

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Clouds	88 67
Fri: Clouds	89 68
Sat: Clouds	87 67
Sun: Clouds	87 67
Mon: Storms	85 66
Tue: Storms	83 66
Wed: Storms	84 66



Upstream Elevation Predicted 7/21/10	
Lake Chatuge	1924.60
Lake Nottely	1774.20
Blue Ridge	1680.10

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Square Dance

Join us every Monday in Hiawassee, 6 p.m. at the Senior Center for free square dance and clogging practice. This is not Western Square Dance, rather the old traditional calls our great grandpas and grandmas used in our Appalachian Smokey Mountains sometimes called "Big Circle." The Senior Center is located two blocks behind the Town Square, Main Street, Highway 76, beside the Towns County Courthouse, 48 River St. The sponsor of this series of events is the Towns County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Call (706) 896-1060 for more details.

Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will hold its free food distribution on Tuesday, July 27. The distribution will be held at the Towns County Food Pantry on Jack Dayton Circle from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. All that are in need of assistance are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to pick up your food, please call (706) 896-4783 for more details prior to distribution day. This allows us to make arrangements to deliver food to you. All clients and inquiries are kept confidential.

Called BOE meeting

The Towns County Board of Education will meet at 4 p.m. Thursday in the Media Center at Towns County High School.

The special called meeting is to discuss and approve three personnel decisions.

The moves include accepting the resignation of part-time science teacher Angela Medley and approving the hiring of Dr. Mark Stallings to fill that position. The last decision will be to approve Julie Wilson as a paraprofessional within the school system.

The public is invited to attend the called meeting.

Langley, Butterworth get the voters' nod

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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The Enotah Judicial Circuit has a new district attorney and the Senate District 50 incumbent claimed a decisive victory.

Jeff Langley will serve the next four years as the Enotah Judicial Circuit's top prosecutor, defeating fellow Republican Raymond George by 2,882 votes in the four-county race.

Langley will follow current District Attorney Stan Gunter, who did not seek reelection. Gunter is seeking a judgeship on the Georgia Court of Appeals.

Langley took 70.9 percent of the vote in Towns County, which had a 21.6 percent voter turnout.

He took three of the four counties that make up the Enotah Judicial Circuit,



Jeff Langley

Towns, Union and White counties. George took his home county, Lumpkin, by a narrow margin of 208 votes.

In the Senate District 50 race, Incumbent Jim Butterworth walked away in a fast trot from his Republican challenger Terry Rogers. With all precincts reporting, Butterworth had 57.7 percent of the vote in the eight-county race.

Habersham County, the home of both candidates, reported late. Rogers claimed victory with 770 more votes than the Incumbent State Senator.

In Towns County, Butterworth claimed 62.6 percent of the vote. The win over Rogers sends the senator back to the Gold Dome to represent Towns, Rabun, Banks, Franklin, Habersham, Stephens and Hart counties, as well as a small portion of White County.

In the GOP race for governor, former 9th District Congressman Nathan Deal appeared headed for a runoff with former Georgia Secretary of State Karen Handel.

Deal, the clear GOP winner in Towns County with 40 percent of the local vote over Handel's 28.3 percent, trailed Handel by more than 75,000 votes at press time. Former State Sen. Eric Johnson was in third place with 20.1 percent of the vote. Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine was a



State Sen. Jim Butterworth

distant fourth with 16.9 percent of the GOP vote.

At press time, it appears Deal and Handel will square off in an Aug. 10 runoff election to determine the GOP gubernatorial candidate.

On the Democratic side of the gubernatorial coin, former Gov. Roy Barnes was winning in a cake walk with 65.8 percent of the vote and apparently, no runoff to worry about. Former state Attorney General Thurbert Baker was his closest competitor, earning 21.7 percent of the Demo-

cratic vote.

Barnes claimed 78.7 percent of the Democratic vote in Towns County.

In a vote that could impact Towns County tax dollars, Union County voters overwhelmingly approved a special referendum for liquor by the drink in Union County restaurants by a 59.6 percent vote. Approximately 52 percent, or 7,289 of Union County voters turned out for the election.

On two separate straw poll questions, Union County voters said yes to beer and wine by the drink and by the package. On the former, 60.6 percent of Union County voters said yes, and on the latter, 61 percent said yes.

In the Lieutenant Governor's race, GOP Incumbent Casey Cagle will

See Election, page 7

Lions honor Sheriff Clinton



Towns County Lions Club President Ralph Grady congratulates Sheriff Chris Clinton on earning the honor of the Club's Citizen of the Year last week at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton thought he was the guest speaker of the monthly meeting of the Towns County Lions Club last week at Anderson Music Hall.

He was the guest all right, the guest of honor and the toast of the evening.

The Lions Club honored Clinton as its Citizen of the Year as the club celebrates its 70th year of public service.

The honor was meant to be a surprise and those

who knew, didn't disappoint.

Following a delicious dinner, Lions Club President Ralph Grady got down to business. He read off the career achievements of the club's Citizen of the year. As Grady continued to read

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Schools distinguished again

By Charles Duncan
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All three Towns County Schools were labeled distinguished on Monday for meeting Adequate Yearly Progress for the seventh consecutive year.

It comes at a time when the feds raised the bar in meeting AYP on the No Child Left Behind law. It also comes at a time when 33 percent of all high schools in Georgia failed to make AYP.

"I'm proud," said Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens. "They have achieved at a higher level than the federal government



Towns County Schools achieved distinguished status for the fifth straight year and earned AYP for the seventh consecutive year, the State Board of Education reports. Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens says the school still has work to do. Photo/Charles Duncan

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Shelton shines at Music Hall



Country Music performer Blake Shelton was in high gear on Friday night at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan
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Blake Shelton didn't disappoint.

The 34-year-old native of Ada, OK, with six No. 1 hits to his credit, played Anderson Music Hall Friday night at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. A large contingent of Blake Shelton fans stood almost throughout the entire show cheering him on.

Shelton, a musical cross between Hank Williams Jr. and George Strait, was electric as he dazzled

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Roy Clark leads off 60th Georgia Mtn Fair

By Charles Duncan
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Country Music Hall of Famer Roy Clark kicks off the musical entertainment for the 60th Georgia Mountain Fair on Wednesday.

The man who made Branson, Mo. famous as a Country Music venue comes to town on part of his light touring schedule to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Georgia Mountain Fair. The legendary picker got an early start in the business and had claimed the world banjo/guitar flat-pick championship two times by the age of 15.

Clark also was a regular on *The Tonight Show* in the early 1960s. Also, he made several appearances on *The Beverly Hillbillies* in the early 1960s in which he played "Roy Halsey" and also as Roy's mother "Myrtle."

Even then, Clark's



Roy Clark

musical prowess preceded him as "Uncle Jed" always requested Roy to pick a little on the "geetar."

Clark, the legendary musician and longtime Hee Haw co-host with Buck Owens, is followed on Thursday by none other than T. Graham Brown and the Country River Band.

On Friday, Brenda

See Fair page 3

Berrong named Piedmont's Dean of Graduate Studies

Special to Towns County Herald

Dr. Marilyn Ayers-Berrong, the wife of Larry Berrong of Hiawassee, has been named Dean of Graduate Studies for Piedmont College in Demorest.

Dr. Berrong has served as a Cohort Coordinator and professor with Piedmont since 2000. She has been responsible for the establishment and successful completion of Cohort programs from Murphy, NC to Greensboro. In these programs many public school teachers have earned either a master's or education specialist degree.

Prior to her tenure at Piedmont College, Dr. Berrong spent 30 years with the State of Georgia and in the Habersham County School System. Her career began in 1968 when she was employed by the state in accounting, where she served until 1979.

From there, she became a high school accounting teacher at Habersham Central High School. In 1985, she became the county vocational director for Habersham County Schools, and in 1989, she became the principal of North Habersham County Middle School.

In 1993, she became the CEO of Cooperative Purchasing Agency, an agency which purchased supplies and materials and handled the food distribution for 35 school systems in Georgia. She retired in 1998.



Marilyn Ayers-Berrong

After one year at home she found her love of education needed an outlet and she began work for Piedmont College. During her time at Piedmont she has served as adjunct faculty, assistant professor of education, associate professor of education, professor of education, cohort coordinator, and, now, as Dean of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Berrong earned her undergraduate degree from Piedmont College where she was the first female to receive the Wall Street Journal Business Award. She earned a master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Georgia. She is a very active member of Woods Grove Baptist Church where she serves as Minister of Music. She is the daughter-in-law of Stella Berrong of Hiawassee.

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