

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	60	45
Fri: Rain	65	41
Sat: Rain	51	41
Sun: Rain	51	37
Mon: Clouds	54	35
Tue: Clouds	54	36
Wed: Rain	54	35



Upstream Elevation Predicted 3/10/10	
Lake Chatuge	1917.80
Lake Nottely	1762.50
Blue Ridge	1674.30

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For a limited time, the Towns County Herald will offer \$8 subscriptions for one year to new subscribers.

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

The newspaper is making a difference during hard times.

For more than two months, the newspaper has offered those currently unemployed, Senior Citizens and U.S. Military veterans \$5 subscriptions for 1 year. That's a savings of \$21 off the newstand price.

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

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

Pancake Breakfast

Unicoy Masonic Lodge and Hiawassee Eastern Star Chapter will sponsor a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at the Towns County Senior Center from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 20th. Tickets are available in advance and at the door for \$5. The breakfast includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, orange juice and coffee.

Fund Raiser

The Towns County Booster Club will host a Car/Truck/Motorcycle Show on May 15 in the Towns County High School parking lot. Admission to the event is \$5. Entry fees are \$20 for a car or truck and \$10 for a motorcycle. No awards will be given; this is a fundraiser event. The event benefits athletics in grades six through 12 in Towns County Schools. Deadline for entry is May 1. Call (706) 781-8763 for more details.

Spring Forward

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday at 2 a.m. by moving our clocks ahead an hour. It's also the time to change the batteries in our smoke alarms at the same time.

Davis bring home silver medal

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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A year ago, Kyle Davis probably would have laughed out loud if someone had told him he would be the No. 2 wrestler in the state at 160 pounds.

Davis, a seventh grader at Towns County Middle School isn't laughing today, but he's sporting a mile-wide grin.

The 160-pound first-year wrestler took home silver during the USA Amateur Wrestling Tournament at Whitewater High School in Fayetteville over the weekend. The tournament, an all-classification event, was Davis' first of his career.

Davis lost in the first round of his fourth match. He met a formidable opponent, Andrew Butcher of Centennial in Roswell, The title match was the fourth of the



Towns County's Kyle Davis stands proudly on the silver medal portion of the podium in Fayetteville on Saturday following the 160-pound USA wrestling title match up with Andrew Butcher.

day for Davis, who fought through the ranks to vie for a state title. Butcher was fresh, and coming off a bye.

"It was exciting," Davis said. "They were all really hard matches, but I think I just ran out of gas in the title match. I won my first three matches by decisions, meaning I wrestled six minutes each match.

"Andrew Butcher pinned me in the first fall," he said. "We went out of bounds and I started on the bottom coming back in. He got me in a bulldog and that pretty much did it. There was no getting out of that."

Davis says he gave wrestling a try this year for

See Silver, page 7A

Dance concert rings in Spring

By Lisa Davis
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Spring arrived early on Saturday.

It waited for Fuzion Dance Company to host their annual Spring Concert at Clegg Auditorium on the campus of Young Harris College.

As the mercury rose, so did the anticipation for the company's Spring Concert to begin.

"We're going to watch the dancers," exclaimed an excited 2-year old Marah Jones, prior to the Spring Concert, as she danced around in her purple tutu, visiting throughout the crowd and waiting for the performance to commence.

The one-hour show, which included an afternoon and evening performance, was packed with inspired dance pieces in a variety of styles including contemporary, Hip Hop, Jazz, lyrical,



Members of Fuzion Dance Company pose following Saturday night's performance at Clegg Auditorium. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

tap, ballet and Bollywood-themed modern.

The energetic company of nine poured their hearts into a magnificent performance. Adorned in burlesque and pink, the company entered the stage for

their first dance of the evening, *Spring*. Ginny Rhodes and Easton Payne delighted the crowd with their performances, which inspired a rousing applause.

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Comprehensive plan in works

By Charles Duncan
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Comprehensive plans chart growth, people, places and things.

Over the next six months, local officials want local input on how they want to see their county and communities grow over the next 30 years.

Towns County is in the midst of a 10-year update of the joint comprehensive plan for the County, Hiawassee and Young Harris. The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission has been contracted to help develop the next comprehensive plan for our community.

Currently, a survey is



City and county leaders gathered last week at the Senior Center to discuss methods to complete the Joint Comprehensive Plan for the County, Hiawassee and Young Harris. Photo/Charles Duncan

being developed to be used

by local residents to describe how they want their community to grow over the next decade. Technically, the next comprehensive plan must be shaped to cover the

next three decades.

Updates of the short term work program can be made every five years and

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YHC adds five more majors

By Jessica Keaton
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Young Harris College has added new majors to its academic lineup.

Last year the list included biology, business/public policy, English, and music, were added, making the college a four-year institution.

The list now includes history, communications, outdoor education, musical theater, and theater. These courses of study were approved by SACS, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Thomas Stearns, Associate Professor of His-

tory at YHC, said the process for the history major wasn't easy.

"It's to the credit of the administration that they, in the first round of majors, probably figured out exactly what to do and not to do and held our hands...it was a collaborative effort," he said.

However, Stearns believes that above all, one should "follow [their] interests" when it comes to choosing a major, but "what a lot of people don't realize is that the writing and research component is, oftentimes, valuable in a corporate world".

As for interesting classes, American Film His-

tory will be on the course list, along with Modern French History and History of the American South.

Another addition to the history major is the Education component. "We are working very carefully with the Education department in setting up a degree with a specialization in History and Social Studies. That will include a certification in middle school or high school education," Stearns said.

Joy Goldsmith, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, said that the process for that

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Budget deficit endangers 4-H program's funds

By Charles Duncan
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Georgia's 4-H programs could face elimination in the midst of the state's \$1 billion financial crunch.

That's been the talk at the State Capitol and it has upset a lot of folks.

The University of Georgia 4-H program provides youth development programs for more than 156,000 youths, ages 9 to 19 across the state.

Georgia 4-H, a partner in public and private education, is youth and adults learning, growing and working together to experience and accomplish the extraordinary, District 50 State Sen. Jim Butterworth said.

"Georgia 4-H helps young people develop life skills in leadership, citizen-



State Sen. Jim Butterworth

ship, communication and decision-making skills," said Sen. Butterworth, who represents Towns County in State Senate District 50. "UGA 4-H county and state faculty expand the reach of 4-H by training and utilizing volunteers to reach youths in almost all Georgia counties."

However on Monday, February state revenue numbers came in 10 percent

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School cuts up in air

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens said it could be the end of the General Assembly session before schools statewide find out the total impact of the state's budget cuts.

Those cuts are believed to include a shortening of the school year statewide from 190 days to 180 days, including student classroom sessions and teacher training days.

"I've talked with several people and no one knows for sure," Dr. Behrens said. "We probably won't know anything until the end of the session."

Currently, each school system has a 190-day calendar that includes 180 days for student classes and 10 days for teacher planning days.



Dr. Richard Behrens

Dr. Behrens isn't sure which days are proposed to be eliminated by the Georgia General Assembly as a cash savings measure for the financially-strapped state budget.

"I know they're hurting," Dr. Behrens said on Monday. "I'm assuming they're looking at more furlough days. We know they're in tough shape."

"It's probably the only way the state is going to be

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Ray Stevens in concert July 3rd

By Charles Duncan
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The musical magic of Ray Stevens is coming to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on July 3.

Stevens, a Georgia native, will perform at Anderson Music Hall, Fairgrounds' General Manager Hilda Thomason said.

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Ray Stevens is coming to town to help Towns County celebrate the Fourth of July with a guest appearance here in Hiawassee.

New eatery in town

By Charles Duncan
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James Reaux is bringing a new restaurant concept to Hiawassee.

Reaux, owner of Murphy's Chophouse, will soon take the reins of the restaurant formerly known as Shoney's of Hiawassee.

Enter, Chophouse of Hiawassee, a steaks and seafood experience, a Reaux specialty.

Though no official announcement has been made, Towns County government records show that Chophouse of Hiawassee has officially applied for its beer and wine license.

that the Chophouse is taking applications for all restaurant positions. Restaurant experience is a necessity, according to the advertisement.

The advertisement asks that applicants apply at Murphy's Chophouse, in Cherokee County, NC.

Jimmy Allen, who owns the building outright, said at the time Shoney's closed that the once popular eatery had seen it's better days.

Allen promised a restaurant with a local flavor as opposed to a chain restaurant atmosphere.

It appears he has delivered on his promise.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

