

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	63 44
Fri: Rain	62 40
Sat: Clouds	59 40
Sun: Rain	57 44
Mon: Rain	55 36
Tue: Clouds	55 36
Wed: Sunny	60 39



Upstream Elevation Predicted 3/24/10	
Lake Chatuge	1920.60
Lake Nottely	1764.50
Blue Ridge	1677.20

### INDEX

2 sections, 20 Pages

Arrests.....	2A
Church/Obits.....	2,3B
Classifieds.....	4B
Editorial.....	4A
Calendar.....	4A
Legals.....	5B
Sports.....	9,10,11A
Television.....	4B

## Chamber Chronicles Page 8A

### Subscribe Now

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.

### CPR Saturday

Mark your calendars! The American Red Cross will host it's annual FREE adult CPR training course on Saturday. The class will be held at Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Young Harris at 10 a.m. The class will run approximately 3 hours. Call now and sign up. Dial (800)-282-1722, Ext. 29, to reserve a seat

### 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 Sale

The VFW Thrift Store is having yet another whale of a sale. All clothing, shoes, and purses are listed at 50 cents each. The sale lasts through March 31. Don't wait, hurry on down before these fabulous bargains become history.

## Bank of Hiwassee bought by NC-based lender

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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For more than a century, the Bank of Hiwassee was an institution in Towns County.

The bank survived the collapse of Wall Street in 1929, the Great Depression in the 1930s and the growing pains of a community once viewed to be behind the times.

In the end, the bank that grew up with a small community of Baby Boomers around a TVA lake could not survive the great real estate collapse of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"At least they got to celebrate their centennial," said Hiwassee City Council member Joan Crothers on Saturday. "I'm proud of that."

On Friday, the Bank of

Hiwassee turned the page to another chapter in its storied history. Along the way, it got stronger, gaining solid financial footing with a little help from some interested investors from North Carolina.

The bank and its branches will retain their identities as Bank of Hiwassee, Bank of Blairsville and Bank of Blue Ridge. With the acquisition, Citizens South increased to 21 offices and assets of more than \$1.1 billion.

The Bank of Hiwassee was closed by the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance on Friday afternoon and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation was named receiver. To protect the bank's depositors, the FDIC entered into a purchase and assumption agreement with Citizens South Bank, based



The long-standing tradition of community and customer service is expected to continue now that the Bank of Hiwassee has changed hands. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

in Gastonia, NC, to assume all of the deposits of Bank of Hiwassee.

The Bank of Hiwassee has five locations in three counties,

Citizens South is a community bank based in Gastonia that has been in business for more than 100 years and operates 16 branches in and around Charlotte, N.C.

Under the terms of the transaction, Citizens South receives approximately \$300 million in assets, including \$227 million in loans, and assumes \$324 million in liabilities, including \$295 million in deposits of Hiwassee. The FDIC and Citizens South have entered into a loss sharing agreement covering substantially all acquired loans.

"We are very pleased to welcome Hiwassee customers and associates to the Citizens South family," said Citizens South Bank President and Chief Executive Officer Kim S. Price. "We

See Bank of Hiwassee, page 3A

## Relay for Life 'springs' into action

By Jessica Keaton  
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Who loves birthdays? The American Cancer Society does and is currently bringing cancer awareness to communities through Relay for Life, to raise money to keep those suffering from cancer celebrating their birthdays.

On Saturday, Relay for Life celebrated the kick-off of spring with activities such as cookie decorating, a cake walk, and a dunking booth. The Easter Bunny was even in attendance, posing for pictures with local children and children at heart.

Lora Fox is a prime example of a woman who loves birthdays:

"I am a two year, three month survivor and it means that in less than two weeks, I'll get to turn 50. If it wasn't for Relay for Life and the American Cancer



It was a day of fun, recreation and relaxation on Saturday on the Downtown Courthouse Square as the Egg-stray Relay for Life event was loads of fun for children of all ages. Photo/Jessica Keaton

Society, I might not have made it to 50."

Selling brown and pink t-shirts with the words, "Fight Like a Girl," on them, Fox is "very passionate about the cause."

Jean Edwards is an artist whose life was touched by the Relay for Life cause.

"My oldest daughter

See Relay, Page 3A

## Osborn seeks new trial

By Charles Duncan  
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Former Towns County Chief Deputy Eddie Osborn was back in the courtroom on Friday and Monday seeking a new trial to overturn his conviction related to a July 2007 drive-by shooting in Towns County.

A hearing on the motions heard by the original trial Superior Court Judge Lynn Alderman, concluded Monday afternoon in the Towns County Courthouse.

Osborn, now represented by Atlanta attorney Brian Steel, seeks a new trial based on technical merits of the case that include ineffective defense by his previous attorneys during his trial in the summer of 2008.

Steel made almost 30 allegations of error during the 2008 trial, most of which involved ineffective assistance of legal counsel. The claims alleged that Osborn's



Eddie Osborn

trial attorneys made mistakes which were so great that it might have caused a different trial outcome.

Osborn's attorney also seeks to reverse his client's convictions and sentences based on constitutional challenge of a decision by Judge Alderman during the jury selection process to move the voir dire questioning of potential jurors in the case to McConnell Baptist Church. The need to change

See Osborn, page 3A

## Pancakes benefit community

By Charles Duncan  
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Trance King looked tired but pleased on Saturday.

The Worshipful Master of Unicoy Masonic Lodge, brothers within the lodge and members of the Eastern Star hosted the annual Pancake Breakfast at the Towns County Senior Center on Saturday.

Lodge members helped serve up eggs, sausage and pancakes. Patrons chased their meals with orange juice or coffee. They made a difference in their community by purchasing a breakfast plate.

More than 400 persons attended and broke bread



Flipping pancakes is an art and members of Unicoy Masonic Lodge's Eastern Star have it down to a science. The annual Pancake Breakfast served more than 400 hungry folks. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

with the lodge members and their families. Tickets to the event cost \$5. Proceeds go toward scholarships for lo-

cal high school students that allow them to further their

See Pancake, page 5A

## Cox, Rep. Broun coming to Towns

By Charles Duncan  
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State School Superintendent Kathy Cox and U.S. Rep. Paul Broun will soon be in town to meet and greet locals on separate visits.

Cox, the GOP incumbent, is the featured speaker at the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of Towns County Republicans at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiwassee. Cox will discuss the current financial crisis facing school systems throughout the state. She also will answer questions from teachers, administrators and local residents.

Cox, who has led the state into a reformation of education statewide, recently announced she will seek reelection as the state's top educator. Cox will be on hand when the local GOP meets at 6:30 p.m. at Daniel's Steakhouse on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, Congressman Broun will host a Town Hall meeting at the Towns County Courthouse to discuss residents' concerns regarding the local economy.

Towns County Chamber of Commerce President Angel Long encourages as much local participation as possible. Broun will listen as local government and busi-



Kathy Cox



U.S. Rep. Paul Broun

## Derby is a hit with the Scouts

By Jessica Keaton  
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Roll, baby roll! That's what members of Cub Scouts' Pack 407 in Hiwassee cheered as they participated in their annual Pinewood Derby.

Once a year, the members of the pack take each other on in a side-by-side Pinewood racer in the quest to become the ultimate Derby winner.

Categories in speed and design were awarded for both designated groups and the entire pack.

To be able to enter the race, each car had to be registered, weighed, and identified with its own designated number.



Members of Cub Scouts Pack 407 in Hiwassee race at TCMS. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

In the end, the boys weren't trying to earn merit badges or advance in their ranks.

The event was a chance for fathers, sons, and siblings to bond with friends and family with the help of a bit of wood and the need

for Derby speed.

The event featured many anxious racers. Some who couldn't wait to get started racing in head-to-head heats.

The Pack cheered each racer on as they competed. It was an event to remember.

See Visitors, page 7A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

