

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Sunny	79 57
Fri: Rain	69 59
Sat: Rain	69 57
Sun: Clouds	71 55
Mon: Rain	72 56
Tue: Clouds	73 57
Wed: Rain	75 57



Upstream Elevation Predicted 09/23/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,921.20
Lake Nottely	1,768.09
Blue Ridge	1,667.99

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Puttin' on the Dog
Sat. Sept. 26th
Union County
Farmers Market

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Chamber Business Showcase
September 24

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Chatuge Regional Geriatric Psychiatric Unit

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Towns Co. Fire & Rescue
Seeking Volunteer Firefighters

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Fri. Sept. 25
vs. George Walton

7:30 PM

SOFTBALL

Tues. Sept. 22
vs. Athens Christian

4:45 PM

Moore says lakes are fine

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition held its Fifth Annual State of the Water meeting on Monday, Sept. 14, at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center.

In the meeting, HRWC Executive Director Callie Moore spoke on the state of the rivers and lakes within the Upper Hiwassee River Basin.

All four lakes in the basin – Nottely, Chatuge, Hiwassee and Apalachia – received clean bills of health, but Moore identified areas of concern for certain streams running through the basin.

Moore showed meeting attendees a map highlighting waterways and streams located in the Upper Hiwassee River Basin that had been identified by the state's 303(d) list of impaired and threatened waters, a list that is updated every two years on even year cycles.

Waters can be deemed impaired for different reasons, such as bacterial contamination, excess sediment, excess nutrients and low oxygen environments that cause smaller fish populations, for example.

Since 2013, the HRWC has been able to monitor bacteria levels through its bacterial monitoring program, allowing for greater real-time augmenting of data – like the 303(d) list last published in 2014 – provided by state agencies, such as the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

In Towns County, there are a few streams with isolated E. coli hotspots, but mostly the concern lies with fish community degradation.

“So, it’s things like excess sediment and places where you have a lot of eroding stream banks – maybe the water temperature is too warm,” said Moore, pointing out lines representing streams on the 303(d) list map. “So, most of the red lines in Towns County are



Callie Moore

related to the fish community, or the biological community is not what it should be.”

Moving forward in addressing bacterial concerns, however, Moore said that next steps were to take more samples in affected areas to figure out the exact nature of these problems, then to apply for grants to help alleviate the

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Towns has two Title I Distinguished Schools

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

At the Towns County Board of Education meeting on Monday, Sept. 14, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Darren Berrong had news to report concerning academic achievement in Towns County Schools.

“We’re an accredited school district serving over 1,000 students. Two of our schools are Title I Distinguished Schools and they have been Title I Distinguished Schools for multiple years,” he said, speaking on Towns County elementary and middle schools.

The high school is the only school in the system that does not fall into that category. They just became a Title I School last year, and so were not eligible for that award.

In addition, the middle school is a Title I Reward

School.

“They have been a Reward School for multiple years. We do have a school that is a Georgia School of Excellence, and of course those are just a few of the things,” said Dr. Berrong.

Towns County High School recently received the Governor’s Cup award for highest SAT scores.

“Our district as a whole was ninth in the entire state of Georgia last year on the College and Career Ready Performance Index scores, so we do have a very good school system,” said Dr. Berrong.

At the meeting, Dr. Berrong went through a PowerPoint explaining the changes that will be made following the school’s decision to switch to an Investing in Educational Excellence (IE2) flexibility option.

The state of Georgia is requiring schools to decide between three options: status



Dr. Darren Berrong

quo, IE2, or charter school.

“With status quo, you have to follow every rule the state gives you and you can’t waive any of the rules. With IE2 and charter, you have the option to waive some of the rules and spend money the way you feel like your system feels is the

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Local food lovers got a treat

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Local food lovers and amateur cooks alike got a treat on Saturday, Sept. 19, as the Taste of Home Cooking School Show arrived at Anderson Music Hall to showcase ingredients and culinary specialties.

Onstage, culinary specialist Michelle Roberts performed a live cooking demonstration of 10 different recipes, most of them autumn-themed.

“I travel the Southeast and do live demonstrations for the company. We have a Fall season and a Spring season, so we do different recipes in the Fall than we do in the Spring. So I go to different places in the springtime,” she explained.

Chef Roberts, who has worked as professional onstage cook for 13 years and has a bachelor’s degree in culinary arts and a minor in food art and photography, was a budding chef even at an early age.

“I’ve always loved to



cook. I started cooking with an Easy Bake Oven and a microwave. We got our first microwave when I was probably five or six, so we had microwave hot dogs and Easy Bake Oven cakes for every meal just about. And I still have that Easy Bake

Oven. I’ve had it for 31 years,” she said.

In addition, she has over 30 years of stage experience.

“I’ve been doing stage and theater stuff since I was four

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Hiwassee Fruitstand ready for Fall

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

For Towns County residents looking to embrace the fall weather with fresh-baked pies, or those hoping to scare up a good jack-o’-lantern, the Hiwassee Fruit and Vegetable Market has your pumpkin.

“We’ve got assorted pumpkins,” said Market Manager Janet Reynolds. “We’ve got Cinderellas, we’ve got Fairytales, we’ve got cow pumpkins, we’ve got white pumpkins, we’ve got Jarrahdales, we’ve got peanut pumpkins, knotty pumpkins – we’ve got all kinds of pumpkins.”

Pumpkins make for good baked dishes as well as decorations of all kinds, not necessarily just for Halloween.

“People take these



Wayne Cox, Mary Thompson and Janet Reynolds

pumpkins, and they’ll want to decorate, and I always tell them that after they decorate, cook it – you want to cook the pumpkin,” said Reynolds.

Tiny pumpkins on sale for \$1 can round out a fall floral arrangement, while the bigger pumpkins, which range up to \$15 for a 30-pound jack

pumpkin, make the best jack-o’-lanterns.

Folks can even buy Big Max pumpkins for \$40, and those can weigh in at over 100 pounds.

Several of the pumpkin varieties are actually squash

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Bower gets 30 years for stabbing Deyton

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Daniel Lee Bower of Hayesville, NC, has plead guilty to criminal attempt to commit murder in the Oct. 1, 2014, stabbing of Towns County Sheriff’s Deputy Aaron Deyton.

In a pre-trial hearing at the Union County Courthouse on Wednesday, Sept. 16, Enotah Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Murphy Miller sentenced Bower to the maximum sentence of 30 years for the crime, 25 of which are to be spent in prison.

“He certainly has a little while to think about it now,” said Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton. “Bower himself articulated in front of the judge that he realized what he had done was wrong, so hopefully it serves as an example to other people that you can’t get by with this type of crime.”

Bower’s criminal trial was set to begin on Monday, Sept. 21, had he not entered his guilty plea at what was his fourth pre-trial hearing to



Daniel Lee Bower

date.

“It’ll be a long time before he’s ever eligible for any parole consideration,” said Sheriff Clinton. “I feel like certainly Aaron Deyton and his family, they were satisfied with it, and I think that’s the main thing. They felt like that was an appropriate sentence and agreement.”

“I’m just glad that they’re at a stage now where, it certainly doesn’t take away what happened, and Aaron’s

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Perren holds Parental Involvement meetings

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Sept. 17, Towns County Schools held parental involvement meetings required by its Title I status.

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides financial assistance to schools with a high percentage of low-income families to ensure that all children meet state academic standards.

Title I schools must seek to promote a certain degree of parental involvement.

“We want to have the parents more involved in the school and better communication between the school and the home. So at the meetings, we’ll be giving basically a summary of what parental involvement looks like from a Title I perspective,” said Towns County Schools Facilities Director Roy Perren, who also serves as federal programs director for the schools.

Perren led three meetings, one each for the high school, middle school, and elementary school. At each meeting, he went over the same information for the handfuls of parents that showed up.

Attendance at these meetings typically trends on the low side, though Perren encourages parents to be as active as possible in their children’s educations.



Roy Perren

And though the parental involvement meetings themselves do not often spark great interest, Perren explained that the schools would be hosting other, more highly attended events geared toward the same purpose.

“We have meetings where the parents come in, and they’re activity kind of things that are much more enjoyable than sitting through a meeting,” said Perren.

“We have Spooky Science Night. We already had a reading night at the elementary school. We have homework

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County adjusts budget line items

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

At the Towns County commissioner’s meeting on Thursday, Sept. 16, the office of the commissioner went over several line-item budget transfers that affect the Towns County Sheriff’s Office, its detention center and the Towns County Extension Office.

“This helps them stay on budget if their line item is going over and they have to move money up to cover that, then that helps them stay on budget throughout the whole year,” said Towns County Finance Director Andrea Anderson.

“One of the things we do to help keep departments in budget is if they need something and it’s not on a line item in their budget, ask if they feel like they have something that they have a little extra. If they’ve cut some expenses or didn’t need as much as they thought they would, they’ll transfer it up to that line item to cover where they’re going over,” she added.

The transfers were approved by Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall before the meeting.

“They’ve just got money in one place in the budget that they’d rather have in another place. Because when you make the budget on the first of the year, it’s an estimate on what you need that’s in the area. If the department heads want to move money around, they just ask for a budget amendment



Commissioner Bill Kendall

to transfer it. This is just a routine thing that happens,” said Commissioner Kendall.

The budget items show that the detention center requested an \$8,500 deduction from its building maintenance budget, namely their fuel allowance. That money will go into uniforms, office expenses and other miscellaneous items.

The sheriff’s office also moved a total of \$9,000 into various accounts.

“The sheriff’s department manage their budget themselves. They know how much they’re going to need in each line item,” said Anderson.

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