

Towns County Herald

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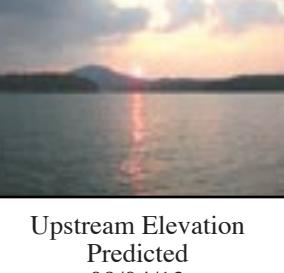
50 Cents

Publication Number 635540 Volume 84 Number 44

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu:	Sunny	85	56
Fri:	Clouds	82	57
Sat:	Clouds	81	56
Sun:	Clouds	82	56
Mon:	Clouds	82	57
Tues:	Clouds	79	57
Wed:	Clouds	79	57



Upstream Elevation

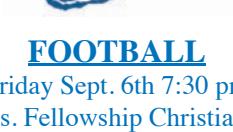
Predicted
09/04/13

Lake Chatuge 1,923.31
Lake Nottely 1,772.03
Blue Ridge 1,681.63

INDEX 16 Pages

Arrests	2
Chamber News.....	11
Church/Obits.....	8,9
Classifieds.....	14
Editorial.....	4
Letters.....	4
Legals	15

SPORTS Pages 12-13



FOOTBALL

Friday Sept. 6th 7:30 pm
vs. Fellowship Christian

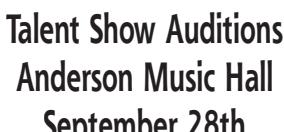
SOFTBALL

Tues. Sept 3rd 4:45
vs. Providence
Thurs. Sept. 5th 4:45 pm
@ Prince Avenue

MIDDLE SCHOOL

FOOTBALL

Thurs. Sept 5th 5:30 pm
@ Lakeview

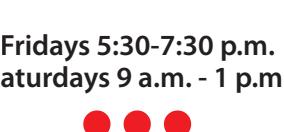


Talent Show Auditions

Anderson Music Hall

September 28th

by 3 PM



Fridays 5:30-7:30 p.m.

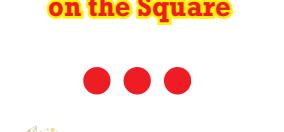
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Sept. 7th

10 a.m.

on the Square



Celebrate Autumn Arts & Crafts Show

Sept. 21-22, 2013

See Page 8A

Talent show will determine Merle's opening act

By Heather Poole
Towns County Herald
heather.tcherald@windstream.net

Anderson Music Hall, and the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds will host a talent contest, with the winner opening for Country Music icon Merle Haggard on Oct. 25th at 7 p.m.

A Country Music Hall of Fame legend, Haggard is set to return to Hiawassee to perform at Anderson Music Hall.

For one lucky performer, there's a chance to open for Haggard and also collect \$500 in prize money, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said.

Talent show auditions will be held Sept. 28th, at Anderson Music Hall. Those auditioning must be at the Music Hall by no later than 3 p.m.

There is a \$10 competition entry fee. No bands are allowed in the competition, Thomason said.

Those hoping to compete must sign up by Sept. 26th by phone at (706) 896-4191.

Contestants (no age requirements) must bring music



Merle Haggard

on a compact disc or a soundtrack. A guitar for accompaniment is permissible.

Also, the public is invited to attend and watch the competition at no charge, Thomason said.

Contestant numbers will be drawn out of a hat to determine order of performance, Thomason said.

The Top 10 male and Top 10 female vocalists will be announced at the auditions to come back and compete in the Finals.

On Oct. 5th, the Talent

Show Finals take place at Anderson Music Hall at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person.

"Contestants get in free – all others must pay," Thomason said. "Contestants are allowed to sing their own song, but are strongly discouraged, because original songs do not get as great of an audience response, which is a major part of the score."

"Scores are based on talent, stage presentation, appearance and audience response," she said. "The winner of the Finals gets \$500 and will open the Merle Haggard concert on Oct. 25th, at Anderson Music Hall."

Haggard is well known for helping to create an original musical sound known as the *Bakersfield Sound*.

Along with Buck Owens, Haggard helped create the sound. It was a title given to the recognizable sound that resulted from a certain twang of a Fender Telecaster.

The sound also is cre-

See Auditions, Page 10

BRMEMC set to raise power rates in October

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

With its annual meeting just around the corner, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC GM Matthew Akins is expecting a lot of questions about the utility company's announced rate increase set for Oct. 1st.

Customers will soon see their electric bills go up by 3 percent to 6 percent beginning Oct. 1st, the electric cooperative announced last week.

The rate increase spans across all customer classes creating a 6.28 percent increase for customers with a monthly kilowatt usage of 500 kilowatts, according to an advertisement schedule to run in today's Towns County Herald.

"Rate increases like this are never welcomed by our members, yet, in order to maintain our business viability, as well as mandatory fiscal requirements, we must take this action," EMC General Manager Matthew Akins said. "I know



Matthew Akins

that many in our community will automatically assume that this increase is to cover the cost of our new headquarters facility, but, the truth of the matter is that neither TVA nor BRMEMC would have needed this increase if sales had remained strong."

According to the EMC, total kilowatt-hour sales have been on the decline in recent years, yet the fixed operating

See Increase, Page 10

Honeybee populations on the decline

By Heather Poole
Towns County Herald
heather.tcherald@windstream.net

More than 2.4 million colonies.

That is how many collective honeybee colonies survive in the United States.

While it may seem like an incredible number, it is actually incredibly scary.

In 1947, the total number of honeybee colonies totaled 5.9 million.

That is a decrease of 3.5 million bee colonies in just 66 years.

To some, that may not seem like such a bad thing. The reality is that honeybees supply Americans with a majority of their diet.

According to Dr. Paul Arnold, Professor of Biology Chair, Biology Department at Young Harris College, honey-



The Beekeeping Institute at Young Harris College is one of a kind.

bees provide humans with one third of their dietary needs.

Honeybees are essential for Orchard trees such as cherries, apples, almonds and more.

They are especially important in blueberry pollination in North Georgia.

They also aid in polli-

nating flowering garden vegetables such as cucumbers and squash.

Along with food, honeybees are also a vital source of income in North Georgia.

According to Dr. Arnold, people come from all over just

See Bees, Page 10

Suwanee couple survives crash scare



This DA40 four-seater wasn't far from the Towns County line.

The nation.

The volunteer program is a combined effort on the parts of the Towns County Fire & Rescue and the civilian Towns County Fire Corps.

Towns County is very fortunate to have the Corps as their volunteer support staff for Towns County Fire & Rescue and they help in raising funds for needed pieces of equipment and training.

Their efforts, in conjunction with the cooperation of the Towns County community, have removed many fire risks associated with the severity and adverse effectiveness of a runaway fire spreading throughout given areas.

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See Hydrants, Page 10

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See Hydrants, Page 10

Kendall makes it official; Chili Cook-Off set for Sept. 7

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

It's all about the chili on Saturday in Downtown Hiawassee.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall has declared Sept. 7th as Towns County Fire Corps Day in Towns County.

The Affair on the Square will prove to be very entertaining and fun for the entire family.

This year's event, which is returning after a two-year hiatus, will have a Bounce House for the kids, live Music by Fire Corps VP Rob Mawyer, Rifle Raffle, and silent auctions just to name a few of the fun stuff going on.

The big treat, there's lots of Chili to sample and vote for.

The Fire Corps' silent auction venue has great items for bidding, from Resort stay packages, vineyard packages, fall eating packages and also includes a rifle raffle featuring a Savage Mark II Rimfire Series .22 caliber rifle, with Sun Optic Scope.

Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.