers were set up to sell T-shirts and other merchandise. And there was also a swap meet where car owners could trade parts.

Parrish, who also promotes car shows in Panama City, Fla., and Fort Worth, Texas, likes to make his shows unique. Since participants in car shows often have jobs, families, and other responsibilities, they can only go to a limited amount of shows in a year.

"The more things you can do and give them, and if you have a neat place to go, then they're going to take your show, and that's what it is," said Parrish. "They come here and like it, the same with the beach."

So from Thursday to Saturday, the Cruiz-In consisted of parties at the Ridges Resort and at the Lake Chatuge Lodge, live music, "cruises" around the

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