

# Towns County Herald

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Sunny	60 34
Fri: CLoudy	66 48
Sat: Rain	72 54
Sun: Rain	68 45
Mon: Cloudy	62 39
Tue: Cloudy	64 39
Wed: Sunny	64 38



Upstream Elevation Predicted 03/23/11	
Lake Chatuge	1920.43
Lake Nottely	1774.94
Blue Ridge	1629.76

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## Chamber Chronicles

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## Spring Sale

It's time for a Spring into Summer Sale. Gently used hand bags, shoes, scarves, jewelry and books will be available on March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 a.m. until they're gone. The event will be held in the Chatuge Regional Hospital lobby. All proceeds go toward funding Auxiliary Projects at the Hospital and Nursing Home. For more details, call (706) 896-1753.



## 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.



## Safe Driving

An AARP Safe Driving Course is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The course is geared to drivers 50 and up and offers the chance for older drivers to better understand their driving skills, vehicle safety and physical changes that could effect their driving safety. Anyone may attend. The cost: \$12 for AARP members; \$14 for non-members.

For more details and registration information, call (706) 896-4806.

## SPLOST firefighting projects will save residents \$\$\$

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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A \$94,000 grant with a 5 percent County match will pay for 35 sets of new turnout gear for local firefighters. Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall opened the bids last week, which ranged from \$56,600 to \$67,375.

The turnout gear is just one phase of lowering the county's ISO rating and reaching the 2.6 points that separates the county from a Class 5 fire rating. Additional phases will be handled through the implementation of the voter-approved Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

"It'll save homeowners a lot of money each year on their homeowners insurance," said Towns County Assistant Fire Chief Harold Copeland, during last week's

commission meeting at the Towns County Courthouse.

"I talked with a lady recently whose insurance company thought she was more than five miles away from a fire hydrant," Copeland said. "Her homeowners insurance went from \$360 a year to more than \$900. It turns out that she actually was closer than five miles from a fire hydrant."

The voter-approved SPLOST will pay for approximately 135 to 150 or so new fire hydrants which will greatly reduce the county's ISO rating to a Class 5 in many areas, Fire Chief Mitch Floyd told residents attending last week's commission meeting at the Towns County Courthouse.

"Marty Roberts (911 mapping) played a huge role in locating where the hydrants will best be utilized," Chief Floyd said. "It'll prob-



Fire Chief Mitch Floyd

ably be 12 months before we get up to speed with the fire hydrants. This is going to mean a lot to us."

Commissioner Kendall praised locals for turning out to support the SPLOST on March 15 during the special election.

"It was an outstanding vote (90 percent approval) and I think that speaks volumes for Towns County citizens," he said. "We had a lot of good organizations supporting us. There were a lot of good projects out there to support that will

benefit the county.

"We look forward to getting these good projects underway," Commissioner Kendall said. "Now that the SPLOST referendum is behind us, we will hit the ground running with the hard work needed to implement these projects over the six year life of the SPLOST."

Collection of the SPLOST begins July 1, the day following the expiration of the Towns County Board of Education's ELOST.

The cities of Young Harris and Hiawassee will receive 9 percent each from SPLOST proceeds. Once the projects are paid for, anything left over will be used to roll back taxes.

County projects include parks and recreation improvements that include acquisition, construction and equipping a multi-purpose recreational and community building. It also includes

money for roads and bridges improvements and may include pedestrian crosswalks, parking and capital equipment.

Fire Department improvements also are on the list of capital outlay projects to include vehicles, equipment facilities and fire hydrants. Other projects include construction and improvements at public libraries, water and sewer improvements, including solid waste, stormwater management and accompanying equipment.

Public safety vehicles and equipment including ambulances also are high on the list of capital projects.

The SPLOST also includes funds for industrial and economic development.

The county also has secured sewer capacity from the city of Hiawassee via an intergovernmental agreement.

## Moss ready for next level

BOE names Stephanie Moss assistant principal at TCES

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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Stephanie Moss loves children, she loves to teach. Her experience as a teacher ranges from kindergarten to fourth grade. It was a combination of attributes as an educator, parent and group leader that has lifted her to her next professional venture.

Moss was recently named the assistant principal at Towns County Elementary School. She's excited and ready to take her next step as a professional educator in 2011-2012.

"When I first started teaching, I didn't see myself doing anything other than teaching," she said. "The past couple of years I've had some different leadership roles at the school that have led me to believe that this is something I want to do.



Stephanie Moss will take the reins as Towns County Elementary School's assistant principal in 2011-2012. Photo/Charles Duncan

"I'll take this experience one day at a time and see where it leads," she said. "It will be a change for me as an educator."

Dr. Sandra Page, who stepped up from assistant principal to fill the vacancy next school year following Principal Don Dermody's retirement announcement in February, said she was looking forward to working closely with Moss.

"I'm excited," Dr. Page said. "Stephanie is very professional and she exemplifies what an outstanding teacher represents."

"She brings many innovative techniques to our school," Dr. Page said.

Moss said that the technology now available to children can be used to an advantage.

"But, technology alone

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## GDOT invites public to May 5th meeting

GA 515 Information hearing at Young Harris College

By Charles Duncan  
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It's not I-3, it's funded 80 percent by the federal government and it's not etched in stone.

That's what Georgia Department of Transportation officials told stakeholders and members of the general public last week at Young Harris College regarding the proposed expansion of GA 515/U.S. 76.

A public information hearing regarding the proposed 8.3-mile widening project from Blairsville to Young Harris is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Blairsville at 165 Welborn Street, better known as Haralson Memorial Civic Center.

Robert Mahoney, district preconstruction engineer, told the group meeting

at Young Harris College that the federal government has the final say about the project.

"They own the environmental study," Mahoney said. "The environmental study will predetermine the scope of this project."

That's because if one penny of federal money is spent on a road project, the federal government has the final say.

Mahoney told the group of more than 60 people gathered in the Goolsby Building at Young Harris College that the project was necessary to handle the growth in traffic from Blairsville through Young Harris for the next 20 years.

The Needs Analysis for the proposed project will

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## Gridiron bass tourney a big success

Fannin duo wins Big Fish Contest, Touchdown Club bass tourney

By James Reese  
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Heath Pack wasn't exactly thrilled in the early going of the Second Annual Towns County Touchdown Club Bass Tournament.

He and his fishing partner Trevor Prince, of Blue Ridge weren't exactly tearing it up in the bass-catching department.

In the early going, the Mineral Bluff resident quickly cast into a shallow pool of water near the shores of Lake Chatuge when his jig alerted a passerby.

Pack's line tightened and he quickly snapped his rod back to set the hook. It

See Bass Tourney, page 13



Heath Pack shows two reasons why he and his partner won the Towns County Touchdown Club Bass Tournament on Lake Chatuge. Photo/James Reese

## Quite a show in Franklin

Chuck Negrón: a blast from the past

By Charles Duncan  
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Chuck Negrón looked energetic, his voice was powerful and his tunes were all so familiar.

He had the crowd at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts in Franklin, NC on their feet, swaying to the music.

He reminded them that "Jeremiah was a Bullfrog."

Negrón, 68, of Three Dog Night fame, looked 50ish and sang like he was 20, the age he was when he and Danny Hutton and Corey Wells formed the famous sound generated by Three Dog Night.

Negrón and Blood, Sweat and Tears highlighted a night of musical memories for the fans that packed the Smoky Mountain Center.

The evening began with BS&T's Rob Paparozzi belting out *Spinning Wheel*, *Hi-De-Ho*, *You've Made Me So Very Happy*, *Got to Get You Into My Life* and *And When I Die*.

It ended with Negrón belting out Three Dog Night's legendary *Joy To The World*, but not before it appeared he had left the stage to a standing ovation.

He returned to center stage to sing one of Three Dog Night's most signature hits to bring the show and the eventful evening to a close.

Negrón has been touring with Blood, Sweat and



Chuck Negrón

Tears since 2005 and when Paparozzi left the stage, the band welcomed Negrón to center stage. They provided the music and Negrón belted out the songs.

The list of hits by Three Dog Night is so long and memorable, Negrón actually would have had to sing all night long just to complete the checklist.

On this night, he took the audience on a trip down memory lane. He sang *One*, the hit song and title track of Three Dog Night's debut album in 1968. Negrón sang

See Concert, page 5

## Pancake breakfast scores big

Annual Unicoy Lodge fundraiser meets its financial goals

By Charles Duncan  
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Chris Swett had a big smile on his face on Saturday morning.

The Towns County community came out in large numbers to support the Unicoy Lodge Annual Pancake Breakfast at the Towns County Senior Center.

"We had a lot of folks who pre-bought tickets to the event today," said Swett, lodge master at Unicoy. "And we had a whole lot of walk-in traffic today. A lot



Local had a blast at the annual Unicoy Lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star Pancake Breakfast at the Towns County Senior Center.

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