

Towns County Herald

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Towns' libraries broaden appeal to children

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

With summer coming to a close and the new school year recently started, the Towns County Library Board of Trustees has been looking for new ways to better serve the public, specifically the children since story time has ended.

In the July quarterly board meeting at the Towns County Public Library, Branch Manager Debbie Phillips introduced the board to the latest technology for use by children in the library – Playaway Launchpads.

These pads can best be likened to tablets, but come with pre-designated functions rather than free-range internet access. For example, one pad may be designed specifically for science learning while an entirely separate pad could be math specific.

"These are the newest cool thing we have here at Towns," said Phillips. "We had a state grant and, with what we were given, this is what we have purchased. We already have Playaways, and I think we're the only library in our region to use Playaways."

"They're little gadgets to

carry e-books on. They're self-contained little gadgets, about the size of a deck of cards, and they have e-books on them. So, these (Launchpads) are gadgets that come in a nice sturdy case and are already shelf-ready.

"They are pre-loaded with various learning activities. Each one of them is different, some have games and others have educational messages."

Towns County Public Library ordered eight of the pads to eventually be placed in rotation at the library. Before sending the pads out with the public, the staff will provide a

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Towns County Public Library Branch Manager Debbie Williams shows the board new Launchpads for use by children in the library. Launchpads are educational tablets. Photo/Lily Avery

Fire Corps raising funds for fire equipment

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

One of the main reasons people visit the North Georgia Mountains is just that – the mountains. The beautiful expanse of forest and wildlife has been drawing visitors to the area for decades, but there are certain natural disasters that could wipe everything out, specifically wildfires.

Along with the Towns County Fire & Rescue Department, the Towns County Fire Corps strives to not only raise money for quality Lake Chatuge rescue equipment, but to ensure that the county maintains proper equipment for fire maintenance.

Towns County Fire Corps is kicking off its Annual Fundraising Drive to raise money for quality Lake Chatuge rescue equipment.

"For our Annual Fundraising Drive, we send out a form in the mail once a year and collect money for whatever



Craig "KB" Gienger, Liz Ordiales and Scott "Cornbread" Drummond at Chili Cook-off in 2013.

the Fire Department tells us they need," said Liz Ordiales, Hiawassee City Councilwoman and board member of the Towns County Fire Corps. "We usually work with the fire chief, and he's always instrumental in telling us what

we need and prioritizing what is most important to least important. What we'll do is take that list and do our best to cross things off until we run out of money."

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Kuykendall celebrates 60 years cutting hair

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Passage of time is marked by the changing of calendars, fashion trends, music hits, and the list goes on – unless you are Bill Kuykendall, who numbers the years in haircuts.

Kuykendall began his career as a barber on Aug. 9, 1956. Since embarking on this lifelong journey, Kuykendall has worked in countless shops across Towns and Union counties, though he eventually settled down at his two current locations, in Blairsville and Hiawassee.

"I didn't have any license or anything, I just opened up a shop," said Kuykendall, speaking of his start 60 years ago. "There was a fellow in there that had a barber license, Mr. Wilson. On the first day, I cut about 12 head."

"I worked there for a



Bill Kuykendall has been cutting hair for 60 years. Here he is in his Towns County establishment, Chatuge Barber Shop. Photo/Lily Avery

place near Leon Swanson's store in Young Harris. Then a few years later, after I got out

of the Army, I started cutting hair again and worked for

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Restored Ivy Mount cemetery offers look into Towns County's past

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Jason Lee Edwards shared a history of Ivy Mount Cemetery as the featured speaker in the August meeting of the Towns County Historical Society.

Edwards' presentation included pictures, names of burials, and timelines of the cemetery dating back to its origins in the late 1830s.

Land Lot 157, which would later become Ivy Mount Cemetery, was purchased by Henry Brown in 1838 for the amount of \$800. He would later build a house on a hilltop that would become the location of the cemetery.

Ivy Mount Cemetery is located in central Towns County overlooking the Hiawassee River, just off of the eastern end State Route 288 (Sunnyside Road) between the community of

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Jason Lee Edwards and Jerry Taylor talk Ivy Mount Cemetery at the most recent Towns County Historical Society meeting. Photo/Todd Forrest

Milestones a hot topic in August BOE

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

School reports, Georgia Milestones and new hires highlighted the agenda at last week's August meeting of the Towns County Board of Education.

Georgia Milestones Assessment Data was the topic of choice for each of the three principals of the school reports, and Dr. Darren Berrong followed with the Superintendent's report which covered the first day of school and an Asbestos Management Notification that was posted on the school's website.

Assistant Principal Shannon Moss gave the Elementary School Report and used a PowerPoint demonstration to provide a brief description of the new Georgia Milestones Assessment System.

The state has developed four achievement levels to



Bob Gibby of the Towns County Board of Education

describe student mastery and command of knowledge and skills.

Most students have at least some knowledge of the content, however, achievement levels describe how much mastery a student has. Achievement levels

give meaning and context to scale scores by describing the knowledge and skills students must demonstrate to achieve each level.

The four achievement levels on Georgia Milestones

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Community members to dance for Enotah CASA

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Everyone loves a good reality show, especially when all the contestants can be found at the local diner for lunch.

Enotah CASA, for Community Advocates for children, will be hosting a Dancing with the North Georgia Stars event on Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center.

The event, a spin-off on the hit reality TV show, will feature 11 local celebrities from both Towns and Union counties performing a wide variety of dances with professional dance partners.

Following the show will be a Dancing with the North Georgia Stars Gala at the North Georgia Technical College, where members of the community can meet the celebrities, their dance partners, and enjoy a night of festivities.

The dancers will compete to win one of two awards, the People's Choice Award and Judge's Award. A combined score of each couple's costumes, choreography and technical performance will decide the winner of the Judge's Award.

People's Choice Award will be determined by which couple received the most votes. Votes can be cast for each couple by either purchasing a ticket or donating money to Enotah CASA in the couple's names. Both awards are presented the night of the event.

Enotah CASA is a nonprofit organization serving four Georgia counties: Towns, Union, White and Hall. This event will be the second of its kind that CASA has organized, the first being in Dahlonega earlier in the year.

"All of our folks are volunteers, aside from a few staff members," said Linda D'Angelo, Enotah CASA executive director. "They each receive at least 30 hours of training in terms of child



Dr. Claire Worthy and Kris Berrong will be performing in the Enotah CASA Dancing with the North Georgia Stars in November.

development, the law, how the court proceedings work and so forth. They spend 10 hours observing in court before they become sworn in as an actual officer of the court, serving the juvenile of court.

"The role of a CASA is to be an advocate for the best interest of these children who have been neglected or abused. Most of the children

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Qualifying for Hiawassee City Council Post 1 ends on Wednesday, August 17th

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Qualifying for the Hiawassee City Council Post 1 seat started on Monday, Aug. 15, and will run through Wednesday, Aug. 17, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at Hiawassee City Hall.

The qualifying fee for the seat has been set at \$72.

Currently, the five-seat council only has four members – Liz Ordiales, Anne Mitchell, Jay Chastain and Kris Berrong.

The special election was discussed in the July meeting of Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis and city council, in which the council held a second reading and adoption of the election ordinance to fill the seat of former councilman Stephen Smith.

"The ordinance sets a special election for Tuesday, Nov. 8, regular polling times of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.," said attorney David Syfan at the meeting. "Polling precinct will be here at (Hiawassee) City Hall."

"Any registered and qualified elector within the city that's a resident of the city – they're pretty much synonymous there, but you've got to be a registered voter – can qualify to run for the seat."

"It will be to fill the remainder of the term of Post 1, which would be approximately for one year, one month and 16 days."

For more information, see the City of Hiawassee's Elections Superintendent Cenlya Galloway in her office at Hiawassee City Hall.

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Lake Levels
Blue Ridge 1,679.60
Chatuge 1,921.66
Nottely 1,769.14

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N. Mt. Zion Food Distribution
Thurs. Aug 18th
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American Red Cross
Blood Donors urgently needed

Operation PUP offering FREE Spay/Neuter Clinic
Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital
See page 2A

Football
Fri. Aug. 19 @ Hayesville 7:30 PM
Softball
Wed. Aug 17 @ Fannin County
Thurs. Aug 18 @ Hebron