

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: T-Storms	80 59
Fri: T-Storms	86 62
Sat: T-Storms	88 63
Sun: T-Storms	88 65
Mon: T-Storms	83 63
Tue: T-Storms	84 64
Wed: T-Storms	83 64



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/09/2014	
Lake Chatuge	1,924.93
Lake Nottely	1,775.51
Blue Ridge	1,685.86

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SPORTS

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Food Distribution

Food Pantry
July 8th
2-5 PM

Agriculture Field Day
July 12th
at the GA Experiment Station

See Page 5



Butternut Creek Festival is coming SOON!

See Page 5



at Brasstown Bald

See Page 14

Runoff Election Ballots



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The Towns County Board of Education Regular Board Meetings scheduled for Monday, July 14, Will be Relocated to the Towns County Board of Education Central Office.

For questions or directions, please call 706-896-2279

Walter "Chick" McGill, Walk Across America

Barbara McGill
Trans America Cross Walk

A great feat, traveling by feet, came upon the foothills of Hiwassee Thursday when a pastor, Walter "Chick" McGill, met with city and county officials for his TransAmerican Crosswalk, a trip that will send him from Kill Devil Hills, NC to Santa Monica, CA.

"We've covered 620 miles so far," said Chick, referencing his wife Barbara who has been by him every step of the way.

"I walk facing traffic. I've only had to jump out of the way twice, so my reflexes are pretty good," joked McGill.

Yet, his mission is one of a serious cause. Walking Coast 2 Coast is an idea he can not credit to be his own.

"My drive has been purely and merely the call of God. I had a three-night encounter with God in Arizona and at first I didn't want any part of it. I'm too old, I'm in pretty good shape, but not in that good of shape," joked McGill. "The second night he was talking to me about it some more, and I thought, 'Hey, I thought we

settled this last night.' And on the third night, I realized when God's serious about something, you'd better pay attention."

His goal is to reach Sana Monica, Calif. before the year's end. In the meantime, McGill will be afoot passing 12 states, including North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis and Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall met Chick as he entered Hiwassee, greeting him with hugs and a tour of the city in a patrol car, followed by more patrol cars, as locals and businesses ushered in a wave of hellos and warm welcomes on one of the cooler days of the summer thus far.

"The Mayor is very nice, and our Commissioner was also just a joy," Chick said with a small element of surprise in his voice. "There's a positive energy emanating. My faith in the American People, We the People, is growing stronger every day. I'm not finding the hypocrites that everyone's finding out about so much. I think what's happened is our



Walter "Chick" McGill and his wife Barbara being greeted by Mayor Barbara Mathis, Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and the Towns County Sheriff's Department on his walk through Hiwassee. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

country has been lulled to sleep by prosperity. Someone's waiting for someone in authority to relieve the situation. I'm trying to encourage the community to speak up and be heard. We have to be participating citizens because liberty, though

God gives it freely, still costs."

Throughout his walk, McGill and his wife Barbara have been putting together a series of home movies, one of which they have been editing over the 4th of July weekend.

"This video will be a

tribute to Towns County. More than 75% of people on my walk that have been driving, have been giving me positive energy. Towns County has been a part of that. On July 3rd, when we first arrived, the

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Towns County 10u Boys Baseball Champions



The Towns County Recreation 10u Boys baseball team was crowned champions of the Dist. 6 Dizzy Dean Tournament held at Union County's Meeks Park. Photo/Lowell Nicholson See Baseball, page 11

4th of July celebration at the Fairgrounds

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

Independence Day came together with the 4th of July this weekend as families, veterans and children accumulated alongside the roadways, hills and valleys of Hiwassee to see sparks fly.

There was not a bad seat to be had once the night sky took over.

Music played a hand in the evening's events as well as Raven & Red, the award-winning duo, lead by singer/guitarist Mitchell Lane, fiddler/singer Brittany Jones, and Cole King, who sings lead and harmony vocals as well as playing the fiddle, piano and is a part of the Grammy Award-winning Atlanta Boy's Choir, released their harmonies on a 5 track EP entitled Live in the Studio earlier this year.

Raven and Red have played events throughout these very mountains time and time again, never disappointing. Their next venue will be at the Yonah Mountain Vineyards in Sautee Nacoochee, Ga and they will be playing at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds again for their annual Georgia Mountain Fair July 22 and 24 to repeat their classically trained twang.

Disappointing none were



Photo by/Lowell Nicholson



Photo by Matthew Jarrard

the massive fireworks on display, which hit a homerun with those atop of blankets, both in and outside of their vehicles as onlookers watched the show above the baseball field.

"We've been coming

See Fireworks, Page 11

Towns County's 4th of July Boat Parade

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

Like a bridge over patriotic waters, Hiwassee locals, and those who traveled, saw red, white and blue shimmer from the surface of Lake Chatuge on Friday at The Ridges Resort and Marina as the 4th of July Annual Boat Parade got underway.

The temperature was a cool mid-70s as the Towns County Sheriff's Department led the festivities, flashing red and blue for a very different reason; Independence Day. Having begun smoothly from Nantahala Bay, the parade cruised across the lake as the Bob Anderson Bridge lay overhead, which proved to be a challenge for this year's winner for the Most Creative Boat.

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22 Boats in the 2014 4th of July parade at the Ridges. Photo by/Lowell Nicholson

Hiwassee Council discusses Water Treatment Plant

By Matthew Jarrard
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

The Hiwassee City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 1 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Barbara Mathis called the meeting to order to Adopt the Final Agenda.

"There's the water treatment that's getting the budget it deserves," said City Manager Rick Stancil. "We're getting a lot of little improvements being made in Towns County that will hopefully make a big difference."

Upon the Motion made by Councilman Janet Allen, seconded by Councilman Joan Crothers they unanimously adopted the Final Agenda just before Mayor Mathis introduced guests Mr. and Ms. Harmon, Anne Mitchell, Stephanie McConnell and Paul Hanson.

The City Manager's written report addresses many issues. The Water Intake was moved to the Water Treatment Plant on Wednesday, just before the 4th celebration. Additionally, the Splost Priority List was amended to pay an outstanding invoice for the Hiwassee Comprehensive Schools Water Tank.

Ralston being investigated for State Bar Association violations

By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News Staff Writer

Georgia Speaker of the House David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge) is in hot water after the Georgia State Bar Association asked the Georgia Supreme Court to investigate the possible violation of multiple rules of conduct for attorneys.

Ralston's charges include nine Bar Association rules violations which could result in the Speaker's disbarment.

In 2006 Paul Chernak hired Ralston's law firm following a 2006 automobile accident in which Chernak was injured but not at fault. Chernak alleges that Ralston delayed his case for years misusing the "legislative leave" law as the reasoning behind the postponement.

The law says a member of the General Assembly who is a party to or the attorney in a case "shall be granted a continuance and stay of the case."

Chernak also alleges that he was given \$22,000 out of other clients' accounts to help pay living expenses while recovering from the accident.

Now the Georgia Supreme Court has selected Hiwassee attorney, Mark Dehler, a former contributor to Ralston's political campaign as the investigator, known as a special master, requested by the State Bar of Georgia.

Dehler is married to Young Harris College President Cathy Cox, a former Georgia Secretary of State and a Democratic candidate for Governor.



Rick Stancil

The Motion was adopted and approved by the Council for the expenditure of up to \$41,000 from the Water Treatment Plant Fund to J.K. Duren Company, Inc. to repair SCADA System lightning damage and Sewer Lift Station Generator lightning damage. The Water Treatment Plant will be reimbursed the net proceeds of any insurance claim settlement.

Upon Motion made by Councilman Stephen Smith and seconded by Councilman Chastain, the Council unanimously approved the First

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House Speaker David Ralston

According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, records show that Dehler contributed \$500 to Ralston's re-election campaign in 2010, and Cox donated \$250 to Ralston in 2013.

Dehler told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that he looked at his contribution records last week after being appointed and found that he'd given about \$30,000 to political candidates over the past decade.

"If I thought I was biased (for contributing), I wouldn't have accepted the assignment by the Supreme Court," he said.

Jim Powell, the Federal Representative to the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) is also confident in the appointment of Dehler as the special master in the Ralston case.

"Mark Dehler is a great

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

