

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy	60 40
Fri: Cloudy	57 43
Sat: Rain	61 39
Sun: Rain	56 29
Mon: Cloudy	55 34
Tue: Sunny	58 37
Wed: Rain	61 38



Upstream Elevation Predicted 03/02/11	
Lake Chatuge	1918.36
Lake Nottely	1766.22
Blue Ridge	1625.02

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Chamber Chronicles

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Charlie Daniels

Charlie Daniels will play Anderson Music Hall on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Daniels, who scored his first major music triumph when he sold one of his written songs, *It Hurts Me to Elvis Presley*, is best remembered for his Grammy Award-winning *The Devil Went Down to Georgia*. He also scored with *Long-haired Country Boy*, *The South's Gonna Do It Again* and *The Legend of Wooley Swamp*. He's also renowned as one of the greatest fiddle players of his generation. Daniels also is an accomplished Gospel and Christian singer.

Tickets are \$37 for Level I seating and \$27 for Level II seating.



Early Voting

Towns County's registered voters continue heading to the polls to cast ballots on the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum.

Early voting is underway to decide the \$12.7 million SPLOST referendum.

Ballots can be cast at the Old Rock Jail at 91 Berrong Street. The election is scheduled for March 15.

A 'yes' vote extends the current 1 cent sales tax for six years and provides capital outlay funds for local projects.

If approved, the sales tax extension would begin on July 1. A 'yes' vote does not raise taxes.

Supporters continue to rally for the cause and hope that the referendum is an overwhelming success on Election Day.



CPR Class

The American Red Cross is holding its annual Free Adult CPR Training course on Saturday, March 5th. The class will be held in the Towns County Recreation Center at 10 a.m. The class lasts about three hours. Call (800) 282-1722, to sign up.

How 'Sweet' it is! Lady Indians advance to Sweet 16

Lady Indians (27-1) down Mount Zion; faced 8th ranked Pace Academy at press time

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
tcherald@windstream.net

The Towns County Lady Indians (27-1) continued their March to Macon on Friday with a decisive 67-31 victory over Mt. Zion in the first round of the Class A State Playoffs.

Gabby Arencibia, Ali Bleckley and Jordan Moss combined for 43 of the Lady Indians' 67 points to pace the Towns County attack.

The victory guarantees the Lady Indians a fourth consecutive trip to the Class A Sweet 16. Towns, the state's fourth-ranked team in Class A along with Bryan County, were scheduled to face Pace Academy on Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m.

Results of the contest were unavailable at press time.

Pace advanced to the Sweet 16 with an upset win

over Region 9-A Champions Southwest Atlanta Christian by a score of 60-54.

By virtue of being the higher seed, the Lady Indians earned the right to host the Sweet 16 game at Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium.

The winner of Towns County-Pace matchup travel to Marietta High School on Saturday, March 5, to face the winner of a Tuesday night Sweet 16 matchup between third-ranked St. Francis of Alpharetta and the sixth-ranked Darlington School of Rome on the Darlington home court.

The winner of that matchup in Marietta advances to the State Final Four in Macon next Wednesday, March 9 to compete for a Class A State Title.

The Lady Indians led

See Sweet 16, page 16



Jordan Moss got hot in the third quarter to seal the deal for the Lady Indians. Photo/James Reese

Another tool to fight fires

By Fire Chief Mitch Floyd
Special to Towns County Herald
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The Towns County Fire Rescue Department is pleased to announce an addition to its emergency vehicle fleet.

The vehicle is equipped with a 75-foot aerial ladder, a 1,500 gallons per minute pump, water tank, hose bed, and can carry four fully equipped firefighters in the safety of an enclosed cab.

The unit also can perform multiple tasks, operating as an engine company, Ladder Company, or both at the same time.

The unit will provide vital aerial ladder service to existing structures in Towns County that are more than three stories tall, as well as newer three-story structures built after the county enacted its 35 feet height ordinance.

The addition of this unit also will assist in providing ladder company service



Towns County Fire Rescue Department's newest firefighting tool has arrived at Station 6. Photo/James Reese

points needed to lower the county's ISO fire insurance rating.

Although not brand new, the truck was obtained from a municipal fire department that took exceptionally good care of it and maintained it to the highest industry standards. All required pump and aerial ladder certifications are up to date, and major recommended factory service was performed prior

to the unit being picked up at Pierce Factory Service Center in Florida.

Four firefighters accompanied Chief Mitch Floyd to pick up the truck. They received two days of intensive training on the mechanical operation and tactical use of the unit. The cities of Ocoee and Casselberry, Fla. hosted the

See Ladder Truck, page 16

GA 515 project meeting canceled

No date, time or place specified for makeup meeting

By Charles Duncan
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What could have been the final stakeholders meeting for a proposed \$32.3 million widening project from the outskirts of the Blairsville City Limits through Young Harris didn't happen.

The meeting apparently was rescheduled until a later date.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said that his office received a call on Feb. 21 to alert him that the meeting had been canceled and would be rescheduled.

"We didn't get a reason for the meeting being canceled," Commissioner Kendall said. "We were told that the meeting would take place on another date."

Commissioner Bill Kendall



The proposed project would encompass widening and reconstruction of state route 515/US 76 from Home Depot in Blairsville to connect with the already existing four-lane at Timberline Drive near Brasstown Valley Resort in Towns County and north of Young Harris.

See Widening, page 16

Local gas prices skyrocket

Civil unrest in Libya sends local prices off the charts

By James Reese
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Here's wishing a quick departure for Libya's Col. Muammar Gadhafi.

A look at those tall gas signs around the region tell the story of why Col. Gadhafi must go. The man accused of atrocities against the people of his own country and the civil unrest in Libya has caused gas prices to spike 30 cents or more, depending on the gas station.

Gas prices will remain chaotic as long as the chaos in Libya continues to put pressure on the global oil market.

See Gas Prices, page 16



It could be a while before locals see gas prices this cheap again because of the civil unrest in Gadhafi's Libya. Photo/James Reese

Severe weather rocks region

By James Reese
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Towns County dodged a bullet on Monday as severe weather passed through the area, bringing heavy rains, high winds and a few downed trees.

About 4:38 p.m., dark skies gave way to lightning, heavy rain and gusting winds as the Hiwassee, Young Harris and Towns County area was under a tornado watch, according to the National Weather Service.

In the span of less than 30 minutes, the local temperature fell from 70 degrees

to 55 degrees as the storms passed through the area.

In neighboring Clay County, NC that area, along with Cherokee County, NC and Brasstown, NC and Polk County, Tenn. were under a tornado warning.

As the storms unleashed their fury on the region, trees gave way and toppled power lines in several areas including Union County, Cherokee County, NC and Clay County, NC.

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC emergency crews say the bulk of the storm damage was in Union County, Clay County, NC, Cherokee County, NC and Polk

County, Tenn.

Trees were reported down in the neighborhood of Sunnyside Road in Towns County. The traffic light was out at Ga. 76 and Sunnyside, Monday evening. A Towns County sheriff's deputy was stationed at the intersection for safety reasons.

At press time, there were no immediate reports of injuries in Georgia or North Carolina due to the series of rather powerful storms that moved quickly through the region.

However, a 66-year-

See Storms, page 16

Allison introduces House Bill 348

Proposed law makes electronic stalking a crime

By Charles Duncan
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Georgia House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison has put in motion a proposed law that would make electronic defamation a crime in Georgia.

State Rep. Allison, who represents Towns, Union and Rabun counties in State House District 8, has introduced House Bill 348.

The proposed law would make it a misdemeanor crime when a person commits the offense of criminal defamation. That crime is committed when, without a privilege to do so and with intent to defame another, living or dead, he or she communicates orally, in writing, or by any other means, including by electronic communication, false matter which tends to blacken the memory of one who is dead or which exposes one who is alive to hatred, contempt, ridicule, degradation, or disgrace in society or injury, or which tends to provoke a breach of the peace.

State Rep. Allison introduced the proposed legislation last week on the 19th day of the legislative session.

The proposed legislation follows a suit that involved the personal bashing of a Blairsville hair dresser



State Rep. Stephen Allison

named Gene Cooley by anonymous posters on TOPIX following the 2008 murder of his girlfriend.

The bashing happened in the community chat room in TOPIX.

Cooley's attorney, Russell Stookey, of Hiwassee, said that a discussion about the murder of Paulette Harper by her estranged husband, Steve Harper, who in turn, took his own life led to a discussion about Cooley.

The discussion on TOPIX somehow morphed into a chat about the personal life of Cooley, Paulette Harper's boyfriend at the time of her death.

"The anonymous posters had a field day kicking

See Defamation, page 16

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

