

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Sunny	76 51
Fri: Clouds	79 51
Sat: Clouds	70 41
Sun: Sunny	69 43
Mon: Clouds	72 47
Tue: Showers	72 48
Wed: Showers	66 48



Upstream Elevation Predicted 4/14/10	
Lake Chatuge	1923.40
Lake Nottely	1769.20
Blue Ridge	1681.30

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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.



Food Pantry

A free food distribution is scheduled Tuesday, April 20th. 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.



Plant Affair

The Hiwassee Garden Club's Plant Affair on the Square will be held on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shop for annuals and perennials from seven different nurseries, all in one location. Enjoy BBQ and dessert on hand. Castaway Critters also will be present. The BBQ is from Hawg Heaven and the dessert from the Club bake sale.

Lady Indians No. 2 seed in Region tourney

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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The Towns County Lady Indians are sitting pretty as the No. 2 seed in the Region 8-A tennis tournament.

A win in their first match on Wednesday earns the Lady Indians a berth to the state tennis playoffs.

The Lady Indians, (12-4, 7-1) ended their regular season on Monday the way it all started in late February, with a win over White County.

On Wednesday, the Region Tournament, also slated for Thursday action, begins at Lakeview Academy and the Lady Indians figure to play either Prince Avenue Christian or Hebron Christian. The Lady Indians defeated both of those teams during the regular season.

Head Coach Shannon Floyd is looking forward to the tournament adventure for his Lady Indians.

"Absolutely; this is what it's about," Coach Floyd said Monday after the Lady Indians defeated the Lady Warriors in Cleveland. "If we can finish second in the entire region, we'll host the first round of state."

In any sport, the Lady Indians have an uphill battle because of the number of private schools they must play to advance to a higher level of competition.

To date, the Lady Indians have beaten Prince Avenue Christian, Athens Christian, Tallulah Falls and Hebron Christian. All those matches are within Region 8-A.

They've also beaten
See *Lady Indians*, page 2A



Head Coach Shannon Floyd said that Towns County Lady Indians' senior Kerri Abernathy is the leader of a youthful group of tennis players on the verge of a Class A state playoff berth. Abernathy has overcome injury and adversity to compete in Doubles competition. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

GBI: 'Questions left unanswered'

Local man dies in Metro Atlanta standoff

By Al Summers
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Special To Towns County Herald



James Scott Carringer

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation wants to know as much as possible about a Towns County man accused of raping a Northeast Georgia teen and eventually committing suicide in metro Atlanta last week.

Without calling him a suspect, GBI Special Agent in Charge Mike Ayers said that James Scott Carringer is a person that the Bureau wants to learn more about in the days ahead in regard to some unresolved crime issues.

Carringer bears a resemblance to a sketched photo of a suspect wanted for questioning in a case in Union County and Ranger, NC.

"The GBI doesn't talk

about suspects until they're arrested," Ayers said. "Of course this man died by his own brand of justice. There are some similarities that we're just not prepared to talk about at this time. Maybe in the future.

"We want to know as much about James Scott Carringer as we can," Ayers said.

Carringer used Gilmer

County as the place to commit his crime last Tuesday, April 6.

According to Gilmer County Sheriff Stacy Nicholson, detectives and deputies of the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office responded to a call at North Georgia Medical Center in Ellijay stating that there was a female who had been raped. Detectives met with a 19-year-old Kennesaw State University student who reported she had been raped by her stepfather, James Scott Carringer.

Carringer, a Young Harris resident, met the victim in Cobb County where he bound her hands and took her against her will. He brought his victim to Gilmer County and drove to a re-

See *Standoff*, page 8A

U.S. Navy jet goes down in Fannin

By Norman Cooper
Special To Towns County Herald

A U.S. Navy jet crashed near Union County on Monday, claiming the lives of at least three persons aboard the aircraft. The plane went down in dense woods near Star Creek Road in Fannin County. Searchers recovered three bodies. At press time Tuesday morning, a fourth person was still missing.

A resident called the Fannin County Sheriff's Office about the jet at 4:26 p.m. alerting authorities that the aircraft was flying extremely low.

"The aircraft flew over that resident's home very low," Fannin County sheriff's Maj. Keith Bosen said. "The resident was able to briefly get a look at the aircraft as it was going down.

Seconds later, the resident saw the smoke from the crash."

The crash site, off of Star Creek Road, near Blue Ridge, is about 15 miles from Blairsville and within a couple of miles of the Union County line. The site was not easy to access for rescue and recovery teams.

Union County has a mutual aid agreement with Fannin County, but assistance from Union County was not requested.

The names of the people aboard the jet are being withheld pending notification of next of kin, said Naval Air Station Pensacola spokesman Harry White.

Fannin County fire officials said the crash started a brush fire, which had

See *U.S. Jet*, page 2A

GOP meets the 2010 candidates

By Jessica Keaton
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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The GOP came out in support of their candidates last week at Daniels's Steakhouse in Hiwassee. The room was filled with music and people as candidates anxious to take part in the upcoming primary elections in July ventured to Hiwassee.

Just a few of the candidates either in attendance or represented in the meeting were Nathan Deal, who was represented by campaign manager Josh Turner, Don Hunt, Joe Dendy, represented by Roger Heinz, and Raymond George.

The highlights of the evening were from the

speakers of the night: Secretary of State candidate Doug MacGinnitie, State Schools Superintendent Kathy Cox, and gubernatorial candidate Austin Scott.

The first speaker of the evening, MacGinnitie, spoke of his business background, encouraged the crowd not only with his experience, but his experience as a family man as well. One of his concerns is for Georgians in the military that are fighting overseas. He believes "that if there's any group of people that should be in the front of the line for voting, it's those folks who are serving our country overseas."

Superintendent Cox was the second speaker of the evening. The former



Kathy Cox

teacher and current State Schools Superintendent is running for her third term, the third longest term served for the position of State Superintendent in the country. She addressed many issues, including the furloughs for public school teachers and the fate of the state university system. Cox is working

See, *GOP* page 2A

Gov. Deal? Locals say it will be so

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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Nearly 100 people flocked to the Towns County GOP meeting last week at Daniels Steakhouse.

During the popular 'straw poll' sampling, the small group made some noise with their final decisions.

If the Primary Elections were held today, Nathan Deal would be the GOP nominee for governor, Doug MacGinnitie would be the GOP nominee for Secretary of State, and Ralph Hudgens would be the



Nathan Deal

Grand Ole Party's representative for State Insurance Commissioner.

Deal, the former 9th District Congressman,

outlasts Ray McBerry 45 percent to 24 percent with Austin Scott pulling in at third.

The poll also touched on some local issues such as "Should Towns County accept Federal stimulus money?" Fifty-eight percent said yes, 42 percent said no. Actually, Towns County has received almost \$8 million in federal stimulus dollars for road construction and repair.

A second question, "Should Towns County change to multi-commis-

See, *Straw Poll*, page 2A

First ramp fest on tap for Saturday

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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Appalachian culture is tied to the soft, moist soil and its contents.

Those contents include ramps, an onion-like delicacy that tastes something similar to a combination of strong onions and garlic.

On Saturday, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Hiwassee and Towns County will celebrate its rural roots with the First Ramp Festival. Some call it "Rampin' on the River," but no matter how you slice it, the platter is smothered in fun.

The Ramp Festival is the brainchild of Susan Wyman, who came up with the idea after being tired of a depressed economy and even more depressed local atmosphere.

"It's spring, it's time to have fun and for a while now, a whole lot of people haven't been having a whole lot of fun," Wyman said. "Yes, it was my bright idea.

"We've had a hard, cold winter and we need to do something fun," she said.

The event will be held at the Hiwassee Trout Lodge. It features plenty of food, live music, square dancing, horseshoes, a Cornhole competition, clogging, river duck races and a good old fashioned "hoe-down."

The term Ramp Festi-

val coincides with the fact that it's ramp hunting time in the Northeast Georgia Mountains. It's also a time to honor mountain culture in the most unique fashion, Wyman said.

"All the mountain people used to go ramp hunting," Wyman said. "Years ago, people lived off the land and they survived on the fruits of the soil. When it came ramp time, that was like a delicacy."

There's a menu to choose from at the Ramp Festival: ramps and eggs, ramps and potatoes, mountain trout, catfish, streak 'O' lean, and the true mountain dessert, Moon Pie.

"We're going to have a good time," Wyman said. "It's time to kick up our heels and just have a good old time and forget about how hard the winter was."

Wyman said the tradition will continue in 2011.

"That's why we call it the first Ramp Festival," she said.

The idea of a ramp festival isn't unique. In fact, it's been going on for years throughout the Blue Ridge Mountains.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

