

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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50 Cents

Publication Number 635540 Volume 82 Number 18

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Local Weather and Lake Levels

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Thur: Cloudy | 47 28 |
| Fri: Sunny | 57 32 |
| Sat: Sunny | 63 38 |
| Sun: Sunny | 63 35 |
| Mon: Cloudy | 61 42 |
| Tue: Cloudy | 65 42 |
| Wed: Cloudy | 63 42 |



| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Upstream Elevation Predicted 03/09/11 | |
| Lake Chatuge | 1919.48 |
| Lake Nottely | 1769.92 |
| Blue Ridge | 1624.46 |

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Bass Tourney

On Saturday, March 19, at 7 a.m., at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, the Towns County Touch-down Club will host its Second Annual Lake Chatuge Bass Tournament. The entry fee is \$75 per boat, with no more than two persons per boat. Only Black Bass Family may be weighed in and all fish must be 12 inches to weigh in.

Tournament contestants must stay at least 50 feet apart during the event. If three or more dead fish are present at time of weigh in, the contestant is disqualified.

If a tie occurs for total weight, big fish will determine the winner. If there is still a tie, a coin flip will determine the winner. First place prize is \$1,000, second place is \$400, third place is \$300, fourth place is \$100 and the Big Fish prize is \$100.

All entry fees are final, no refunds will be issued. One person from each boat must be present to receive the launch number. For more details, call (706) 896-7543.



Cruiz-In Meeting

The Towns County Tourism Association and the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds will once again sponsor the Third Annual Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In Car Show. The 2011 event is scheduled for Aug. 11-13 at the Fairgrounds.

Promoter Rakes Parrish will speak at the Annual Cruiz-In Community Meeting on Monday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m. at Anderson Music Hall at the Fairgrounds. The Tourism Association is looking for all area businesses to be apart of this event, please make plans to attend.

For more details, please contact Jane Holland at (706) 896-4966.

Lady Indians shocked by Pace in Sweet 16 upset

Towns County (27-2) closes out miracle season with a second round playoff loss

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
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The Towns County Lady Indians' miracle season came to an end in rather abrupt fashion last week as they fell in the second round of the Class A state playoffs 69-54 to the Pace Academy Lady Knights.

The Lady Knights of Atlanta used a red-hot shooting start and a sizzling finish in taking the state playoff victory, ending a record setting season for the Lady Indians.

Pace seemingly couldn't miss while Towns County shots that usually find a way into the net simply would not fall as the Lady Knights sank 13 of their first 20 shots in building a 20-8 lead after one quarter. The Lady Knights held a 27-8 advantage by the 6:21 mark of the second quarter.

The upset win over the fourth-ranked Lady Indians (27-2) wasn't the only shocker the Lady Knights pulled off last week. They also upset third-ranked St. Francis 63-60 to make it to Macon for the Final Four.

Pace will square off against Turner County at the Macon Centreplex on Wednesday night for the right to face the winner of the Calvary Day and Wesleyan matchup in the state title game.

Meanwhile, the Lady Indians completed their season with a marvelous 27-2 record, the best winning percentage in school history and just one victory short of the single season school record for wins set during the Lady Indians' trip to the State Final Four in 2008.

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Jordan Moss and the Lady Indians fought Pace from start to finish. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

More than 500 SPLOST ballots cast

Election Day is March 15; polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

By Charles Duncan
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Truett Shook leaned back in his chair at the County Elections Office as he realized he was the 500th person to cast a ballot during Early Voting on the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum at the Old Rock Jail on Berrong Street.

As Early Voting concludes this week, several hundred ballots will have already been cast before Election Day on March 15 in the referendum to decide if Towns County's sales tax rate will continue at 7 percent on July 1.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15.

A 'yes' vote means the 1 cent Board of Education sales tax that expires on June 30 will be extended to pay for many necessary



Truett Shook relaxes after casting the 500th ballot during Early Voting on the county's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum at the Old Rock Jail. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

county and city projects.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall has repeatedly explained that a "yes" vote keeps the sales tax at the current level of 7 percent.

"The Towns County Board of Education has been using the current 1 percent ELOST for several years, but last year, they voted not to continue it when it expires June 30," Commissioner

Kendall said.

"If the SPLOST is approved on March 15, collection begins on July 1, and keeps the sales tax rate the same as it is right now. It is not a tax increase," he said.

The SPLOST would pay for parks and recreation, roads and bridges, fire hydrants, library upgrades, and protecting the mountains

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GA 515 project meeting March 16

GDOT moves stakeholders meeting to YHC

By Charles Duncan
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The Georgia Department of Transportation has rescheduled a stakeholders meeting for March 16 at Young Harris College's Goolsby Building Auditorium. The meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The meeting is designed to capture the range of interests and opinions in the community and assess the needs for the area. In this case, the topic of discussion is the proposed \$32.3 million widening of GA 515/U.S. 76 from Blairsville to Young Harris.

Although stakeholders can potentially be defined as all affected people and organizations, including the general public, GDOT reserves the stakeholders



Commissioner Bill Kendall meetings for a relatively small group of elected officials, school officials, representatives of the local chamber of commerce and others who can provide preliminary input about community concerns around the project corridor as is the case for this project, according to

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Rogers unforgettable in Franklin

By Charles Duncan
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Fifty years in the music business generates a lot of memories.

On Saturday night in Franklin, NC, Kenny Rogers was worried no one in the crowd at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts would remember his five decades of sensational hits. He tossed \$10 bills into the crowd for anyone who could name his biggest hits.

Rogers was a busy man tossing out cash and he learned an important lesson, no one has forgotten him.

Without a doubt, Rogers is a legend, pure and simple. He's performed in countless

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There wasn't a bad seat in the house as Kenny Rogers played before a near capacity crowd in Franklin, NC. Photo/Charles Duncan

Charlie Daniels rocks The Hall

By James Reese
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The Devil came down to Anderson Music Hall on Saturday and rocked the rafters.

Charlie Daniels opened his 2011 touring season in Hiawassee much to the delight of his fans who packed The Hall to hear the Grammy Award-winning music legend.

Anderson Music Hall was the first of 60 touring dates on Daniels' busy schedule in 2011.

Daniels, who scored his first major music triumph

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Charlie Daniels brings down the house in Hiawassee on Saturday at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Robbery suspects in Towns County jail

'Cigarette Bandits' charged in two incidents

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County sheriff's detectives continue to investigate recent thefts at area convenience stores, Towns County sheriff's reports show.

Two persons allegedly connected to the recent thefts at Cornerstone BP and Lakeview Store of GA 515/U.S. 76 are behind bars facing serious charges, Towns County arrest reports show.

Charles Paul Milam Jr., 22, of Blairsville, and Jenna Hope Gordon, 17, of Hiawassee, recently dubbed the "Cigarette Bandits" face multiple charges related to the alleged heists, Towns County arrest reports show.

Milam is charged with robbery and possession of a knife during the commission of a felony, concealed weapon, simple battery, and theft by shoplifting. Gordon faces theft by shoplifting and robbery, according to Towns County arrest reports. The case is still under investigation and additional charges are pending. Both were still being housed in the Towns County Detention Center at press time.

The thefts occurred recently at Cornerstone BP and Lakeview Store, Towns County sheriff's reports show.

The first occurred at



Charles Paul Milam Jr.



Jenna Hope Gordon

Cornerstone early on the evening of Feb. 25, sheriff's reports show.

Two males and one female allegedly entered the store and while two of the suspects created a diversion, one of the suspects allegedly

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

