

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy	86 56
Fri: Cloudy	87 58
Sat: Cloudy	85 59
Sun: Sunny	87 59
Mon: Showers	83 59
Tue: Storms	78 58
Wed: Storms	78 55



Upstream Elevation Predicted 05/02/12	
Lake Chatuge	1923.59
Lake Nottely	1770.73
Blue Ridge	1672.88

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Sports

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Farmers Market

There will soon be a Farmers' Market in Towns County and you are needed to be a part of this new adventure for the county. Beginning on the first Saturday in June the old tennis courts on Highway 76 West will be used for anyone in the county who has grown vegetables, fruits, plants, or honey and wants to sell the overflow crops with only a \$5 entrance fee. Come to the Extension Office in Hiawassee, located in the lower part of the Senior Center, and get an application and Market rules any time from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or call (706) 896-2024 for details.

Banners and signs will be put up ahead of time, the road down to the fenced area will be graveled, and one side of the fence will be rolled back so vendors can drive in and park. Big wooden cable spools will be used as tables. We hope you will plan your garden with this outlet in mind and get the whole family involved—children won't mind hoeing weeds if they know they will share in making some money for their efforts.

Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall is making this area temporarily available. The Towns County Advisory Committee associated with University of Georgia's Extension Service, as well as UGA Master Gardeners, Hiawassee Garden Club members, and FFA members are working to make this a big success. We will be looking for larger property as this grows. See you there to buy or sell on Saturday, June 2, at 8 a.m.



Health Fair

Saturday from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., Chatuge Regional Hospital's Annual Health Fair is underway. You may preregister for your lab work at the hospital information desk. See you there!

Towns County residents say 'no' to TSPLOST

By Libby Shook
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall looked around the room at the Senior Center and saw a crowd of people.

All he could think about was the promise he made not to let their local sales tax rise to 8 cents on the dollar. He promised that would never happen. Then, along came the Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax initiative.

"We have to find a way to defeat the T-SPLOST tax, talk to people, inform them, get them out to the polls," Commissioner Kendall's voice boomed across the room. "It's going to be hard, but it's possible. We've been taxed enough."

Commissioner Kendall spoke with Democrats, Republicans, and Tea

Party members Thursday night in an effort to defeat the 1-cent transportation tax that threatens to add a penny tax to food items, beverages, clothing items, home heating oil, electricity, all house-hold goods, over-the-counter medicines, medical supplies and equipment, as well as putting an additional burden on the elderly and those trying to get by on a fixed income.

This bill has far reaching implications that will have a negative economic impact on everyone in the Towns County community over the next decade and possibly even longer.

There were two resolutions signed Thursday by the Towns County Health Board and the Towns County Planning Commission taking an official stand against House Bill 277, or better known as the Transportation Investment Act.

Others there voicing their opposition to T-SPLOST were Chuck Luca, Chairman of the Towns County Republican Party; Kim Bailey, Chairman of the Towns County Democratic Party; Shirley Stallings, representing the Mountain Seniors, Ben Sutton, Grover Garrett, Marilyn and Larry Berrong, members of Woods Grove Baptist Church; and Leo Hesson, retired military, whose wife is laid to rest at Laurel Hills Memory Gardens.

"We the citizens of Towns County do not believe this specific project is in our best interests," Hesson said.

Many others in attendance expressed their concerns including visitors from adjoining counties.

Historic Woods Grove Church and Laurel Hills Memory Gardens Cemetery



Marilyn and Larry Berrong listen as Shirley Stallings lays down the law about TSPLOST. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

are at risk of disruption if the proposed widening of Highway 17 to 5 lanes for 1.1 miles from the light to the North Carolina line takes place.

The Proclamation signed by the Planning Commission states that "the

county will receive little benefit from this proposed tax increase and does not justify the additional tax burden that would be placed upon our citizens."

"Every time you go to
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Spring Fest scores in Young Harris

By Libby Shook
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Spring has certainly arrived and provided a beautiful weekend for the 2012 Young Harris Spring Fest which was held at the Mayor's Park in Young Harris on Saturday and Sunday.

There was no charge for admission and parking was free.

This year's show featured more than 50 of the finest juried arts and crafts vendors from throughout the Southeast.

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Blairsville's Angie Herndon at her first Spring Fest. Tourists and locals turned out for the event. Photo/Libby Shook

FunkyTOWNS is a huge hit

By Libby Shook
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The Towns County High School Chorus Spring Show, fittingly named 'FunkyTOWNS,'

was held Friday night in the school's auditorium.

For many of the students, this annual show is the highlight of the school year.

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FunkyTOWNS drew a crowd over the weekend. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

National Day of Prayer, Thursday

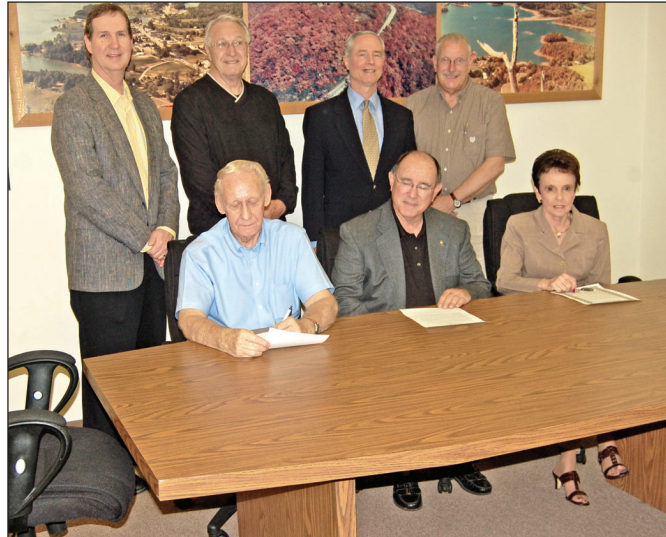
Public is invited to attend ceremonies at 8 a.m. at McConnell Baptist

By Libby Shook
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On Thursday morning, April 26, Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis were joined by local pastors to joyously unite in the signing of a county and city proclamation declaring May 3rd as Towns County's Official Day of Prayer.

Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

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Commissioner Bill Kendall and Mayor Barbara Mathis are surrounded by pastors as they sign the proclamation declaring May 3rd National Day of Prayer. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Confederate soldiers remembered

By Libby Shook
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If you thought you saw the flag at the Towns County Courthouse flying at half-staff for a brief while on Thursday morning, your eyes did not deceive you.

April 26th was Confederate War Veterans' Memorial Day.

In Georgia, it is officially recognized on the fourth Monday in April.

Even though it was a rainy day in Georgia, it was

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Walt Scott lowers the county's federal, state and other flags to half staff in remembrance of Confederate Memorial Day.

Getting to know local law enforcement

Profiling local deputies from Towns County Sheriff's Office

By Libby Shook
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Lt. Dennis Young and Deputy Tony Elliott. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

When you enter Towns County Courthouse you are greeted by one or two of Towns County's finest.

Sheriff's Lt. Dennis Young has served as supervisor in several capacities during his many years with the Towns County Sheriff's Office. He is now over Court Services at Towns County Courthouse.

"With his friendly demeanor, he is well suited to his job of meeting and greeting all people coming into the

courthouse," says Chief Deputy Jeff Edge.

Other duties required of Lt. Young include, but are not limited to, serving of civil process papers and warrants. His division makes a lot of transports to other agencies as well.

Probably the main person you will see upon entering the courthouse is Deputy Tony Elliott. He started

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A candid interview with Chamber's Candace Lee

By Libby Shook
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The recent movie filmed in parts of Towns County called "Trouble with the Curve" featuring Clint Eastwood, Justin Timberlake and Amy Adams should hit theaters on Sept. 28.

Although the actors and film crew were only here for a few weeks, the economic impact from the movie was huge for Towns County and the surrounding counties, as well.

Many local businesses and services were used before, during and after the filming including port-a-pot rentals, rental tables and chairs, catering, fuel, hotels, restaurants, shopping, boat rentals... adding up to thousands and thousands of dollars.

Towns County Chamber President Candace Lee said according to the Georgia Department of Economic Development, in Fiscal 2011, 336 combined productions shot across the state, having an economic impact of \$2.4 billion.

According to the department, once a show has wrapped, communities may even become future tourism destinations for the show's fans.



Candace Lee

"One of our hopes is that crew members will return to Hiawassee and Young Harris in the future for weekend getaways, vacations and retreats," Lee said. "I talked with several crew members who were making their first trip to our county with the filming of this movie and they were amazed at the beauty of our area. I foresee lots of them returning with their families and friends for rest and relaxation."

Towns County is a Georgia Camera Ready

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

