

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	63 47
Fri: Sunny	75 52
Sat: Clouds	73 45
Sun: Sunny	72 47
Mon: Clouds	68 50
Tue: Clouds	62 45
Wed: Sunny	62 42



Upstream Elevation Predicted 10/15/2014	
Lake Chatuge	1,917.04
Lake Nottely	1,764.52
Blue Ridge	1,672.33

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SPORTS

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Food Distribution
North Mt. Zion Church of God
10AM-Noon
Thur, Oct. 16

Food Pantry
Tues. Oct 21st
2-5 PM

TOWNS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING
OCT. 15TH

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Youth Basketball Registration
Oct 6th-25th
@ New Rec Center



Football
Fri 10/17
vs. Prince Avenue
7:30 PM

Skaggs kicks off Fall Festival at Anderson Music Hall

By Shawn Jarrard
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder played to a packed Anderson Music Hall Friday, and concertgoers were treated to a special performance featuring Skaggs and Sharon White, his wife. "This next performance that you're about to see comes from humble beginnings," said Fall Festival Emcee and Georgia Mountain Fair Band member Barry Palmer in introduction. Skaggs has been busy recording and touring, and he's also promoting his new autobiography, *Kentucky Traveler: My Life in Music*, which follows his life and success from playing on stage with Bluegrass legend Bill Monroe at the age of 6 through just the last year or two. And Friday, 14-time Grammy winner Skaggs plucked his mandolin with blazing speed, entertaining the crowd with classic Monroe tunes such as *Toy Heart* and *Blue Night*.



Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder delight the crowd at Anderson Music Hall on Friday as the Fall Festival got underway at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

In tribute to Monroe, Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder played the original song *You Can't Hurt Ham*, chronicling Monroe's famous, dogged appetite. The audience was treated to a unique moment of levity when Skaggs discovered a wasp in his hair, and the band spent several moments avoiding the flying menace before Eddie Faris, who supplies rhythm guitar

and vocals for Kentucky Thunder, squashed it flat with his boot. "It's blue," said Skaggs. "Might be one of them X-Men waspers." The ever-moving *Can't*

Shake Jesus brought cheers from the audience, after which Skaggs introduced his wife, Sharon White of The Whites fame.

Skaggs and White performed their 1987 CMA Vocal Duo of the Year award-winning *Love Can't Ever Get Better Than This*, and then put the love they have cultivated through 33 years of marriage on display by playing songs from their new duet album, *Hearts Like Ours*.

"It was a long time in coming," said Skaggs. "It's a very Country record. Back in the '80s, her and her family, The Whites, they were having hits on Country radio, and so was I, in more commercial, mainstream Country music. Of course, Country back in those days was real Country, unlike it is today."

The two wanted to make a duet album after their success with *Love Can't Ever Get Better Than This*, but they were on competing record labels that did not want

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Jim Wood and The GMF Band highlight Fall Festival start up



By Shawn Jarrard
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

Jim Wood and the Georgia Mountain Fair Band de-

lighted Fall Festival patrons with several performances last weekend at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. "As always and as usual, we're going to rip the entertainment britches right off of you," said band member and festival Emcee Barry Palmer. See Fall Festival, Page 8

Towns County Library Open House set for Saturday, 10 a.m.

By Shawn Jarrard
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

The Towns County Public Library is hosting its Open House this Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., following an extensive \$1 million remodeling and expansion. House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison and Senate District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson will speak at the reopening. Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis also will be in attendance.



Donna Howell

Mountain Regional Library System Director Donna Howell and Towns County Public Library Branch Director Debbie Phillips have sent invitations to all of the subcontractors who worked on the project to see the completion of all the work they put into the library. "It's been 95 percent local subcontractors on the project, and we're really proud of that because we really think that it's important that the money that we're spending on the project goes into the pockets of those people who are paying the taxes to support it," said Howell.

station, and the children's area will have its own kid-friendly restroom.

"You don't think about those things until you're actually in a situation where they're needed, and so that was something we really wanted to plan for, because we do have a lot of young families that bring kids, and we needed to accommodate that," said Howell.

Howell and Phillips have spent the last seven years planning this remodel, taking care to incorporate as many details as possible in bringing Hiwassee the library it deserves.

Funding to remodel the Towns County Public Library was provided in a nine to one ratio, with \$900,000 coming from state grant money and \$100,000 from SPLOST funds.

Towns County acquired the state funding for several reasons.

"The people in Hiwassee - it's just our most social library," said Howell. "So, when we were planning it, we looked for ways that we could create areas where people could sit and have a conversation or a cup of coffee and visit, and not disturb everybody else in the library. And we want to encourage that, because we think that's an important part of that community."

Commissioner Kendall specifically included the Towns County Public Library and Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris in a SPLOST referendum in 2011 at \$100,000 each, providing a local match incentive for the state funds. Ninety percent of the county voted for the SPLOST, which showed local will for the libraries.

Ground space has more than doubled in the library, going from a former 3,800 square feet to 7,800 square feet.

"That was one of the good things we were able to use as ammunition with the state, is that you have to have your match secured," said Phillips, who has been with the Towns County Public Library for 23 years. "So, we had it secured, and the other thing was, SPLOSTs tend to expire, so if we were not able to say that part of this is from SPLOST funds that we will lose if we don't get this - that was a little bit of good ammunition, also."

Comfort was considered from all angles, with new seating, an all-new color scheme and better lighting.

John Wilkinson went to bat for us with Senator Jack Hill, who is the person who puts all the construction projects together for the state," said Howell.

"It has total LED lighting," said Howell. "In fact, with every light in the building on, it will use less electricity than two fluorescent fixtures, so very energy efficient. It should really help contain the cost for operating the larger building."

And Shirley Stallings of Hiwassee started a letter writing campaign.

There's even a new dual fuel heating and air system that will utilize propane if the temperature drops below 40 degrees to supplement the building's heat pumps, which will also save on energy costs.

"She collected 1,600 letters from Towns County citizens and hand delivered them to the capitol," said Howell. "That's 15 percent of the population of Towns County that sent a letter of support - that's

Staff will now have a lounge area, which is located next to the new screened porch.

"I think people are really going to enjoy seeing the new library," said Howell. "There's going to be some really neat social spaces, more room for books, more room for just sitting and reading or doing research, and a great new children's area and a teen area."

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Locals travel to New York to support climate change resolution at UN

By Shawn Jarrard
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

Three Towns County residents - Dr. Vernon and Mary Joyce Dixon, along with Brad Rouse - marched in the People's Climate March in New York City Sunday, Sept. 21.



Dr. Vernon Dixon and his wife Mary Joyce Dixon rally in New York in support of a climate change resolution by the United Nations at the People's Climate March.

"There were people from all walks of life everywhere, enthusiastic that we have to do something about this, and demanding that we do something about this," said Dr. Dixon.

together, hopefully to sign a treaty with binding limits of production of greenhouse gases to help combat the climate change issue," said Dr. Dixon.

The march was in advance of the United Nations' Climate Summit 2014 that took place Sept. 23, an event organized to bring world leaders together to talk about climate change.

Dr. and Mrs. Dixon marched with a group called Green Faith, and Rouse went

"And what that's leading up to is they're having a summit in Paris in December of 2015, in which all the world leaders are supposed to come

together, hopefully to sign a treaty with binding limits of production of greenhouse gases to help combat the climate change issue," said Dr. Dixon.

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Judge Bruce swears in CASA volunteers

By Shawn Jarrard
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

Enotah Judicial District's Juvenile Court Judge Gerald Bruce swore in four new Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers Tuesday, Oct. 7, at the Towns County Courthouse.



Enotah Judicial District's Juvenile Court Judge Gerald Bruce congratulates four new Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers Tuesday, Oct. 7, at the Towns County Courthouse. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Two of the new CASA volunteers, Susie Horton and Kathy Malone, are from Union County, and two, J.A. Swartz and Mirja Murray, are from Towns County.

CASA volunteer for the Appalachian Circuit a couple of

"Volunteers are trained to determine and speak for what is in the best interest of abused and neglected children that have been removed from their homes by the Department of Family and Children's Services," said Executive Director of Enotah CASA Linda D'Angelo. "CASA's goal is to get the child a safe and permanent home as quickly as possible - we don't want them

D'Angelo started as a

See CASA, Page 8

