

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	83	66
Fri: Rain	82	64
Sat: Rain	79	63
Sun: Showers	81	63
Mon: Clouds	82	63
Tue: Rain	83	64
Wed: Rain	81	62



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/18/12	
Lake Chatuge	1923.88
Lake Nottely	1772.71
Blue Ridge	1673.54

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Early Vote

Early voting for the July 31 Primary is underway in Towns County.

The Towns County Herald urges everyone to exercise their voting rights.



Georgia Mountain Fair 3rd Annual Cooking Contest



Check in: Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Office
Awards & Contest: Country Cafe Dining Hall

Tues., July 24 • 4-4:30 p.m.
Thurs., July 26 • 4-4:30 p.m.

Visit georgiamountainfairgrounds.com for contest rules and entry forms



14th Annual Bitternut Creek Festival

Sat., July 21 & Sun. July 22
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Meeks Park, Blairsville, GA

Presented by the High Country Artisans, Inc.



Safety Course

A safety driving course will be held on July 24th at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

During July and August this year, all educators, past or present, can attend the course for \$5.

Anyone associated with education is eligible, teachers, administrators, maintenance personnel, school bus drivers, Sunday School teachers, and home school teachers just to name a few are eligible. See Page 5 for more details.



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.

Sixty-second Georgia Mountain Fair is here

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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Come ride the rides as the Georgia Mountain Fair kicks off at 5 p.m. Thursday with a sneak peek at the Fairgrounds in Hiwassee.

On Friday, Blairsville's own Tommy Townsend and Waymore's Outlaws open the musical performances of the Fair's 62nd season.

Townsend jokes that Lee Greenwood will close for the Outlaws, the back up band for late Country Music legend, Waylon Jennings.

"We'll open the Fair and Lee Greenwood follows," Townsend said. "It's opening night. I don't think people realize just how great an experience those music shows are at the Fairgrounds. I played there when I was a kid. I was on stage with Waylon Jennings at the Music Hall. Actually, that was the last time Waylon was at Anderson Music Hall."

"It's special for me to play at The Hall," Townsend

said. "All the people I grew up with come out, it's an exciting atmosphere, the family will be here. It's just a special time personally."

The Fair is rich in tradition, historically known for first class musical performances, fun carnival rides, and a picturesque glimpse into North Georgia's rich history and culture.

It's a family affair every year. This year, following the sneak peek, the Fair runs from Friday through July 29.

From world-class Country and Gospel performances to good old Rock 'N' Roll shows, the Fair will host several renowned musical acts in the 2,900-seat Anderson Music Hall throughout the 10 days the Fair is here.

Performers include legends Waymore's Outlaws, Greenwood, Crystal Gayle, Marty Stuart, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, Jim Ed Brown, Helen Cornelius, and Gospel singers The McKameys and The Primitives.

The venue also will serve as the site of the 2012 Miss



The Georgia Mountain Fair opens on Thursday with a sneak preview

Georgia Mountain Fair Pageant.

Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason described what visitors to the Fair have to look forward to.

"Attendees will have the opportunity to step back

in time as they watch educational demonstrations such as blacksmithing, moonshining, soap-making, and hominy making in the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' very own Pioneer Village," Thomason said. "Visitors can tour restored

authentic and antique buildings including a one-room schoolhouse, a general store, a blacksmith shop, and an old mountain home moved to the Fairgrounds to preserve the

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Towns celebrates Bleckley, Lovelady

TCHS students come home with national honors; Bleckley a national champion

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Recent Towns County High School graduate Ali Bleckley has become a two-time National Champion at the Future Business Leaders of America National Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Bleckley claimed a second national title in Spreadsheet Applications.

She won her first national title last year, and has been to nationals three consecutive years.

Bleckley wasn't the only TCHS student earning national honors.

Rising junior Hayle Lovelady claimed a silver medal in Orlando, Fla. during the National Health Occupations Students of America Future Health Professionals competition at Disney World.

Lovelady becomes the first TCHS student to compete at the national level in Health Occupations.

Lovelady competed in the Personal Care event. About half the events at the competition are strictly knowledge based, while the other half are knowledge and performance combined, explained Lovelady's teacher and Health Occupations advisor, Suzanne Crews.



Ali Bleckley

Some events are team events, where students share the rigors of competition with a partner or partners.

Lovelady's event was an individual knowledge and performance-based competition.

"We are extremely proud of Hayle in how well she represented our school and our state at the National HOSA Conference," TCHS Principal Roy Perren said. "To my knowledge Hayle is the first student we have had compete at the national level in HOSA. Her second place finish in the nation was the result of many long hours of preparation."

Perren also had high praise for Bleckley's second national title.

"We are extremely proud and honored to have had Ali



Hayle Lovelady

Bleckley as a part of our school for four years," Perren said. "She's a competitor in the classroom and on the athletic field. I wish her nothing but the best that life has to offer. We're extremely proud of Ali."

Bleckley had high praise for what FBLA has given her during her high school career.

"Being a member and officer in FBLA has impacted me in more ways than I could have ever imagined," Bleckley said. "From the leadership and business skills that I have acquired through my chapter's projects, to the opportunity I have had to compete three consecutive years at the region, state and national levels, being in FBLA has increased my confidence and shown me that working

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Payne honored as humanitarian

By Libby Shook
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On Tuesday July 10th, the Towns County Lions Club held their regularly scheduled meeting with a full agenda ahead of them.

President Julie Payne rang the bell and called the meeting to order.

After a delicious meal provided by Daniel's Steakhouse, Georgia Mountain Fair President Myers Banister made several announcements regarding the upcoming fair and encouraged all Lions Club members to work in at least one area of the Fair.

"We still have several booths that need some help and we need some people to work the gate," said Banister.

The Towns County Lion's Club has always been very active throughout the years and has done many good works for the community.

The only problem is that they work behind the scenes without any need for recognition and many do not know what they do within the community.

Banister had the honor of introducing the evening's guest speaker, past District Governor, 2011-12, and current First District Vice President, Ed Hashbarger of Lawrenceville.

Hashbarger is the State LCI Coordinator and is also on the Leader Dogs for the Blind Advisory Committee.

He has been a Lion for 44 years.

He was very complimentary of the Towns County Lions Club commending them on their "impressive increase in membership during the past year.



Ed Hashbarger speaks with local Lions on Tuesday. Julie Payne, seated, received the club's highest honor.

"That is very commendable. It tells me you've been working very hard. No other club has even come close to that," he said.

"This is the only district to gain members and the only district that had all 39 clubs give to the Lighthouse, Camp for the Blind, Leader Dog, and LCI," he said.

Once again, Banister stepped up to the lectern for the induction of new members: Guy Firor, sponsored by Doug Canup; Charlie Reynier, sponsored by Gerry Gutenstein; Libby Shook and Reggie Shook, sponsored by Ralph Grady.

Following the Induction Ceremony, new officers were installed for the new calendar year: Michael Annast, Director; Gene Jackson, Director; Allan Saylor, Membership Chairman, Ralph Grady, Lion Tamer; Doug Canup, Tail Twister; Bob Ford, 2nd Vice President; Janice Smith, 1st Vice

President; Janice King, Treasurer; Carnie Wall, Secretary; and Julie Payne, President.

Banister presented "a reward, not an award," to President Julie Payne.

"This is a special occasion for the Towns County Lions Club," he said. "Humanitarian service is the purpose of all Lions."

"This special plaque is in recognition of people who have given above and beyond the call of duty," said Banister.

He was referring to a plaque indicating Payne's nomination and acceptance as a Melvin Jones Fellow.

The fellowship, created in 1973, takes its name from the founder of the Lions Clubs International (LCI), Melvin Jones.

It was established as the Lions' highest honor to acknowledge an individual's dedication to humanitarian service. Payne proudly and humbly accepted the plaque.

Parade to honor veterans this year

By Libby Shook
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The Georgia Mountain Fair Parade will be held this Saturday July 21st beginning at 11 a.m. Line up will begin at 9 a.m.

This will be a very special event indeed as the Grand Marshal this year will be Towns County's World War II Veterans.

There are 26 veterans scheduled to participate in the parade this year.

Commissioner Bill Kendall signed a Proclamation in honor of World War II Veterans on Monday July 16th.

"With WWII Veterans turning 90 years of age and their ranks rapidly decreasing, the Georgia Mountain Fair and the Towns County Commissioner's Office are honoring them by proclaiming Saturday, July 21st as WWII Veterans' Day in Towns County and Grand Marshal of the 62nd Georgia Mountain Fair Parade," said Kendall.

The Veterans and their families will meet at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. for brunch where they will have the opportunity to reminisce about their experiences during the war.

At 10:30 am, they will



Commissioner Bill Kendall depart to Citizens South Bank to line up as Grand Marshal of the Parade.

Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason and Fair officials have also reserved them seating at the front of the music show where they will be recognized by the performers.

Towns County should feel very proud to have the opportunity to come out and show their support and appreciation for these amazing men who have withstood the test of time and fought so valiantly for our country and our freedoms that we enjoy today or as the signed Proclamation reads in part, "who devotedly and gallantly defended our beloved country during the perilous times of WWII and successfully preserved our freedom, liberty, and way of life."

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County taking bids on Community Center

By Libby Shook
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Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall announced that the Commissioner's Office is encouraging the use of local sub-contractors and suppliers to build the 26,000 square foot Foster Memorial Park Recreational/Community Center.

Instead of using a traditional general contractor which requires sub-contractors to be bonded and are usually brought in from outside the county, Towns County will use W. R. Allen Construction Services to oversee the construction project because of their record of using local contractors and suppliers, quality construction, and coming in within or under budget.

They were selected from a list of six construction companies interviewed by the county and local architects.

There will be a meeting on Friday July 27th from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Towns County Courthouse.

Commissioner Kendall and the W. R. Allen Construction Services Company will discuss the bidding procedures and provide information to sub-contractors and suppliers interested in submitting a bid on the project.

"A big advantage for the county in using local sub-contractors and suppliers, and using county construction services instead of a general contractor, is that the county or company will not require sub-contractors to be bonded.

vices company will provide the bonding for the sub-contractor and for sub-contracts under \$100,000," he said. "This will allow the small sub-contractor to compete. In order to keep most projects under \$100,000, the construction project will be broken into many sub-contracts including concrete finishing, masonry, carpentry, drywall, electrical, heating & air conditioning, painting, flooring, roofing, glass work, doors, plumbing, fire sprinkling, and steel erection."

By keeping all the work at the local level, the county will get a much needed economic boost, and local businesses will benefit by millions of dollars.

Studies show that a dollar earned locally turns over about four times within the local community, an advantage for all local businesses, Kendall said.

The facility will include two full-size basketball courts with a dividing curtain that can be raised to accommodate up to 1,000 people in a banquet style setting.

It also will include a physical fitness center, a 4,000 square foot community center with folding partitions.

This space was planned with a separate entrance, re-

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