

Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 84 Number 46

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	80 53
Fri: Sunny	82 56
Sat: Storms	75 55
Sun: Storms	77 52
Mon: Sunny	78 52
Tues: Clouds	78 52
Wed: Sunny	77 50



Upstream Elevation Predicted 09/18/13	
Lake Chatuge	1,921.89
Lake Nottely	1,769.64
Blue Ridge	1,679.46

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SPORTS

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Arts & Crafts

Celebrate Autumn Arts & Crafts Show
North GA Tech
Sept. 21-22, 2013

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Meeting
Saturday, September 21
Anderson Music Hall ~ Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds



Talent Show Auditions
Anderson Music Hall
September 28th
by 3 PM



Free Food Distribution
Thursday
Sept. 19th
North Mt. Zion



Sept. 28th
Union County Farmer's Market



FOOTBALL
Friday, Sept. 20th @ Rabun Gap 4:30 PM

SOFTBALL
Tues. Sept. 17 vs. Hebron 4:45 PM

Thurs, Sept 19th @ Athens Christian 5:55 PM

Leon West fights his greatest battle

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

Leon West, U.S. Navy Corpsman and Iwo Jima veteran, received a personal Quilt of Valor Thursday, Sept. 12.

His wife, Jackie West was present to commemorate the occasion.

Leon was only 18 when he began his World War II service. He was drafted at 17, went to the Navy, and trained as a medic.

Even though he was supposed to be a medic, they pulled him off the beach, gave him a gun and told him if he sees a 'Jap,' shoot to kill.

He served from 1942-1946, and he was never able to wear his armband that differentiated Corpsman from medics.

The first people shot at during this bloody war were chaplains and medics, so by not wearing the armband, he was keeping himself alive.

Leon is a rare breed, a Iwo Jima veteran, who served on the tiny five-mile island near Mount Suribachi in Japan.



Jackie West and the Rev. Richard Hoibraten pray for Iwo Jima veteran Leon West after he receives his Quilt of Valor. Photo/Heather Poole

Leon served as a Corpsman on the U.S.S. Wisconsin with the duty of providing triage to wounded U.S. Marines in the early onshore fighting for control of Iwo Jima.

Leon was one of the rare few Americans that made it home. All told, more than 26,000 of the 74,000 U.S. troops died at Iwo Jima.

Three days was all it was supposed to take to take control of the strategic airstrip. Three days turned into 36 before U.S. forces could claim control of Iwo Jima.

Those 36 days of fighting were some of the bloodiest days of World War II.

See Leon, Page 12

Towns County Schools to install panic buttons

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

Towns County High School Principal Jonathan Gibson has one goal in mind, keeping students safe on campus.

All Towns County Schools will receive panic buttons, and Gibson is ecstatic about it.

"I really feel like we are hitting in front of the wave here," he said.

The school system has already implemented a buzzer system that easily limits who has access to the building, as well as camera security that helps monitor not just students, but visitors.

With the addition of the panic buttons, Towns County Schools are staying ahead of the curve when it comes to safety.

Gibson truly appreciates how hard the Board of Education has worked to help implement the buttons.



Jonathan Gibson

Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams managed to come up with enough money for 30 of the buttons, something Gibson was truly grateful for.

The plan is to put the buttons everywhere there could ever be a need for them.

These areas include the main office, the gym, corners of hallways, as well as classrooms.

See Safety, Page 12

James Arthur Shook dies at 105

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

James Arthur Shook, the oldest resident to ever vote in a Towns County election passed away on Friday following a period of declining health.

Arthur Shook became the oldest voting resident in county history in the 2010 General Election.

Arthur remembered the first time he ever voted, the first time he ever went to the doctor, and most importantly, the last time he voted.

The 105-year-old Young Harris resident, out-lived two brothers, who also lived beyond 100 years of age.

"Arvil lived to be 102, and Andy lived to be 101 and

See Arthur, Page 12



James Arthur Shook lived a long and happy life. He was Towns County's oldest living resident. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

City, BOE explore a water tower on School campus

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

The Towns County Board of Education is exploring the addition of a water tower to be built behind Towns County Schools.

The BOE met Monday, Sept. 9th, with Hiwassee City Manager Rick Stancil to discuss the details.

The contractor of the project from Engineering Management Inc., also was on hand to answer any questions.

Because the water tower will be on school grounds, the contractor has agreed to paint a large Towns County emblem on the structure so that it both builds school spirit for all passersby and blends in easily with the campus.

Anyone working on the project, which will take a total of 200 calendar days, will be fingerprinted and background checked, as they will be around students throughout the construction period.

Construction is necessary, as it would improve water and sewage in Hiwassee.

According to the bid,



Rick Stancil

the project consists of, but is not limited to the following major components that include construction of approximately 3,414 linear feet of water line and supply of four sewage pumps.

Copies of contract documents, specifications, and construction drawings may be obtained at the office of Engineering Management, Inc., 303 Swanson Drive, Lawrenceville, GA for anyone interested.

For general information and purchasing documents regarding this project, you may call Juanita Clark at (770) 962-1387, extension 100.

After the water tower presentation, Towns County

See BOE, Page 12

Towns County celebrates Harleys

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

All roads led to Hiwassee last week.

For the third consecutive year, the Georgia State H.O.G. Rally took center stage in Hiwassee.

They came, they ate, and they rode their bikes. Late Saturday, early Sunday, they went home.

The rally will skip Hiwassee for a year, with the potential to return in 2015, said Ridges Resort & Marina General Manager, Chad Hooper.

Hooper, who also serves on the Towns County Tourism Association board of directors, said, three years in a row in one location is unheard of, and that's just what the Harley Owners Group did in Hiwassee.

"They had to change venues, if just for one year,"



Georgia Harley owners had another blast in Towns County over the weekend. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Hooper said. "We understand, but, that's not going to stop us from trying to bring this fine group of motorcycle enthusiasts back in 2015."

The mountain ride experience in Towns and neighboring Union County is enough to

See Harley, Page 12

Two die in Towns and Union crashes

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

During a weekend when the Georgia State H.O.G. Rally was happening in Hiwassee, it wasn't a good weekend to ride motorcycles for some.

Two crashes, one in Union County, the other in Towns County, resulted in fatal injuries for both motorcycle drivers, according to the Georgia State Patrol.

In Towns County, a 48-year-old Murphy, NC man died when he lost control of his 2007 black Harley Davidson-FLSTC Heritage while traveling north on Georgia 17.

The crash was reported to Towns County 911 at 3:15 p.m. on Saturday Trooper First Class Cody White said.

Burford Harold Carswell, of 40 Landscape Lane in Murphy, NC died when he lost control of his bike and was struck by an oncoming 2010 Harley Davidson.

"The chain of events began when a silver car pulled out from Lakeview Drive," Trooper White said. "The car had to slow down because an-



The scene of Saturday's fatal crash on Georgia 17 North. One person was killed, two others sustained minor injuries. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

other vehicle was turning into the thrift store. Mr. Carswell's fiancée was traveling in front of him. She saw the silver car slow down, and she did also. The best we can tell, Mr. Carswell was not paying attention to the events unfolding in front of him.

"When Mr. Carswell realized what was happening in front of him, he locked down his bike, slid to the left, into the

southbound lane and oncoming traffic," Trooper White said. "There was a group of motorcycles heading southbound on Georgia 17.

"Two of the motorcycles struck Mr. Carswell and he died from his injuries," Trooper White said.

The drivers of the other Harley Davidson motorcycles,

See Crashes, Page 12

Langley steps up to replace "no show" Collins at Shakers

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

The luckless magic of Friday the 13th, struck the Mountain Movers and Shakers.

In Towns County, the term "no show" generally is reserved for the late, great George Jones.

After last Friday, you can add 9th District Congressman Doug Collins to that list.

With a very large turnout already at Mary's Southern Grill, anticipation was in the air as everyone attending wanted an opportunity to speak to Rep. Collins.

However, the Congressman was nowhere to be found.

Unfortunately, the Congressman was in Washington, DC, on a last minute non-scheduled interview with Greta Van Susteren.

Despite the fact that he had been committed to the Mountain Movers and Shakers for a full 30 days, when Van Susteren called him Thursday night to go "On the Record," and asked him to come on the show, he had his camp call Movers and Shakers Co-Founder Sam Fullerton and cancel.

Fullerton, who had personally made flyers, contacted people, and consistently reconfirmed with Congressman Collins, was furious.

Unable to understand how Congressman Collins could put the Towns County community on the back burner so easily, Fullerton just shook his head.

"From the time I was 6 years old, my father had taught me to honor my commit-



District Attorney Jeff Langley

ments," Fullerton said, adding that commitments were a skill he felt Congressman Collins had not mastered.

Fullerton had to turn nearly 20 people away that morning, a number separate from those he and GOP Chair Mark Wolchko were able to contact very late Thursday night.

Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley, was in attendance Friday morning, and bravely took over as keynote speaker, though he had to talk off the cuff.

He joked, "nothing like a lot of notice."

As a Republican, Langley mentioned that he has some concerns.

"There is a time coming when we are going to have to fight with strategy and purpose. I am concerned about my children and grandchildren because of this (National) Debt," he

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

