

Towns County Herald

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Georgia Mountain Fair comes to town Friday



Legendary Eagle 106.7 DJ Warren "Rhubarb" Jones was the grand marshal at last year's Georgia Mountain Fair Parade.

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Attention all fair lovers – the nine-day, 66th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair is rolling back into the Fairgrounds, and will begin on Friday, July 15.

This year's fair will open that Friday with the Flower Show and Boot Stomping shows from Asleep at the Wheel and The Good Rites.

Every year, the fair is the talk of the town, as thousands flock to the fairgrounds to take part in one of the biggest events of the season. From

carnival rides to live music, to arts and crafts to old timey culture sprung to life, the fair has a little something for everyone, tourists and locals alike.

"We have all different kinds of entertainment such as Country, Bluegrass, Gospel, all kinds of arts and crafts," said Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason. "We have 65 booths. We have handmade arts and crafts. The Pioneer Village will be open, which is a live, working Pioneer Village with authentic mountain demonstrations.

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Miss Georgia Mountain Fair 2014 Mia Manto with Miss Georgia Mountain Fair 2015 Madison Mueller following last year's competition. Mueller should be on hand to pass the crown to the 2016 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair on Monday, July 18.

EMC nominates seven ahead of fall elections

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
Editor

There will be six names from which to choose this year during the annual Blue Ridge Mountain EMC elections of new board members.

Over the last two years, members have elected six new directors, and the directors have appointed one new director. This year, they will elect two new directors, and vote for the beginning of a new term for Board member Ray Cook, out of Brasstown, NC.

Cook was selected to fill Kenneth Lance's term, following his resignation last year.

Cherokee County, NC would have chosen between Cook of Brasstown, NC., and Thomas Little, of Murphy, NC. However, Little declined his nomination.

Out of Clay County, NC, R. G. (Gary) Reffitt, will run in the Hayesville area. His opposition, Adam Cory Payne, of Hayesville, NC.

Out of Union County, comes three candidates Patrick Malone, and Andrew Smith, both of Blairsville, and Gene Mason, also of Blairsville.

The three hope to replace Greg Owenby, who decided not to seek reelection to the BRMEMC Board of Directors.

The nominating committee for BRMEMC chose all the candidates in this election. It's a new twist from the previous two elections. Is it a sign that with the changes by members over the past two years has meant something to members in the five-county area? Maybe so.

BRMEMC Board of Directors President Steven Phillips said if members feel

like there is someone out there that should be on the board, call the nominating committee at (706) 379-3121, or (828) 837-1017.

Those still hoping to run as a potential candidate still have until July 18 to get the needed signatures to qualify to run in their respective county.

One person who won't run is Danny Henson, who was dismissed as a partner member because of his partnership with fellow board member Greg Owenby.

Henson told the *North Georgia News/Towns County Herald* on Sunday that he would not seek Owenby's seat. He said he won't say he won't run in the future. As for now, he's content with what he's doing.

Check out the *North Georgia News/Towns County Herald* for more details in the newspapers about this year's elections.



Highway 76 collision kills out-of-town man

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

A man driving a truck with Habersham plates was killed in a collision with a

wrecker on Friday, July 8, in front of Big D Friendship Store on Highway 76 near Sunnyside Road.

The accident is still under investigation, according

to the Georgia State Patrol.

Preliminary eyewitness statements report that the truck pulled out in front of the wrecker, causing the vehicle to flip.



A July 8 fatal accident on Highway 76 is still under investigation by the Georgia State Patrol. According to reports from the scene, the man killed in the accident pulled out in front of a wrecker.

Heritage Day lets locals celebrate veterans



Don Stroud, a local veteran, was the keynote speaker at the Towns County Historical Society's annual Heritage Day event honoring veterans and those who have sacrificed their lives in service to their country. Stroud performed the "Missing Man Ceremony" at the event.

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

In line with the spirit of Fourth of July festivities,

the Towns County Historical Society joined in to show gratitude to local veterans at the society's annual Heritage Day at the Old Recreation

Center on Saturday, July 9.

Veteran memorabilia lined the walls of the room,

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Fire department on pace to break record call volume

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Fire & Rescue has been busy since the start of the year, with fires, rescues, motor vehicle accidents and more.

As of late last week, the fire department has responded to 62 motor vehicle accidents for the year, including 23 crashes since May, one of which was Friday's deadly collision on Highway 76 near Sunnyside Road, which required the fire department's hydraulic extraction equipment.

"I can remember back in the old days where you might not have that many in a year," said Towns County Fire Chief Harold Copeland. "We're just busy. More people are traveling because of the gas prices, and everybody's coming to the mountains.

"Our numbers have obviously doubled and tripled



A mysterious blaze in the early morning hours of July 6 burned this mobile home to the ground off of Matheson Road. According to the renters, two dogs perished in the fire.

up here with our events. The campgrounds are filling up again. Everybody's come to their summer homes, so we've

gone from maybe an 11,000 or 12,000 person community to, who knows, maybe double

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Two fully qualified as Independent with one to go



By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

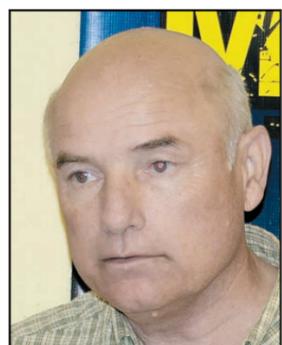
Linda Curtis has joined Henry Chambers in fully qualifying as an Independent candidate for the Nov. 8 General Election.

Curtis is running for the office of Towns County Sheriff. She, Chambers and



Brandon Barrett met the Friday, July 1, deadline to turn in their Notices of Candidacy to run as Independent candidates come as November, and last week, Curtis' petition signatures were verified by the Towns County Board of Elections.

Chambers is running as an Independent for the office of Towns County Sole Commissioner, and Barrett hopes to join Curtis in running



as an Independent for the office of Towns County Sheriff.

Chambers turned in all of his paperwork the first day of qualifying on Monday, June 27, including his nomination petitions, and the elections board was able to verify his signatures that week, so Chambers has fully qualified to run for the Sole Commissioner

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Hiawassee Mayor's Park is steadily progressing

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Having a Mayor's Park has been a long-term dream for Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis.

Since the beginning of her career, Mayor Mathis has hoped to bring a park into the community to serve as a multi-purpose recreational facility for citizens of all ages from Hiawassee and Towns County.

Mayor's Park has been in the works for the past 23 years, with Mayor Mathis and City Manager Rick Stancil staying in contact with the Tennessee Valley Authority off and on in the past few years to check lease availability for the city.

"We're all looking forward to getting it underway," said Mayor Mathis. "People have really asked us



declared a priority to Hiawassee in the City's 2010 Comprehensive Plan, spring boarding the preparations and applications necessary for the park.

TVA leased 6 acres overlooking Lake Chatuge to the City of Hiawassee for the upcoming Mayor's Park, a lease that will span a total of 30 years. When the city begins renovations to the acreage, an appeal to extend the lease for another 30 years will be available, making the lease a proposed 60 years.

"It's a joint venture between a lot of players," said Stancil. "One area of the park, we have subleased to the Department of Natural Resources.

"DNR is going to come in this year and put in parking spaces, a boat ramp and a boat dock. So, that's their contribution toward this. We're

everywhere we go, when this is going to be completed.

"Before, we didn't have any idea, but now we're looking at a closer date than we have been in several years. So hopefully everything will fall into place and we'll have it running shortly – well, in a little over a year, at least."

The park was officially

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LAST CALL
Speech Training
Win \$1600
Tuesday, July 14
6:30 PM
New Senior Center
in Towns County
See page 2A

66th Annual
GEORGIA
MOUNTAIN
FAIR
Begins July 15th

HIGH COUNTRY ARTISANS
Butternut Creek
Festival
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Kid's Fishing
Rodeo
August 6th
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