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'Angler of the Year Championship' brings thousands to the mountains

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

With the 2018 Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship closing out last weekend, a field of 50 bass anglers battling all year for the top spot had only one lake left to fish – Lake Chatuge.

The lake nationally televised event with total prizes worth \$1 million took place in Towns County from Thursday, Sept. 20, through Sunday, Sept. 23.

Pro competitors of the tournament brought their A-game as they tried to finalize their placements, though angler Justin Lucas held the lead from Day One and ended up winning

the entire tournament series.

"I was worried at first," said I. "After the first day, though, I felt better about the tournament and the security of my placement."

After the first two days of fishing, the anglers took a break and hosted an outdoor expo at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds for people to ask questions as they browsed a variety of vendors offering many fishing products, including items such as boats, reels, poles, line, bait, and many other fishing tools.

Thousands of fans gathered to enjoy the expo, and many of those fans came from as far away as New York

just to watch the finale of the nine-event tournament.

Fans had the opportunity to visit different tents to meet their favorite anglers and get autographs while they talked to professionals.

Guests also had the opportunity to attend seminars where anglers told stories and gave advice on the best way to fish the lake.

"I had never fished Lake Chatuge," said pro angler Adrian Avena. "It was interesting to try out the lake and see these spots that local fishermen have worked on constructing to make the lake better for fish."

"What I enjoy most

about Chatuge is that there are a variety of different fish in the lake, which means that there are many different ways to win this competition. This does put a little pressure on us, because we need to think about what we want to catch here and how we can make the catch possible.

"On top of that, this lake is a little smaller, so the fish are aware of all us fishing in it, and that makes it hard to get some bites. Overall, though, I really enjoyed this lake."

After the anglers told their stories of the week, enthusiasts and fans asked them questions to learn more about the sport and the specific tools

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Pro angler Brandon Palaniuk holding up some beauties caught right out of Lake Chatuge during the 2018 Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Taylor presents 'Tales of Old Young Harris' to Historical Society

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Historian Jerry Taylor was the featured guest of the Sept. 10 meeting of the Towns County Historical Society, and he enthralled the gallery with some heretofore unknown anecdotes about Young Harris, with the history of Brasstown Valley as a backdrop.

If anyone has ever wondered how the name Brasstown Valley came about, Taylor answered their query.

As it turns out, the name is a mistranslation of a Cherokee word, itse'yi, meaning "Place of Fresh Green." A similar sounding Cherokee word, untsaiyi, means "Brass."

Instead of Green or Greentown Valley, which is what the name could have been, the mistranslated name Brasstown Valley stuck. And it's way too late to change it now.

Taylor explained how



Towns County Historian Jerry Taylor

the discovery of gold led to the annexation of the area north and west of the Chattahoochee River and the final expulsion of the Cherokee Indians from the Brasstown Valley in 1838.

Taylor identified several of the original white settlers of Brasstown Valley who came here between the 1830s and

1850s. The history of how Young Harris College came into existence was told superbly by Taylor.

Reverend Artemus Lester, pastor of the Methodist circuit, "had a dream for better educational opportunities for

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Young Harris City Council begins 2019 budget discussions



Officials with the City of Young Harris holding a public budget hearing on Tuesday, Sept. 18, at city hall. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

With the end of 2018 on the horizon, Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby and the City Council gathered last week to start their annual budget discussions for the upcoming

year. The fiscal year for Young Harris falls during the same timeframe as the calendar year, meaning that all city finances for next year must be budgeted and accounted for by the end of December.

"We made the budget

align with the calendar year to keep it simpler," said Mayor Gibby. "We start this meeting in September so everybody can talk about it like we need to."

The first budget hearing of the year, on Tuesday, Sept. 18, had the purpose of bringing the

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Commissioner talks county finances, AOY fishing tournament

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw opened his Sept. 18 regular monthly meeting with kind words for Marsha Elliott, a Young Harris woman and active member of the community who passed away on Sept. 7.

"We have a lot of great Towns County citizens that we lose from time to time and don't make mention of it as we should," said Bradshaw. "Marsha Elliott passed away, and I can't help but mention that."

"She was a dear friend of mine and a very hard worker for our county. She was involved at the Hamilton Gardens and just worked tirelessly, and same with our Firewise Communities, she worked very, very hard on that, and she did many other things ... she will be missed."

The commissioner also



Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw in his Sept. 18 regular county meeting. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

spoke briefly about his friend and uncle, Jack Bradshaw, who passed away earlier that day. Jack drove a school bus for Towns County Schools for 42 years.

"He also worked for Towns County prior to me becoming commissioner many years ago for our Road Department, and he did a very good job," said Bradshaw. "He will be missed as well."

"I don't ever want to leave anybody out, but those are two people that were close to me who served in the county, so I want to mention that."

On the financial side, Bradshaw said in his Commissioner's Report that everything was going well for the county.

"The financials are good, the reserves in place, everything's like it should be," said Bradshaw. "Year to date, we're up about \$30,000 on our sales tax collections, which that means the economy's doing good."

Bradshaw also said that the 2017 County Audit was ready for viewing in his office

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New twin-engine medical helicopter based at Union General Hospital



Meet Air Life 14, the new twin-engine Eurocopter EC-135 based at Union General Hospital in Blairsville. Photo by Mark Smith

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

BLAIRSVILLE – Air Life 14 is operating a new twin-engine medical helicopter out of Blairsville, and it's available for

emergency dispatch 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The chopper, a Eurocopter EC-135, is operated by AirMethods Inc. and based at Union General Hospital, which is huge for the North Georgia area and a major benefit to the

residents of Union and Towns counties.

The EC-135 air ambulance compartment is larger and more efficient than that of the previous aircraft, and now that the base has

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Georgia political historian Bob Short visits Movers and Shakers

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Mountain Movers and Shakers hosted Bob Short at the Sundance Grill on Friday, Sept. 21.

Short has a lifetime of experience in Georgia politics to share, having been associated with a number of famous Georgia politicians, including former President Jimmy Carter and Young Harris native Zell Miller.

Cathy Cox, the former president of Young Harris College, described Short as "the most effective politician I've ever known who was never elected to office," according to YHC.edu.

Short was a basketball star when he was a student at



Bob Short spoke with the Mountain Movers and Shakers in Hiwassee on Friday, Sept. 21. Photo by Mark Smith

the college in the mid-20th century, and he graduated Class of 1951.

For about the last 10

years, Short has conducted a class in political history at Young Harris College, which

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Carter 'may be in Athens area,' according to authorities

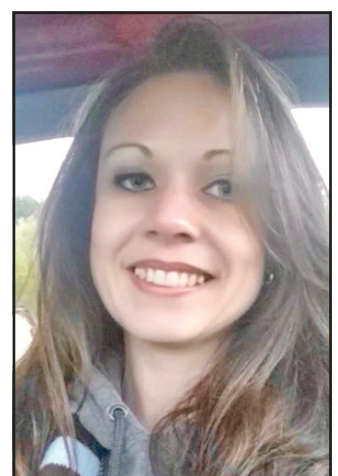
By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

The search for Crystal LeAnne Carter, 37, of Hiwassee, is now in its third week, and authorities were still tracking leads concerning her whereabouts as of press time Monday.

Authorities have received information that Carter may be in the Athens area, but the search continues.

As previously reported, investigators with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation have joined the Towns County Sheriff's Office in the hunt for Carter, who is currently wanted by authorities for attempted murder and aggravated assault, according to the Sheriff's Office.

She is known to have



Crystal LeAnne Carter

ties in Union County and Clay County, North Carolina, and her Facebook page lists her as a graduate of Union County High School.

Anyone with information

has been asked to call 911, and people are being advised not to approach Carter, as she is considered armed and dangerous, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The search for Carter stems from an incident alleged to have occurred the evening of Saturday, Sept. 8, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Deputies responded to Chatuge Regional Hospital in reference to a male subject who was brought to the hospital with a bullet wound to the chest, according to the Sheriff's Office.

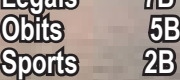
The subject was identified as William Craig Henderson of Young Harris, and he was airlifted to another medical facility with a trauma center, according to the

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Lake Levels
Blue Ridge 1,676.31
Chatuge 1,921.28
Nottely 1,767.51



FOOTBALL

Fri. Sept 28 @ Riversides

7:30 PM

SOFTBALL

TBA

Ninth District
Opportunity
Home Heating
Help
Available

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Scarecrow
Invasion on
the Square

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UGA
Master
Gardeners
Class

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