

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	60 40
Fri: Clouds	56 38
Sat: Sunny	67 42
Sun: Sunny	70 43
Mon: Sunny	72 45
Tue: Sunny	72 47
Wed: Sunny	70 46



Upstream Elevation Predicted 4/07/10	
Lake Chatuge	1922.40
Lake Nottely	1767.50
Blue Ridge	1679.60

INDEX

2 sections, 20 Pages

Arrests.....	2A
Church/Obits.....	8,9A
Classifieds.....	3B
Editorial.....	4A
Calendar.....	4A
Legals.....	4B
Sports.....	10,11A
Television.....	2B

Chamber Chronicles Page 6A

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.

Food Pantry

A free food distribution is scheduled Tuesday, April 13th. The distribution will be at the Towns County Food Pantry from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. All in need of food are encouraged to attend. If you're unable to pick up food please call (706) 896-4783, prior to distribution day.

All clients and inquires are kept strictly confidential.

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.

Food

Distribution

The monthly mobile food distribution for families in need will be held at North Mt. Zion Church of God on Friday, from 10 a.m. to noon. This outdoor food distribution will be held in the rear parking lot of No. Mt. Zion Church of God on Scataway, rain or shine.

Broun: 'do we want freedom or socialism?'

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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U.S. Congressman Paul Broun, who represents the 10th Congressional District, came to town last week toting five binders filled with Congressional legislation—more than 2,700 pages to be exact.

The notebooks, each filled to the brim, contained the massive Health Care Reform legislation recently signed into law by President Barack Obama.

He came to talk with the good people of Towns County in a Town Hall-style meeting at the Towns County Courthouse.

To be honest, Congressman Broun couldn't tell anyone exactly what was in the binders. He's fairly certain no one has read every page.

"We got this two days before we had to vote on it," Congressman Broun said. "How can you vote yes on something that you don't know what's in it?"

For the most part, Congressman Broun said the notebooks contained the most expensive legislation ever passed by Congress and signed into law. He said that without repeal, the legislation could bankrupt the United States of America.

"That stack of paperwork is exactly why Republicans must take back the House of Representatives in November," he said. "We've got to repeal that legislation. The biggest issue we face is whether America is going to be a socialist nation or are we going to be a free people."

Congressman Broun said that Republicans were fighting for freedom.

"The Obamacare bill is a huge lead in to socialism," he said. "There's also the Energy Tax, the Cap and Trade is what they call it. I call it Tax and Trade because it's all about revenues. That legislation alone is going to put millions of people out of work. It's going to be a government takeover of the energy sector."

Congressman Broun said if that wasn't enough, the "liberals" want to legalize all the illegal aliens already living here in the United States.

"They want to legalize them and put them on Uncle Sam's Plantation so that they'll vote for the Democrats," Congressman Broun said. "Bottom line we're going down a road of a total government takeover of our total economic system. About half of it has been taken over already."



U.S. Congressman speaks to local residents during a Town Hall-style meeting in Hiwassee last week. Photo/Charles Duncan

Congressman Broun introduced an alternative that fell on deaf ear: The Patient Option Act, or House Bill 3889.

"I introduced a bill that would give you a real cure for your rising health costs," he said. "Unfortunately, the current leadership in Washington, D.C. thinks that Congress can do a better job managing your health care than you.

"I disagree," he said. The Act would allow Americans to keep their health insurance if they switch jobs. It also would allow Americans to purchase health insurance from any provider in America, not just providers from within their state borders.

See Broun, page 3A

Say good-bye to 'last landmark'

By Charles Duncan
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The historic McKinney Building has seemingly withstood the test of time.

That is until next week when it comes down, piece-by-piece.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said last week that the building that has been around for generations in Towns County will be dismantled because it's no longer structurally sound.

"The last landmark is coming down," Commissioner Kendall said. "It was purchased with the idea of restoring it to its heyday. But the architects said it wasn't structurally sound. It just couldn't be restored."

On Thursday, April 15, better known to locals as "tax day," the McKinney Building will come down, Commissioner Kendall said.



The McKinney Building in its heyday as Hiwassee Ford Motor Company. The building was built about 1920. Pictured here is a 1930s model Ford Wrecker. Left to right, owner W.O. Sparks and mechanics, Glen Farmer, Evan 'Slim' Henson, and Randall Farmer. Also pictured at the far left is the first Bank of Hiwassee, built in 1909. Courtesy Towns County Historical Society

Over the years the building has served as a gas station, a Ford Dealership, a feed store and for the most part, a place to gather and find out what's going on, Commissioner Kendall said.

"I'd say it's the oldest building in Towns County that's still standing," Commissioner Kendall said.

See Landmark, Page 3A

YHC AD Geldart assumes new role

Special to Towns County Herald
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Eric Geldart has done it all as a coach and as an administrator.

In 26 years coaching collegiate softball, Geldart has won more than 500 games, including more than 200 as head coach of the Young Harris College Mountain Lions.

Affectionately known as "Coach G," Geldart has also spent seven years at the helm of Young Harris College's Athletics, serving as its director.

Geldart's heart remains in coaching.

On Monday, Geldart stepped down from his role as the college's athletic director to focus on his duties as head coach of the Mountain Lions' fast pitch softball team.



Eric Geldart

That announcement was made by Young Harris College President Cathy Cox.

As the Mountain Lions move toward membership among NCAA Division II, the duties of athletic director requires one person fully dedicated as a full-time athletics director without coaching responsibilities.

See Geldart, page 7A

Easter everywhere in Towns County

By Jessica Keaton
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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The Easter Bunny was a familiar sight in Towns County throughout the weekend.

Actually, the Bunny made an appearance at The Ridges Resort on Wednesday last week as more than 100 Towns County Elementary School first graders took part in the annual Easter Egg Hunt adventure at The Ridges.

With more than 2,000 eggs scattered about, the youngsters raced toward Easter Egg glory, trying to collect as many eggs as possible. That is after all, the objective of an Easter Egg Hunt.

On Saturday, the Easter Bunny visited the ball fields at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds for the Community-wide Easter Egg Hunt. On Sunday, the



It was Easter everywhere in Towns County this weekend. From the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds to The Ridges Resort, Towns County youth were all smiles. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Easter Bunny was back at The Ridges Resort.

The Saturday hunt, according to the Ridges Resort, was a success.

See, Easter page 7A

CRH named Georgia's best

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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Chatuge Regional Hospital has been named the top small hospital in the state for excellence in stroke care.

The award comes from the state of Georgia Paul Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry, which honored CRH last week for excellence in stroke care.

The award is named to honor the late U.S. Sen. Paul Coverdell of Georgia, who died of a massive stroke in 2000.

The primary goal of the Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry program is to improve the



Chatuge Regional Hospital tops the state in stroke care. The hospital was honored last week as the best in the state. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

care of acute stroke patients. Chatuge has been involved in a stroke care initiative since 2005.

Chatuge was the top performer in the small hospital category.

An excited crowd was on hand as the award was presented by the Coverdell Hospital Coordinator, Kerrie Krompf to CRH administrator, Lewis Kelley.

SBA Workshop at The Ridges Resort

By Jessica Keaton
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Tough times call for adequate measures.

On Wednesday, at 2 p.m. a Small Business Workshop is scheduled to be held at The Ridges Resort's Red Banks Ridge Room in Young Harris.

The workshop, sponsored by Congressman Paul Broun features representatives from the Congressman's Office, the Small Business Administration, the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, USDA Rural Development and the Small Business Development Center.

"We invite folks to come out to this," Congressman Broun said last week during a Town Hall-style meeting in Hiwassee. "It's informative and can really be a jump start for a lot of small businesses."

The workshop, through its expert representatives, offers assistance for small businesses with small business applications and funding training, Congressman Broun said.

"The three strongest words in the U.S. Constitution are 'We the People' and together we can right this ship," he said, referring to a staggering U.S. economy.



U.S. Rep. Paul Broun

Chad Hooper, general manager of The Ridges Resort, said the workshop can benefit small businesses looking for ways to survive a struggling economy.

"This is a chance to sit down with experts and work through the issues that our small businesses face each day," Hooper said. "I expect it to be an informative meeting and a big help for a lot of small businesses."

The event is expected to draw a crowd so get there early. It should prove to be one of the more popular SBA showcases.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

