

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Showers	76 55
Fri: Cloudy	76 55
Sat: Showers	82 56
Sun: Showers	74 50
Mon: Cloudy	69 48
Tue: Cloudy	72 50
Wed: Cloudy	74 53



Upstream Elevation Predicted 04/25/12	
Lake Chatuge	1922.87
Lake Nottely	1770.01
Blue Ridge	1672.82

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Sports Page 10

Ronnie Dunn

The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Anderson Music Hall reports that the upcoming Ronnie Dunn Concert has been canceled due to slow ticket sales, Hilda Thomason said.

BOE Cuts

The Towns County Board of Education took action Monday night, April 16th, that will lead to a decrease in operating expenses for the 2012-2013 school year in an effort to conserve funds and increase the efficiency of the school system's operations as it deliberated preliminary budget preparations. In October of 2011, the board took steps to balance the current school year's budget by using its cash reserve funds to offset the approximate \$2.2 million budget deficit. Being mindful of the current economic situation gripping the entire country, the board pledged to take steps to reduce expenditures for the FY13 budget while maintaining the instructional integrity and legacy citizens have come to expect from the schools of Towns County.

Larry Kimsey, Chairman of the Board stated, "We need to make every effort possible to cut expenses before we go back to our community for additional tax revenue. We have made some tough decisions but every household in this community is making tough decisions." Those tough decisions included cutting 10 positions many of which had been filled by 49 percent employees, increasing class sizes at all grade and program levels, using existing staff members to fill vacancies created through retirement, changing program offerings to increase state

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Towns County moonshiner's 'recipe' goes nationwide

By Charles Duncan
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The legend of Jack McClure abounds throughout the North Georgia Mountains.

An admitted moonshiner by trade, McClure was a mountain of a man, standing well over 6 feet and weighing in at more than 260 pounds.

He began dabbling in the illicit moonshine industry during the Prohibition years and continued his lawbreaking ways until cancer dealt him two pair, aces and eights, in 1969.

McClure, better known to his grandchildren as *Grandaddy Mimm*, was a man of character, morals and lived by the mountain code. His word was his bond. If he didn't like you and told you to watch your back, he meant it – and vice versa.



A native of Young Harris, he made the best moonshine and fruit brandies in the North Georgia Mountains and made a profitable living for him and his family. McClure's moonshine money was the difference between going hungry and meat, beans and taters on the table for many families in Towns and Union counties. *Mimm* never fre-

quented the church house, but was known to sit in his 1946 Ford in the church parking lot during revivals and listen to the sermon of many a Baptist preacher.

McClure's moonshine recipe had been stored away in the family's memory for more than 40 years. That is until his grandson Tommy Townsend inquired about it after talking with a distillery group in Milledgeville.

Moonshine is legal today, just as long as the government collects the tax revenue.

Tommy was only 2 years old when his infamous grandfather died, but the stories of the fear and respect his grandfather commanded – along with never-ending reports of Granddaddy Mimm's charity and compassion – throughout the

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Jack McClure's grandson Tommy Townsend is taking the family recipe the route of Jack Daniels Whiskey. Photo/Charles Duncan

Bleckley signs with Oglethorpe

By Jerry Kendall
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The beat continues for the 2012 Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball team as Ali Bleckley became the third Lady Indian senior to announce plans to continue her basketball career during the 2013 season.

She agreed to play at historic Oglethorpe University Stormy Petrels in Brookhaven in the northern Atlanta suburbs in ceremony.

See Ali, page 13



Ali Bleckley will be missed next season. She signed last week to play college ball at Oglethorpe. Photo/James Reese

Getting to know local law enforcement

Profiling local deputies from Towns County Sheriff's Office

By Libby Shook
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Deputy Donnie Jarrard is new to the Towns County Sheriff's Office having joined the team approximately 2 months ago. He comes to Towns County highly qualified having recently retired from the Hall County Sheriff's Department where he spent the past 7 years as Captain of Patrol. He had almost 20 years in with Hall County. Jarrard had a connection with this area as he already had a home here.

According to Lt. Brian Wilson, Commander of Operations, "Donnie is a very spiritual man and felt lead to be here. He has a home here, a church family here, and he loves the area."

Detective Pat Williams has been with the Towns County Sheriff's Office since 1998. She has worked in almost every position in the department. Lt. Wilson describes Williams, a native of Towns County, as "a very



Donnie Jarrard, Brian Wilson and Pat Williams. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

detailed, task-oriented worker. She is a very thorough investigator and loyal to her agency in a predominantly male field. She has garnered the respect of her co-workers and is recognized as a source of knowledge in her field."

Chief Deputy, Jeff Edge, added that, "Williams is highly organized and a great asset to the agency."

Officer Amy Burch has been with the Towns

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MercyMe packs The Hall

By Libby Shook
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"Standing on the Rock that holds, not the rock that rolls." This was the logo printed on the Victory 91.5 van and was most definitely the theme for the MercyMe concert at the Georgia Mountain Fairground's Anderson Music Hall Saturday night, April 21.

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MercyMe lead singer Bart Millard sings before a crowd at Anderson Music Hall on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Hamilton Gardens braves temps

Rhododendron Garden one of the best tours in Georgia

By Libby Shook
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Quietly tucked away in the North Georgia Mountains, sits a rare and special treasure. A botanical paradise bursting with dogwoods, tulip magnolias, native azaleas, lady slippers, trillium and rhododendron. Over 400 varieties with 2000 plants in all. They bloom from late April to mid May. Plants are available for purchase during blooming season (April 15th-May 15th). All proceeds

See Garden, page 13



Hamilton Gardens has been a sight to see this spring at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Colt Ford absolutely rocks The Hall

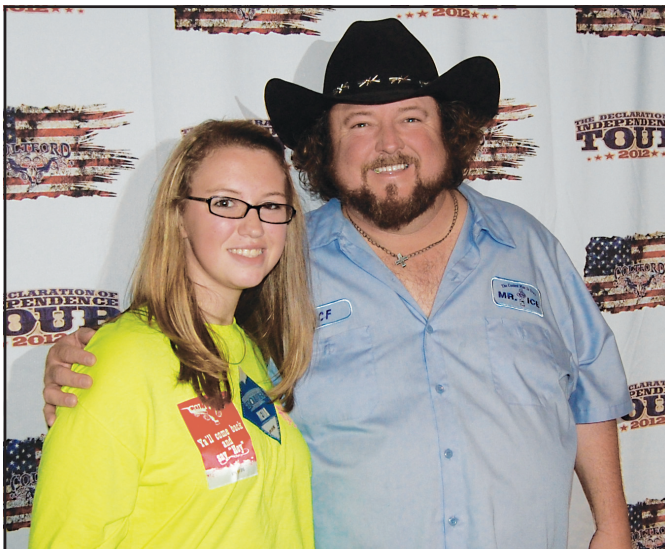
By Libby Shook
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Colt Ford brought his 2012 "Declaration of Independence" Tour to Anderson Music Hall on Friday. He didn't disappoint.

The floor was shaking, the walls were vibrating and The Hall was quaking.

Label mates The LACS, Rehab and Lenny Cooper, and JB and the Moonshine Band opened for Ford on the 20-city tour that will be wrapping up in Belvin, AR on June 9.

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Madison Hart poses with her idol, Colt Ford, during Friday's event at the Mountain Fairgrounds. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Kendall asks healthy to donate their organs

A donor organ is the difference between life and death

By Libby Shook
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On April 19th, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, signed the "National Donate Life Month Proclamation."

In attendance was: Linda Holloman, LifeLink Representative; Joan Crothers, Hiawassee City Council; Andrea Anderson, Deputy Clerk; and Bill Kendall, Sole Commissioner.

Linda Holloman is a retired school teacher and Principal. Her husband, George is a retired firefighter. They reside in Hull, Georgia, but they have ties to Towns County. Linda's grandfather, A.L. O'Quinn, ran a service station next to "the hardware where the plant store is now." She and her husband own a house here in Towns County.

Linda became involved with LifeLink on a very personal level when her husband found himself in need of a kidney after his first donated kidney (from Linda in 2004) failed due to the medication he was taking after he was diagnosed with meningitis in March 2007. He received his 2nd donated kidney through LifeLink in May 2010. Linda says, "I just wanted to give back because of all the blessings that we have received."

There are currently 3,543 people in Georgia on the waiting list and 113,842 in the U.S.

LifeLink are committed to inspiring the public to save lives through organ donation.



Linda Holloman

LifeLink Foundation is a non-profit community service organization "dedicated to the recovery of life-saving and life-enhancing organs and tissue for transplantation therapy."

What can one person do to help save lives? One organ and tissue donor can save the life of 8 people and restore the health of 50 more. Learn the facts about organ donation; designate your wishes by signing up on the registry @ www.donatelifegeorgia.org. and make sure your loved one know of your desire to donate life.

Thank you, Mr. Kendall, for your considerate support.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

