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Farmers Market opens for 2019 season with locally grown produce

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Farmers Market opened for its 2019 season on Saturday, June 8, bringing plenty of locally produced produce to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

Despite the weekend that came in with the weekend, the market went through with the opening day, bringing a few vendors out along with some regular customers who were happy to see local farmers back and selling their goods.

"Although the rain is kind of driving some of our business away, and because of the vendors didn't come because of the weather, we made 15 people

within the first 30 minutes," said Joan Crothers, who helps run the market every week. "We are hoping to see more vendors come out as the season goes on and more vegetables grow, and hopefully this is the only weekend that has weather that affects us."

Continued Crothers, "Last year was great. The season was great, and we had a lot of vendors throughout the season selling different kinds of things. We hope that this year brings more of that and we get a lot of different people that come through every week. We really look forward to it."

One new addition to this season for the market is the covered tables for vendors and buyers to stay protected from

the weather.

"We have tents covering all of the tables now," said Crothers. "We are thankful for the commissioner providing us with these tents, because we don't have the money for things like that since we don't charge a vendor fee. It will really help us out this season."

Vegetables at the market include kale, collard greens, turnups, spinach, lettuce, herbs, and anything else that is grown locally.

"In the next few weeks, we are hoping to have some green beans, squash, cucumbers, but that all depends on when the vegetables start coming in," said Sheleila O'Neal, a regular Farmers Market vendor. "We are really excited for this year,

but today is just a rainy day, and some of our regulars came in anyway.

"We have lots of good stuff coming along, and lots of good plants here, like our flowers, our perennials and annuals. We just have a small variety of everything here."

As the season goes on, O'Neal and Crothers hope to see more vendors come out like last year to sell corn, eggs, tomatoes, and other products that could add more options for people looking for locally grown fresh foods.

"We want people to come and sell some of their vegetables if they have any," said Crothers. "Last year, we had a guy come in with a truckload of corn, and See Farmers Market, Page 6A



Sheleila O'Neal and Joan Crothers during the Towns County Farmers Market's rainy opening day on June 8. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Six classic bands rock Anderson Music Hall with 'Happy Together Tour'

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Happy Together Tour brought tons of great music from the '60s and '70s to Anderson Music Hall last weekend, taking fans on a collective trip down memory lane at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 8.

The show featured six classic groups: The Cowsills, The Classics IV, The Buckinghams, Gary Puckett, Chuck Negron formerly of Three Dog Night, and The Turtles.

Each of these groups took the stage for 20 minutes to sing a few of their best hits and talk to the audience about their journey through music.

Thematically, it was a joyful occasion, with song selections matching up well with the "Happy Together" billing of the concert event.

"I absolutely love the music from all of the bands playing," said concertgoer Ralph Arbet. "I'm mostly here



Chuck Negron, formerly of Three Dog Night, was one of six acts to headline the "Happy Together Tour" in Hiawassee on Saturday, June 8. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

for The Turtles, because I have loved their music since I first heard it more than 50 years ago. I grew old listening to these guys.

"I can't really say I have

a favorite song, but I like that the bands are playing their top hits, and a lot of these songs are what my wife and I listened to most of our lives. It really See Music Tour, Page 6A

School board hears from Amy Kienle of Georgia Mountains YMCA

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Members of the Towns County Board of Education met with Afterschool Program Director Jenny Stowers in their June 3 work session to discuss next steps for the district's afterschool program following recent state funding cuts.

Stowers and the schools are working hard to find a viable afterschool solution for the upcoming school year, which is why Stowers invited Amy Kienle of the Georgia Mountains YMCA Association to the meeting to talk about the afterschool program offered through the YMCA.

"The YMCA is one of the largest providers for afterschool in the state," Stowers said.

For her part, Kienle said afterschool programs were among the YMCA's top priorities, offering parents a safe place for their children after school, on teacher workdays, and throughout the summer, etc.

During the school year, the program would remain at the school, but during the summer, the program would allow for students to have a camp at another location, such as a gym or an aquatic facility.

The YMCA afterschool program requires an annual family membership fee, plus



CEO Amy Kienle of the Georgia Mountains YMCA Association in the June 3 Towns County Board of Education work session. Photo by Chad Stack

weekly or monthly payments for each child to attend, though financial assistance is available for families to receive a discounted rate based on household income.

Stowers and the board were thankful for Kienle's visit as they continue to seek out afterschool options for Towns County's children.

The June 3 meeting was well attended by the public, with parents there to hear afterschool discussions and more.

Brandi Rutan, who is the president of the Towns County Soccer Booster Club, spoke during the public forum

portion of the work session, saying she hopes the schools hire a suitable replacement for departing Lady Indians Head Soccer Coach John Cornett.

Also in the meeting, the board members, along with Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong, discussed the 2020 budget and salary supplements.

The board agreed to add a \$2,000 coaching supplement for a strength and conditioning coach, and the Academic Team head coach will receive a \$375 supplement added to the current \$625. See School Board, Page 6A

Civic Association welcomes members, guests to June 5 annual meeting

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Civic Association held its annual membership meeting on June 5 at Foster Park.

Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales, Grace Howard of Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge, and Hinton Center President Jacqueline Gottlieb of Hayesville, North Carolina, served as guest speakers in the meeting.

Ordiales opened with a "State of the City" address.

"The city is doing very well - I'm very happy with the progress we're making," said Ordiales, adding that they have started a local clean-up effort that can be done easily, quickly and without spending a great deal of money.

And the city is putting together a program to recognize local veterans and active duty service members as Hometown Heroes, to feature banners on the Hiawassee Towns Square, hopefully by Labor Day.

"Of course, you all know Denise McKay, she's our economic development person," said Ordiales. "She's doing a great job. We're setting up a downtown development



Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales with Grace Howard of Hamilton Gardens in the June 5 annual membership meeting of the Towns County Civic Association. Photo by Mark Smith

authority. "And the reason for the (DDA) is so that this organization can buy property and then (develop) it and lease it at an affordable rent."

Ordiales announced that plans are in place to develop the area across the cove adjacent to Hiawassee Mayor's Park to make it more family friendly, with picnic areas and a splash pad for kids.

There will also be a kayak ramp, a platform that kids can swim to and from in Lake Chatuge, and a plaza with tables and benches, all on one of the last parts of the Unicoi Parkway that is above ground, which is located there.

Moving along, Howard gave an update on the happenings at Hamilton See Civic Meeting, Page 3A

Young Harris City Council enacts ordinances, discusses ongoing projects

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby and the City Council enacted two ordinances and discussed in-progress projects in their June 4 regular city meeting.

The council enacted its Tree City Ordinance, which among other things establishes a local Tree Board to consist of Towns County residents. The ordinance also puts the city one step closer to becoming a Tree City USA member.

Mayor Gibby said the reason the city extended Tree Board eligibility to all Towns County residents is because Young Harris wants to include involvement from the Enotah Garden Club, which has members who live outside the city limits.



Mayor Andrea Gibby in the June 4 regular city meeting at Young Harris City Hall. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

A second ordinance was also enacted during the meeting, allowing the mayor to present a set amount of money in an emergency situation with the requirement that she provide an

explanation for the emergency and money spent at the meeting following the event.

In the ordinance, "emergency" is defined as See Young Harris, Page 5A

Sheriff's Office continues pursuit of drug suspects in Towns County

News Special
Towns County Herald

YOUNG HARRIS - On Wednesday, June 5, Towns County Sheriff's Office deputies and investigators arrested three suspects on drug-related charges after a traffic stop of a Jeep Cherokee on US 76.

Upon further investigation and the execution of a search warrant, three

suspects were arrested.

Daniel Scott Carver, 55, of Young Harris, was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug-related objects, speeding, and three counts sale of methamphetamine.

Dewey Carver, 56, of Young Harris, was arrested and charged with three counts distribution of methamphetamine.

David Lamar Lovell, 61,

of Young Harris, was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug-related objects.

These cases are still active and ongoing, with additional arrests and charges likely. The cases will be forwarded to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution.



Danny Carver



Dewey Carver



David Lovell

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Apply NOW to Add Veterans' Names to Monument
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