

# Towns County Herald

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www.townscountyherald.net

Publication Number 635540 Volume 85 Number 40

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: T-Storms	87 65
Fri: T-Storms	83 64
Sat: T-Storms	78 63
Sun: T-Storms	80 61
Mon: T-Storms	83 62
Tue: T-Storms	81 62
Wed: T-Storms	83 62



Upstream Elevation Predicted 08/06/2014	
Lake Chatuge	1,924.19
Lake Nottely	1,773.70
Blue Ridge	1,684.87

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## SPORTS

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## TOWNS COUNTY Farmers Market

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



**AARP Driver Safety Course**  
August 12th  
**McConnell Memorial Baptist Church**  
See Page 6



**Computer Club** to discuss  
**FREE OFFICE SOFTWARE**  
August 11th  
6 PM  
**Sharp Memorial Methodist Church**

See Page 13



**Senator Wilkinson to speak to Movers and Shakers**  
Friday, August 8th  
8 AM  
**Mary's Southern Grill**

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## School buses ready to roll on Thursday

By Matthew Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

A new school year is just around the corner after a summer of decompression for students and teachers alike as Towns County readies itself for Thursday's return to the classrooms.

Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams holds her school system in high regard, excitement present in her voice as she described a traditional yet exciting week of preparations.

"We have new staff at every school," Williams said. "The school that has received the most new staff is the high school, we have a new band director," she said, speaking of the recent passing of the baton from Frank McKinney, band director for more than 30 years.

A new football coach also is at the helm of the Towns County Indians' football program.

"We've brought onboard a new interim head football



Billy Barnhart



Those big yellow buses will be rolling through Towns County on Thursday morning as students return to classes. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

coach (Billy Barnhart), who has been embraced by the community," Williams said. "I've been up there at practice and am told that they have some really excellent athletes."

The Indians finished the season 4-6 under first-year head coach Blair Harrison.

Coach Harrison took a job in Louisiana at the end of the school year.

Barnhart, who had been hired as an assistant coach, was offered the reins and he accepted.

Barnhart was hired in May as an assistant coach with the Towns County Indians.

A month later, Barnhart was at the helm of the Indians' Wing-T attack.

Barnhart comes to Towns County from Whitwell High School in Whitwell, Tenn.

"I did the due diligence on Billy Barnhart," Towns County High School Principal and Athletic Director Jonathan Gibson said. "I checked out his references, talked with Whitwell's principal, and the thing I came away with was Billy Barnhart is a Godly man."

"He was turning the corner at Whitwell High School," Gibson said. "I think he's a perfect fit here in Towns County."

When Barnhart first arrived at Whitwell, he was the

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## Taylor debt saga continues for Blue Ridge Mountain EMC

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

The former president of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC owes more than just his unpaid utility bill, documents obtained by the *Towns County Herald* show.

The *Towns County Herald* reported on April 30 that Terry Taylor was in arrears on his stone crusher company's utility bill in the amount of \$48,643.53.

Taylor was offered a consent agreement by the EMC Board of Directors to pay a minimum of \$1,000 each month, in addition to current electric charges. That bill is down to \$45,643.53. Prior to Taylor's most recent payments, the last payment he made to BRMEMC was March 22, 2012.

If Taylor doesn't meet the terms, the EMC Board of Directors will pursue legal options, according to the documents.

According to the documents obtained by the news-

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Terry Taylor



Matthew Akins

## 'Gentlemen (and Ladies) start your engines for the Cruiz-In'

By Matthew Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Sixth Annual Georgia Mountains Moonshine Cruiz-In hits its brakes at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds this weekend as classic hotrods and muscle cars style and profile for thousands.

Thursday will see vendor setup and registration, which is held each day of the event beginning at 8 a.m.

At 10 a.m., a cruise pulls out. The exciting Annual Moonshine Bash kickoff party begins at 6 p.m., including flame throwing; hotrod appropriate.

The event site opens Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fairgrounds where there will be entertainment at the Anderson Music Hall, such as Greg Shook from the famed TV show *Appalachian Outlaws*, and live music by Tommy Townsend, Steven Phillips and Midnight Express.

Friday in Hiawassee Square at 6:30 p.m., don't miss the parade on wheels as it drives through Downtown, ending at Anderson Music Hall for the Sour Mash Bash at approximately 7 p.m.

Flip Flop Promotions manager and promoter Rakes Parrish, the braintrust of the annual event, was at Lake



Rakes Parrish

Chatuge Lodge on Sunday night making sure things were a smooth ride to the finish.

"We've got a larger turnout this year, and last year was great," said Parrish. "And it's from people from all over the United States. We encourage folks to bring their hotrods. I've already seen some cars in town coming through now, so it's looking like it's coming together perfectly. We're about full as far as hotel bookings within the area, and that's even in Blairsville."

The event includes crafts, singers, folk art exhibits.

Saturday sees the beginning of a Show and Shine, swap

See Cruiz-In, Page 10

## Webb earns national wildlife officer of the year

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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The awards keep piling up for Georgia Department of Natural Resources Ranger First Class David Webb.

Ranger Webb has won the Officer of the Year Award from the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association.

Webb was presented the award recently at the Association's annual conference in Reno, NV.

Earlier this year, Webb, who was named Region II Ranger of the Year in 2004, was named the DNR Law Enforcement Division's State Ranger of the Year for 2013.

Webb also brought home the award of DNR Investigator of the Year for 2013, and was chosen by the Safari Club International State Ranger of the Year.

According to the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association website, the Officer of the Year award is presented to wildlife officers that have performed outstanding work, exemplary service to the public, or have contributed to wildlife law en-



North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association Vice President Low Huddleston, left, presents GaDNR Law Enforcement Ranger First Class David Webb with the Wildlife Officer of the Year Award at the Annual Conference in Reno, NV.

forcement in other ways.

Webb is a 14-year veteran of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Law Enforcement Division (LED) and is assigned to Towns County in the North Georgia Mountains.

"To be named the top wildlife officer in all of North America by an organization of this caliber is quite an accomplishment and we are proud of

RFC Webb and his commitment to wildlife law enforcement and to our agency," said DNR Col. Eddie Henderson, director of Law Enforcement.

Webb is a member of a Regional Critical Action Team that provides specialized law enforcement level search and rescue services as needed throughout the state. He is also

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## UNC-Charlotte claims national title

By Todd Forrest  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Young Harris - UNC-Charlotte's Jake Whitaker and Andrew Helms saved their biggest catch for when they needed it most, reeling in a 14-pound, 2-ounce bag on Day 3 to overtake Bethel University for the 2014 Bassmaster Carhart College Series National Championship.

The three-day tournament held on Lake Chatuge proved to be a tough bite for the 80-plus teams gunning for a National Title.

"I've never worked harder in my life," said Whitaker, following Saturday's weigh-in. "We should have had more, but I lost two 3-pounders."

Chatuge wasn't giving up many fish early in the tournament, but things began to improve on the second and third day. On the first day, the duo from UNC-Charlotte brought in a bag of 11-12, and a 12-11 bag on Day Two for a three-day total of 38-9.

"It was tough fishing out there," Whitaker said. "The way to do it is to commit to getting big bites, even if you don't get very many."

Entering the third and final day, the Bethel University team of Zach Parker and Matt Roberts were in the lead thanks to the big bag of the tournament, hooking a 14-6 on opening day. A 12-15 on Day 2 kept them on top entering the



Photos by Lowell Nicholson

final day. However, their Day 3 total of 10-12 gave them a 38-1 overall, not enough to hold off Whitaker and Helms.

Before a champion could be crowned, a hard rain moved in and sent spectators scrambling for umbrellas, tents, and anywhere or anything to

keep them dry. But none went home.

Following the final weigh-in, an emotional Parker thanked the dedicated crowd that turned out for the third day.

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## Farmers Market thriving in 2014



It's the perfect time of year to visit the Towns County Farmers Market. Photo/Matthew Jarrard

By Matthew Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The fruits of many labors were in Towns County's favor at the Farmers Market in Hiawassee on Saturday.

Saturday saw the pouring in of eager market connoisseurs, including Towns County City Councilwoman Joan Crothers, as patrons arrived to cool weather, homegrown vegetables, jams, and fresh flowers just as colorful as the skins on a basket of unshelled black beans, also present at the market.

"I'm about sold out of everything," said local farmer Dan Nichols, cracking open a fresh pod of black beans, what little remained from his collection of straight-neck summer

squash, red potatoes and a variety of beans.

"These black beans right here cook in bout 20 to 25 minutes, unlike the usual that take hours. I had a man from Guatemala come, wanted most all of my beans. He said he hadn't seen any fresh since he left home. He bought a whole basket full. I had lot of green beans earlier but I'm about sold out of everything."

As a Hiawassee resident for more than 30 years, Sally Patterson is an early bird, with

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



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