

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County
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50 Cents

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Thursday, April 9, 2009

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy 70 49
Fri: Showers 64 46
Sat: Sunny 67 40
Sun: Cloudy 67 44
Mon: Stormy 63 37
Tue: Showers 63 41
Wed: Showers 67 41



Upstream Elevation Predicted 4/06/09	
Lake Chatuge	1921.94
Lake Nottely	1767.96
Blue Ridge	1682.92

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County Easter egg hunt

The Towns County Recreation Department and United Community Bank in Hiwassee will be hosting its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m. All boys and girls ages 3 through 9 are invited to come out. A special activity is planned for children 2 years and younger. The hunt will be held on the recreation ball fields located on Highway 76 just west of Hiwassee. For more information, call 706-896-2600 or 706-896-4186.



Photo by Lowell Nicholson
Local 4-Hers recently took on deputies in a marksmanship competition. Check out this week's sports to see who won: the girls or the boys?

Food Drive

The monthly mobile food distribution for families in need will be held at No. Mt. Zion Church of God on Thursday, April 9 from 10 am to noon. This outdoor food distribution will be held in the rear parking lot of No. Mt. Zion Church of God on Scataway. We look forward to seeing you there!

Water Sewer Auth meeting changes

The Towns County Water and Sewer Authority's regular monthly meeting in April will not be during the fourth Monday of the month. Instead, their monthly meeting will be Tuesday, Apr. 28.

Enotah Garden Club Plant Sale

Come check out the plant sale on Thursday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Young Harris City Hall. Plants and decor items from the club member's gardens, Perennials, hanging baskets, flats of flowers and herbs from local nurseries. Proceeds benefit the garden club community projects.

Water-Sewer collections stolen in break-in at Young Harris City Hall

By Carl Vanzura
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

During a break-in at the Young Harris City Hall sometime between 4:30 p.m. Wednesday and 7:30 a.m. Thursday of last week, funds collected by the water-sewer department on Wednesday were taken.

City Clerk Shirley Jarrard said when she arrived at work Thursday morning she discovered a door kicked in and another door to her office also broken into. Her desk was broken into and keys were removed and used to open the area where the funds were kept. Cash and checks were taken as the complete cash drawer was



Mayor Andrea Gibby speaks to the sheriff's office about a burglary last week. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

removed. She said some money was dropped when the burglar made an exit from the building.

"We are notifying the customers who paid by check

See Break-in, page 2

Local leaders meet over ten year plan

By David Seckinger
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall, Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis, Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, city council members, city employees, and attorneys attended a dinner meeting at the Ridges Resort last Wednesday to discuss the upcoming Comprehensive Plan the local government will be submitting to the state.

Grover Garrett told the local leaders that he was involved in planning before,

and he wants more input this time. He said they will have to form committees to cover various topics, from water supply and treatment to population and housing. The



Kendall, Garrett, Bradley, and Mayor Mathis discuss the next ten years in Towns County. See Ten year, page 2

What is the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority?

"An Act: To create the Towns County Water and Sewerage Authority; to authorize the Authority to acquire and maintain projects embracing sources of water supply and the distribution and sale of water and related facilities to individuals, private concerns, municipal corporations, and instrumentalities thereof; and for other purposes."

- from the 1972 charter

By David Seckinger
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

The Towns County Water and Sewer Authority was created on Apr. 3, 1972 under House Bill 1668 when Jimmy Carter was governor. The authority came into being because of the growth expected to come to Towns County. At the time of its inception, there was one private water company in the county, but it only serviced about 15 customers in the Bell Mountain area from a well system.

The authority was created to provide clean and affordable drinking water to the citizens of Towns County.

Today, the authority serves about 3800 customers, has 400 miles of water lines, and can store 1.6 mil-

lion gallons of water in its eight tanks: Bear Meat, Taylor Ridge, Hightower, Bayless Nob, Twin Mountain, Brasstown Gap, Brasstown Valley, and Mining Gap. They plan to place another tank at Rocky Nob in Young Harris, which will increase their storage capacity by 100,000 gallons.

In addition, the authority claims about \$12 million in assets, and budgets approximately \$1.2 million a year. The authority owns an office building and warehouse on Jack Dayton Circle, four trucks, two tractors, and a computer system that monitors each tank and connection points on its line.

The authority gets all of its water from the Rowe Canupp Water Treatment Plant, which is owned and operated by the City of

Hiwassee. The city's water lines connect to and feed the authority's lines in three places. First, there is a connection point east of Hiwassee in the Friendship Community near Hwy 76 and Hwy 288. Second, there is a connection west of the city on the other end of Hwy 288 near Fodder Creek Road. Finally, there is a third connection (not far from the second one) on Hwy 288.

The authority switched from the county's well system to the Rowe Canupp plant in 1988, when the City of Hiwassee and the authority signed a 40-year bond.

The authority was established to have a five member board. Its current members are chairman Gene Mitchell, vice chairman Chad Hooper, and directors Gene Jackson, Jamie Evans, and Ralph Nichols.

Board members each serve three-year terms, staggered, although they of-

See TCWSA, page 2

County holds Public Hearing on \$500,000 grant

By Carl Vanzura
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

Last week David Sargent with the Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center was in town to hold a Public Hearing at the Towns County Senior Center on a grant that is being applied for in the amount of \$500,000.

Sargent explained to those in attendance that this is the third time Towns County has applied for the grant which would build a new Senior Center building. The new location would be on land that the county already owns near the Towns County Recreation Department.

Sargent said the reason of the Public Hearing was to obtain citizens input

in the grant and to facilitate the construction of the new center in Towns County. He said that the grant is written to benefit low to moderate income people.

To get the grant, the county will have to go through a rating system. In demographic need they can score 120 points based on number of persons in poverty and percentage of persons in poverty.

In the program strategy of the grant to score 110 points, the county must list per capita income, alternate solutions to identified problems, financial effort toward the problem by the applicant, applicant involvement to ensure problems do not arise again and benefit to persons of low to moderate income.

To score 110 points in the program feasibility phase, the county has to show verification and reasonableness of cost, all other financing source are in place, certified preliminary engineering reports, verification of required property, compliance with State and Federal laws and reasonable project time tables.

Once again to score the 110 points needed for the program impact phase of the grant, Towns County must show the number of persons benefiting, cost per person benefiting, project's impact on the quality of life and documented severity of need.

See Hearing, page 2

A hunting we will go...



By David Seckinger
TOWNSCOUNTY HERALD

Ruby Kirkland, who were there to meet and greet the children.

About 90 kindergarten students from Towns County Elementary School went Easter egg hunting at Brasstown Manor last Thursday. Activities director Debbie Grooms said the annual event has been going on for at least three years. This year's king and queen of the Manor are Larry Usher and



Grooms stands with Kolby Moss and Samantha Matheson, who found the most eggs. Photos by Lowell Nicholson



Towns County student Halen Holdaway won the prize egg

Herald photogs win awards

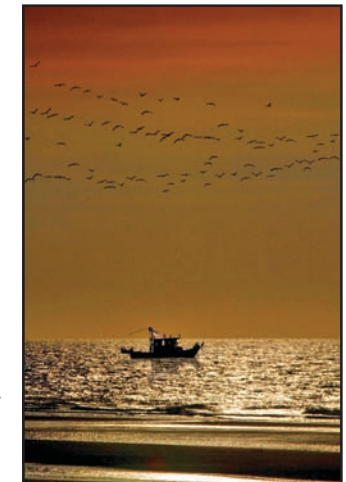


"Callaway Gardens Sunflowers" received honorable mention.

TC Herald sports photo-journalist Jim Bryant received a distinguished honor this past week. His photo "Tybee Island Sunrise" was chosen Photo of the Month for January and now appears on their publications. For this achievement, Bryant was given a \$168 Garmin GPS system for his vehicle to help navi-

gate his travels around the county.

For more info, visit www.exploregeorgia.org. Lisa Bryant also received honorable mention for her "Callaway Gardens Sunflowers" photo. Explore Georgia is a part of the State of Georgia Tourism official website.



"Tybee Island Sunrise" received the Explore Georgia Award for January and is featured on their publications.

International dignitaries to visit YHC

23rd Annual VIP Tour brings diplomats, business officials to Georgia's communities

Special to the Herald

ATLANTA, April 6, 2009— A cadre of top diplomatic and business officials representing close to 20 countries will tour Northeast Georgia as part of the 23rd annual VIP Tour. The tour, which runs from April 15 – 17, will showcase destinations, businesses, educational institutions and economic development partnerships in Flowery Branch, Gainesville, Clayton, Young Harris, Dahlonega, Helen, Dawsonville and Cumming.

The tour combines travel destinations with significant economic development projects and local business leaders and enables Georgia's diplomatic corps to meet local Georgians in their own communities.

This year's VIP Tour will include representatives



See YHC, page 2

