

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

www.townscountyherald.net

Publication Number 635540 Volume 81 Number 11

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	50	43
Fri: Cloudy	57	35
Sat: Cloudy	55	42
Sun: Showers	62	39
Mon: Cloudy	53	29
Tue: Sunny	46	25
Wed: Sunny	48	27



Upstream Elevation Predicted 1/20/10	
Lake Chatuge	1917.80
Lake Nottely	1761.60
Blue Ridge	1669.20

## INDEX

2 sections, 16 Pages

Arrests.....	2A
Church/Obits.....	2,3B
Classifieds.....	4B
Editorial.....	4A
Elected officials.....	4A
Legals.....	5B
Sports.....	7,8A
Television.....	6A

## Basketball Homecoming See Page 8A

## Subscribe

The Towns County Herald wants to make a difference during hard times.

For those currently unemployed, Senior Citizens and U.S. Military veterans, the Herald offers \$5 subscriptions for 1 year. That's a savings of \$21 off the normal stand price.

This offer extends to residents of Towns and Union counties in Georgia and Clay County, NC.

Simply bring proof of unemployment status; a simple Photo ID will suffice for Senior Citizens.

Veterans must provide proof of U.S. Military service.

The Herald also offers \$10 subscriptions for new subscribers from Towns and Union counties in Georgia and Clay County, NC.

At the end of one year, those subscribers can renew at a rate of \$15.

Again, we hope to make a difference when folks need it the most.

## Renovations at CRH

The Emergency Room at Chatuge Regional Hospital will be temporarily located in the Intensive Care Unit area of the hospital due to renovations. During the time of renovations the Emergency Room will continue to operate as normal. The renovations are expected to take approximately 10 to 12 weeks to complete.

## Community Meeting

The Towns County Tourism Association is sponsoring the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruize-In on Aug. 12-14 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. The event was a huge success in 2009 bringing more than 5,000 visitors here. A community meeting is scheduled Thursday, Feb. 11 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds at 5:30 p.m. in Anderson Music Hall. Promoter Rakes Parish will discuss community involvement to make this year even more successful. For more details call (706) 896-4966.

## As ice melts, problems arise

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

The bitter cold likely jacked heating bills to record highs in addition to some currently hidden financial costs.

As the temperatures rise, expect the water to run from underneath your house if you experienced a frozen water episode during the recent cold spell.

Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis is urging residents to keep an eye out for water leaks following the unusually cold temperatures of the past week.

Mayor Mathis says that the City has received numerous reports of water leaks and broken plumbing throughout the City's customer base.

She said to expect more problems as the weather warms up.

"The City expects

more leaks to be detected and the need to be repaired," she said. "We are asking all residents to assist their neighbors and be aware of possible water leaks.

"Many families have left the area for the winter and may not have adequately weather proofed their homes," she said. "If you see running water or if you suspect a possible water leak, please let the city know immediately."

In many cases, Mayor Mathis said that helping neighbors, and preventing or limiting water damage is just the right thing to do.

"We would like to express our appreciation for the understanding and patience of our city water customers this past weekend," she said. "Several service areas experienced low water pressure resulting from broken and frozen pipes and



Mayor Barbara Mathis

City workers put in many overtime hours working through the weekend and nights to fix broken pipes."

The cold forced government closures in addition to three days without classes at Towns County Schools.

Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard

See Leaks, page 2A

## Allison appointed House Deputy Whip

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
charlesduncan@brmemc.net



State Rep. Stephen Allison

State Rep. Stephen Allison, a first term Georgia House representative who represents Towns County in Georgia House District 8, has been appointed a Deputy Whip of the Georgia House of Representatives.

The appointment was made by House Majority Whip Ed Lindsey (R-Atlanta), according to a release from the State Capitol.

"I was honored to be appointed a Deputy Whip in the Georgia House of Representatives," the Blairsville Republican said.

Allison, a Blairsville attorney and father of two, continues to inform his constituents via the high-tech

capabilities currently available on the Internet.

"As always contact me if you have any questions about what your government is doing," Allison said on Facebook.

He figures to play a pivotal role in the future of legislation from the House Floor. State Rep. Allison will have an active role within the House Majority Caucus

See Allison, page 2A

## Floodplain hearing Thursday

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall will host a second public hearing on mandated floodplain maps, Thursday, Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m. in the Towns County Courthouse.

A review of floodplain maps presented last month show significant errors that prompted Commissioner Kendall to threaten litigation if changes were not made.

The errors in the proposed floodplain map showed several homes underwater, it also showed the City of Hiwassee's Treatment Plant underwater, which isn't the case.

"During the first hearing at a County Meeting it was established that the maps have erroneously listed many homes and properties, especially around the lake, as being in the flood zone that clearly are several



EPD/DNR representative Ban Yousif talks to a crowd of approximately 80 Towns County residents last month. She said FEMA is aware it is using antiquated data to revise floodplain maps for Lake Chatuge. Yousif is expected to be back this week for the second round of floodplain map talks. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

feet above the flood zone," Commissioner Kendall said.

Georgia's Floodplain Mapping Program is an agreement between Georgia and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the development and updating of Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM).

"The Commissioner's office is providing services through the Towns County 911 mapping (706) 896-5792

to any resident who wishes to come in and determine if the proposed FEMA map has their home or property listed in the floodplain by error," Commissioner Kendall said.

Towns County is required to adopt the new digitally formatted flood maps in order for residents to receive the lower insurance rate afforded by the Flood

See Floodplain, page 2A

## Community meeting on Friday

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis will host a community meeting to talk about ways to become smart on crime throughout the community.

The two elected leaders invite business, church and civic leaders, law enforcement as well as residents to discuss measures that are currently in place and what can be done in the future to make our community safer. The discussion also includes ways to promote public safety and save



Dot Garrett with the state Department of Corrections talks about Get Smart on crime programs with Commissioner Bill Kendall and Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis.

taxpayer dollars, combating drug problems within the community, mentoring programs for youths and ways to help transition offenders coming back into the community from the state prison system.

Part of the discussion

will layout methods currently used to help inmates prior to their release back into their communities. These methods include programs such as vocational training, Compass Assessments, On the

See Community, page 2A

## Towns Grand Jury presentments

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

The January Term of the Towns County Grand Jury has reappointed two members of the Towns County Water Authority and recommended infrastructure improvements at the Towns County Detention Center.

Grand Jurors also returned five true bills of indictment against persons charged with criminal offenses. Jurors also reviewed the finances and operations of the County Commissioner, Probate Judge, Clerk of Superior Court, and the Office of Tax Commissioner. All reports were found to be in order.

Grand Jurors also in-

spected the Towns County Detention Center and the Jail Book, which were found to be in order.

Grand Jurors acknowledged that positions on the Tax Equalization Board need to be filled. That will come when the Grand Jury reconvenes in April, court records show.

Meanwhile, Grand Jurors reappointed Chad Hooper and James Jackson to the Board of Directors of the Towns County Water Authority.

They also recommended that a secondary fence be constructed around the impoundment area at the Towns County Detention Center. Court records show that Grand Jurors were very

pleased with the way the jail is maintained and managed.

Grand Jurors commended Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge Lynn Akeley-Alderman for her assistance during the January Grand Jury session.

They also commended Circuit District Attorney Stan Gunter and his staff for their guidance and assistance during the January Term.

Grand Jurors also yielded high praise for Court Bailiff Ruth Cochran for her commitment to the Grand Jury. Also, law enforcement officers who appeared before the Grand Jury were commended for their professionalism and their case preparation.

## Butterworth fights forced health care

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

Georgia's District 50 State Sen. Jim Butterworth is backing a bill that gives Georgians a first line of defense against a federally mandated health care system.

The Clarkesville Republican, who represents Towns County in Georgia's 50<sup>th</sup> Senate District, has voiced his support for the rights of Georgians by signing on to the Healthcare Freedom of Choice Bill (SR 794). The bill, introduced by Sen. Judson Hill (R - Marietta), proposes a constitutional amendment which would defend Georgians from a federally mandated health care system.

"The recent developments regarding health care in our nation's capitol have left me gravely concerned for all Americans," Sen. Butterworth said. "I stand with my fellow senators in



State Sen. Jim Butterworth

supporting the resolution to protect all Georgians from unnecessary financial penalties in an already tough economy."

Recently, Congressman Jack Kingston (R-GA) expressed support for the Georgia General Assembly in an effort to sanction patient's rights. In addition to naming Sen. Butterworth in his comments, Congressman Kingston also applauded the efforts of Rep. Calvin Hill (R-Canton), Senators Judson Hill (R-Marietta), Chip Rogers (R-Woodstock), Ralph Hudgens (R-Hull), Lee

See Butterworth, page 2A

## YHC receives \$3.35 million gift

Special to Towns County Herald

Young Harris College has received a gift totaling more than \$3.35 million from the Charles Edwin Suber Foundation.

More than \$54,000 will benefit the Robert V. Ozment Endowed Scholarship and \$300,000 will establish the Charles Edwin Suber Endowed Scholarship. The remaining \$3 million will be used to support construction of Young Harris College's new campus center with the facility's banquet hall to be named for Charles Edwin Suber.

The Suber Foundation was established by the estate of Charles Edwin "Ed" Suber. The United Methodist layman passed away in November 2007. He attended Atlanta's Emory University and was retired from the Fulton County Superior Court system as court clerk. Suber was a lifelong resident of Atlanta, where his family owned and operated the C. P. Suber Grocery Store in the Ben Hill community. He served in the Army during World War II.

Part of the gift honors Suber's former pastor at Atlanta First United Methodist Church and long-time Young Harris College

trustee the Reverend Dr. Robert V. Ozment.

Trustee of the Suber Foundation Jim Campbell, along with his wife, Evelyn, and their son Mark, presented the gift on behalf of his first cousin to Young Harris College President Cathy Cox during the College's fall Board of Trustees meeting on Nov. 13, 2009, at Atlanta's Capital City Club.

"We are extremely grateful for the generosity of Mr. Suber. I am also thankful for the College's new relationship with the Campbell family and truly appreciate their hard work and dedication to working out all of the details with the Foundation," Young Harris College President Cathy Cox said. "It's clear that Mr. Suber was a devoted United Methodist and his estate will strengthen our college and other United Methodist causes for generations to come."

"The gift to Young

See YHC, page 2A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

