

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	85	65
Fri: Rain	84	65
Sat: Rain	87	64
Sun: Showers	87	64
Mon: Rain	83	63
Tue: Rain	82	62
Wed: Clouds	84	67



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/04/12	
Lake Chatuge	1923.55
Lake Nottely	1773.21
Blue Ridge	1672.95

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## Sports Page 11

## Happy Fourth!

The Towns County Herald wishes you and yours a very happy, and a very safe Fourth of July holiday.

Be careful on the roads, in the water and at home.

Most of all, be careful and don't stay out too long in the heat. It's a hot one Towns County, that's for sure.

## Early Vote

Early voting for the July 31 Primary begins July 9 in Towns County.

Turn to Page 10 to see the county's Sample ballots to help make your decision..

## Yard Sale

Don't regift it, sell it at the Farmers Market Yard Sale.

Beginning this weekend, local residents can come out to the Towns County Farmers Market at the Tennis Courts across from the Fairgrounds and sell items at The Market.

Turn to Page 2 for more details about The Market and the Yard Sale.

## Cookbooks

Chatuge Regional Nursing Home has collected the best recipes from group members, family and friends and compiled them into attractive keepsake cookbook that makes a perfect gift.

The books are selling for \$12.50 each.

For more details on how to get a cookbook, call Tabitha Crawford or Rita Bradshaw at (706) 896-2231.

## Boat Parade

The Annual Fourth of July Lake Chatuge Boat Parade and Fireworks are on tap again this year. All boats must fly an American Flag. The boat parade, which starts at 11 a.m., once again gives a big thanks to Deb and Russ Collins of Deb Collins' Signature Gallery. Boaters are asked to arrive in Nantahala Bay by 10:30 a.m.

And remember the Fourth of July fireworks at Brasstown Valley Resort. The excitement begins at dark. Don't miss out on a great holiday tradition.

## Bank robbery suspect remains at large



Local and state authorities discuss details about last week's bank robbery at Citizens South Bank. The suspect remained at large at press time. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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The man who robbed Citizens South Bank last week remains at large, authorities said this week.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Towns County Sheriff's Office and Hiwassee Police are still searching for the suspect who demanded money from a Citizens South bank teller on June 25.

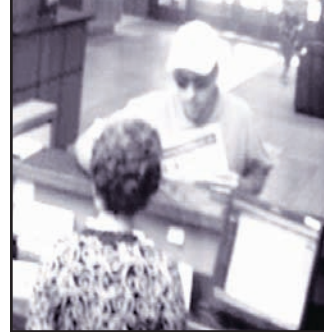
Authorities say the suspect passed a note to the teller demanding money.

The teller complied and the suspect exited the bank, authorities said.

At the time of the robbery, the suspect was wearing an orange polo type shirt, khaki pants, sunglasses and a beige baseball cap with a "Relay-for-life" logo.

A white four-door SUV, possibly a late 1990s or early 2000s Jeep Cherokee, was

See Robbery, page 12



Video surveillance cameras caught these images during Monday's bank robbery at Citizens South Bank in Hiawassee.

## Tourism provides economic lift

By Libby Shook  
Towns County Herald  
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In this struggling economy, Towns County depends heavily on special events and tourism as one of its many sources of revenue. The V-8 Early Ford Eastern National Meet held last week at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds certainly was a huge contributing factor in boosting the economy in Towns County.

Ford owners started arriving Sunday, June 17th and most stayed through Saturday the 23rd.

The Holiday Inn Express and Ramada, the Lodge on Lake Chatuge, were completely full for 3 nights with many Ford owners staying up to 5 nights.

They also completely rented out Area 2 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds as well as renting rooms at Boundary Waters Resort & Marina.

This, combined with the additional money spent at local gas stations, restaurants, grocery stores, and various shops throughout the county, makes for a tremendous economic boost for Towns County.

Members of the Ford group traveled from all across the United States, including Louisiana, Virginia, Maine, Illinois, Missouri, New York,



A recent car show brought sales tax dollars to Towns.

Arizona, Ohio, Oklahoma, and of course Georgia, to participate in the Early Ford Show.

According to Committee Chairman Wayne Dietrich, "The last time we were here in Hiawassee was 2005, and we had a very successful meet. It's a beautiful place and the members really don't want to ride their classic cars on a super highway. The first 3 meets were in the Atlanta area. It's just not the place to put these cars on the highway. Most of these cars need to travel around 45 miles per hour, plus the scenery here is just gorgeous. When we first

came up here in 2005, we really enjoyed the views. There are real nice 2-lane tours. A lot of the members were asking when we were coming back to Hiawassee and here we are."

The really good part about hosting an event of this magnitude is the fact that the participants were so enthralled with the area that it's a good bet that they will return to Towns County to vacation, spend time with their family, and enjoy the beauty it has to offer with the gorgeous view of the Young Harris Valley and Brasstown

See Economy, page 12

## Shooting probe

By Libby Shook  
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The quiet little community of Young Harris was interrupted early Wednesday morning as a call came in to the Towns County Sheriff's Office reporting a disturbance in the Plott Town community in Towns County.

According to Chief Deputy Jeff Edge of the Towns County Sheriff's Office, "Towns County Sheriff's Deputies were called to a residence in the Plott Town area in western Towns County during the early morning hours on Wednesday, June 27th in response to an alleged shooting incident. Upon arrival, deputies discovered a 66 year old white male in the backyard of the residence suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to the chest."

Edge reported that the victim, whose name is not being released at this time, was transferred by helicopter to Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

William Jeffrey Hampton, 59, of Young Harris, was arrested at the scene and charged with Aggravated Assault.

"Hampton posed no threat to law enforcement on scene at any time and at no time did he offer any resistance," said Lt. Brian Wilson.

Hampton was released on June 28th after a \$7,500



Wayne Hampton

property bond was posted by Buck's Bonding Services. Bond conditions were not available at press time.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office is to be commended for their quick response and professionalism in this apprehension, as well as the courtesy and respect shown for the victim and his family. At press time, the victim still remains at Erlanger Medical Center with his family by his side. No updated information was available regarding his current condition.

Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby said "while this was a tragic event, I want to emphasize that this is a rarity for Young Harris and that it remains a safe place to live and visit. I would also like to thank the Towns County Sheriff's Office for their quick response. They do such a good job of providing protection for the residents of Towns County."

## Fire Department on red alert

By Libby Shook  
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The Towns County Fire Department is idling on ready and prepared for action. They have battled two structure fires within a 24-hour period.

The first call was to the home of Shannon Curtis on White Oak Drive off Gander Gap Road in the Bald Mountain Park community.

Fortunately, Curtis and her four children were not at home at the time of the fire.

Curtis was on the scene shortly after the fire was reported. "I was in town running some errands and I got a call

See Fires, page 12



Assistant Fire Chief Harold Copeland leads the charge on a fire on White Oak Drive last week. Photo/Libby Shook

## Safe Kids comes to Towns

By Libby Shook  
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Child Safety seats are required by law in every state because they provide the best protection for infants and young children. However, correctly installing a child safety seat can be challenging, especially with the wide variety of restraint systems, vehicle belt systems, and passenger vehicles available on the market today.

In an effort to help better protect the children of Towns County, the Towns County Fire Department, under the supervi-

See Child Safety, page 12



Safe Kids is making a difference in Towns County.

## TSPLOST a hot topic

By Libby Shook  
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Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall addressed the annual meeting of the Towns County Homeowners' Association on Friday evening with close to ninety people in attendance.

"I appreciate the opportunity to come out and talk to you about the state of the county," said Kendall.

This was a different forum, but a lot of the same issues were addressed. It's no secret to the citizens of Towns County that Kendall is very passionate about defeating the proposed T-SPLOST bill which will be voted on July 31, 2012, so it came as no surprise to anyone when he opened with a brief discussion regarding House Bill 277 and encouraged those in attendance to get out and make people aware of what this 1-cent transportation tax will mean to Towns County and also asked them to get those people out to the polls to vote against it.

"This added tax that will be a burden on all Towns County residents with no visible benefits," said Kendall. "It's really going to hurt a lot of people. All Towns County will get out of it will be a 5-lane road 1.1 miles from the light on Highway 75 to the North Carolina line."

"It will displace a historic church and cemetery, that's what we will get out of it," said Kendall.

Kendall recapped the exemptions of the bill as well as the tax increases on every day consumer items.



Commissioner Bill Kendall

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