Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

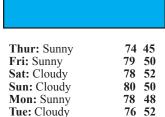
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50 Cents

Thursday, April 23, 2009

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Local Weather



and

Lake Levels



Upstream Elevation Predicted

4/20/09	
Lake Chatuge	1922.75
Lake Nottely	1770.04
Blue Ridge	1682.16

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May Job Fair

Looking for employment? Job Fair at Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church in Young Harris in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 2, beginning at 9:30 and ending at noon. Local businesses are participating. Contact Sharp Memorial Methodist Church Office at 706-379-3210 or sharpumc@brmemc.net.



Health Dept.

Health Department will hold on Oct. 3, 2008 when her it's annualy budget meeting on Thursday, Apr. 23 at 11 am at the Board of Education in Hiawassee.



Book Sale

Friends of the Libraries of Towns County is celebrating National Library Week with their April special book sale at the Young Harris Library .On April 24 & 25, the public is invited to the sale which, although smaller than our sale in late summer, will have better quality books including first editions (\$4 each), hard cover fiction books at \$3 each and first edition fiction that have been withdrawn from the library shelves at \$1 each. A good selection of soft cover books will be available. Hours are 9-5 on Friday and 10-2 on Saturday.



The first Pages in the Park Festival will be held in Mayor's Park in Young Harris on Saturday, April 25 from 11 am - 3 pm. There is no fee for admission or parking. This will be a wonderful opportunity to spend the day with your child or grandchild and support childhood literacy. For more information, call Candace Lee at (706) 379-3121 ext. 127.



Mountain Community Chorus welcomes spring by offering a concert of short choral pieces. Performances are May 1st at 8 pm and May 3rd at 3 pm in Clegg Auditorium at Young Harris College. Admission is free. Mountaincommunitychorus.org.

Still keeping "Bankers Hours"



Curtis Underwood and David Riddle performed as part of the Bankers Hour last Saturday. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

By David Seckinger TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

the Anderson Music Hall. The musical and variety performances were based on all facets of service—from military to community.

nator Gail Day said, "It has lot to be concerned about never been more important with the economy. In fact, to the cast to entertain this is the first year the show people and show them a has required tickets. Day good time than this year." said before now the Bank-She said it takes about 100 ers Hour has always taken United Community Bank donations.

employees to throw the event, which covers not only The 15th annual Bank- the performers, but backers Hour celebrated a Salute stage and ushering. Day to Service last Saturday at gave special thanks to the community volunteers who handled parking.

Day said they really want to put on a good show Special events coordi- tough times, and there is a

Day said they have raised more than \$200,000 in the last fifteen years, and that money went to local regional, and national charities such as the American Cancer Society and the March of Dimes. This year the Bankers Hour expects to raise about \$26,000, and that money will go to charities including the Union County Anti-Drug Coalition, the Tennessee based Kids First Child Advocacy Center, and the North Carolina based Equine Second Chance.

As far as the show itself, Day said this year's performance will be period pieces starting during World War II and traveling forward to the present. She also said this year the show will not have as much bluegrass and gospel as usual. Instead, there will be more swing, rock, and this year because these are popular music performances.

Audio and video copies of the performances will be available for \$15 and \$20. If you would like to order a copy of this year's Bankers Hour, call Gail Day at the Blairsville UCB by calling 706-745-2151.

YHC remembers Rebecca Kessler

By David Seckinger TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

You could not have asked for more beautiful weather—a warm spring day without a cloud in the sky. Friends said it was a perfect day for Rebecca Kessler, who was the outdoors type.

Last Friday, Apr. 17 about forty people attended a ceremony at Young Harris College to dedicate a new swing to Kessler. Rebecca The Towns County | Lynn Kessler died tragically car ran off the road and swing dedicated to Rebecca. down a steep embankment



Ramona Kessler shares her heartfelt gratitude to the friends of her daughter Rebbeca [inset] before cutting the ribbon on

See Swing, page 5

100-year-old resident earns diploma

By David Seckinger TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

100-year-old Mary Chesney is proof that with life comes hope, and maybe even dreams too.

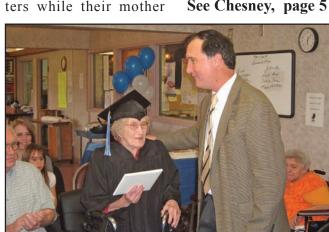
The Chatuge Regional Nursing Home resident had a dream fulfilled last Monday. The Towns County chapter of Second Wind Dreams provided Chesney with a high school diploma.

At the age of twelve, Chesney had to drop out of school in the eighth grade after her father was killed in a coalmining accident in

The oldest of five daughters, worked. Mary said she was Mary soon became responsible for caring for her sis-

working by the age of fifteen

See Chesney, page 5



Sykesville, Pennsylvania. Mary Chesney receives diploma from Principal Roy Perren.

Working for a Drug Free Towns County

By David Seckinger TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Towns County citizen Mac McBride held a meeting for local leaders and law enforcement in hopes of creating a new board in the fight against local drug abuse. McBride wants to call the board the Drug Free Towns County Coalition. His idea is based on a coalition in Union County that has operated for three years.

Union County Coalition founder and board McBride member Mike Priven said the coalition has been successful in raising the public's meeting, the executive diawareness about drug rector of the Union County abuse. Priven said the Union Coalition, Marcene Friedley, County Coalition has spent asked the group for volunabout \$40,000 a year, and teers. Later in the meeting, one year they received a McBride explained that the \$50,000 grant from the state. Towns County Coalition The Union County Coalition needs special persons from is also up for a potential a cross section of the com-\$125,000 grant from the fedmunity to qualify for funderal government.



In the beginning of the ing. He said, in particular, he needs a representative from the medical field and another from publicity.

McBride said right now they are setting up the corporation with the assistance of attorney Beth Martin, and he hopes to get nonprofit status in a couple of months. The coalition will have 12 board members, who meet each month. The coalition will fight drug abuse through public awareness, school education, neighborhood watch, hosting healthy activities, and supporting homes and fami-

McBride said they want to hold a county-wide information meeting on May 21. While the details of the meeting have yet to be worked out, McBride said he hopes to have a few hundred people attend.

See Coalition, page 5

Two arrested for sex crimes

A former jailer and a local businessman have been arrested on separate incidents

By David Seckinger

TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD Former Towns County Sheriff's Office Jail Administrator, Stanley Richardson, of Blairsville was arrested Apr. 9 on one charge of violation of oath of office and five sexual assault charges against a person in custody. Five female inmates have accused Richardson of engaging in sexual contact

while serving as their jail supervisor.

Richardson, who served as a jailer under former Sheriff Rudy Eller, was indicted by a Towns County Grand Jury earlier this month and was arrested afterwards. Richardson is currently out on a \$30,000

See Crimes, page 5





Swanson

Weekend fire burns 35 acres

By David Seckinger TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Richardson

Last Saturday around 4 p.m., a fire broke out, originating from 3037 Bear Lane, and spread to 35 acres before firefighters from Towns County, Georgia Forestry, and U.S. Forestry could put it out.

Towns County Fire Chief Mitch Floyd said the homeowner was burning pampas grass without a permit when the wind caught the fire and blew it up the mountain into thick brush. The fire quickly spread to U.S. Forestry Land, so the



Photo by Lowell Nicholson

See Fire, page 5

Young Harris College plays host to International VIPs

By Carl Vanzura TOWNSCOUNTYHERALD

The 23rdAnnual Inter-Consulate Corps of Georgia visited Young Harris College Thursday morning as part of a three day tour visiting sites Georgia's diversity.

bers of the Georgia Highway Patrol, diplomatic and business officials from 20

countries including Albania, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech national VIP Tour of the Republic, Ecuador, France, German, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Nigeria, Philippines, Quebec, Slovenia, South Korea, highlighting Northeast Switzerland and Taipei were welcomed by YHC Presi-As a tour bus pulled dent Cathy Cox and a muinto the Young Harris Col-sic group from the college lege campus led by mem- that played as the visitors

See VIPs, page 5

The heart of a King

Special to the Herald

Good work, Hallye King, the winner of "Stars Shine for Cancer" on March 28!

The fundraiser (which was put on by Towns and Union Counties Relay for Life at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds) raised over \$6,000 to benefit the American Cancer Society. Hallye was the winner as she raised \$855—the most money

raised by a performer. Hallye is 12-years-old and has been part of the Ray of Hope Relay Team since she was 18 months old. She walked the track her first time with her papa, Ray Sales, who died from stomach cancer when Hallye was two-yearsold. Hallye has sung at the Union County Relay since she was seven.

Hallye will be singing the song that has recently been written just for Relay (You Are All Our Heroes) at this year's Hiawassee Relay during the luminary

See King, page 5



Hallye King was the winner of **Stars Shine for Cancer** Photo by Lowell Nicholson

