

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2010

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Storms	89 67
Fri: Clouds	89 67
Sat: Clouds	85 66
Sun: Clouds	84 66
Mon: Storms	85 65
Tue: Storms	84 64
Wed: Storms	84 64



Upstream Elevation Predicted 8/11/10	
Lake Chatuge	1923.50
Lake Nottely	1772.40
Blue Ridge	1659.90

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Benefit Yard Sale

A huge yard sale at Friendship Community Clubhouse adjacent to Hawg Heaven is scheduled for Aug. 13-14. The event will take place from 8 a.m. until noon, rain or shine.

Proceeds benefit Operation PUP and the Whiskers Project. PUP is a local nonprofit animal advocacy group that assists families to spay and neuter their pets. It also provides educational programs in responsible animal care.

The Whiskers Project is a program that traps and spays or neuters feral cats. Please come out in support of these community service groups. For more details call (888) 496-2387 or (888) 872-9330.

Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will hold its free food distribution on Tuesday, Aug. 17. 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.

Project Blue

Zaxby's of Hiawassee will host the Second Annual Project Blue on Friday, Aug. 13.

A portion of the sales from Project Blue will be donated to the Towns County Indians' gridiron team as support for the 2010 football season.

"We appreciate Zaxby's teaming up with us to show our players that their community is behind them and supportive of their efforts for a great season," said Indians' Head Coach Kyle Langford. "This really means a lot to the guys and our school."

Zaxby's hopes to continue this preseason tradition for years to come.

Business as usual as classes resume in Towns

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Towns County Schools are back in session.

More than 1,100 students were greeted by faculty, staffers and administration when they arrive at the doorsteps of the elementary, middle school and high school on Thursday.

"Everything went smoothly," said Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens. "We really can't complain; we've had a really good start this year."

The school system had 1,135 students to start the new school year, Dr. Behrens told Board of Education members on Monday night.

"We're about even with last year," he said. "That's about what we started at last year. We started with 1,134 students last year. It'll change a little

as we get farther along in the school year."

Dr. Behrens said this year was one of the smoothest starts in recent memory: "it was like riding a bicycle."

"It went really well," he said. "Our morning traffic was pretty smooth; we had the normal delays in the afternoons. We worked through that. The traffic flowed (Monday); Thursday and Friday we had to work with it. Everyone has been very kind and nice and we appreciate their patience."

"The little ones were just all smiles and full of promise," he said. "The middle school and high school students also looked excited to be back in the classroom."

Dr. Behrens is expecting big things from the Class of 2011.

See Schools, page 3A



An excited youngster gets ready to store his backpack vest as the first day of school began Thursday at Towns County Elementary. More than 1,100 students showed up for class. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Love, faith and family prevail



The Buttrill clan, (L to R) Jack and Barbara, Marc and Athelyn, Pug and Emily, Duncan and Macy.

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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make it to their Golden Anniversary. The theme that sets this one apart: an entire family achieved that dream.

Some might say it's a made-for-Hallmark story.

However, it's not fiction as surreal as it might seem. Some couples do

On Saturday, Samuel "Pug" Buttrill and Emily Moye Buttrill came full circle.

The couple expericend

a Buttrill family tradition by celebrating 50 years of marital bliss.

The couple celebrated their Golden Nuptials last weekend on the grounds of

See Golden, page 8A

Cruiz-In Kickoff on tap Thursday at The Ridges



Rakes Parrish and the Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In are back in Towns County. The fun begins Thursday at The Ridges Resort with the Haulin' Mash Moonshine Bash.

By Charles Duncan
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concludes on Saturday.

The Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In kicks off Thursday at 5:30 p.m. with the Second Haulin' Mash Moonshine Bash at The Ridges Resort.

More than 10,000 people are expected to converge on Towns County during the three-day event, which

The Ridges Resort General Manager Chad Hooper says the 2010 event is going to be bigger and better than last year.

Double the cars – approximately 2,000 entries in the car show (947 last year) double the enthusiasm and most businesses owners are banking on double the

See Moonshine page 6A

Mother Nature packs a punch



Towns County firefighters try to contain a blaze that investigators believe was started on Friday evening by a bolt of lightning. It was the second suspected lightning-related blaze fought on Friday.

By Charles Duncan
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Mother Nature kept Towns County Fire and Rescue busy last week.

Two suspected lightning strikes destroyed two homes in the county, Fire Chief Mitch Floyd said.

The first occurred around 5 a.m. on Friday on King Cove Road, Chief Floyd said.

"It was a single-wide mobile home and it was on the ground when we got there," Chief Floyd said. "Nobody was hurt, it was unoccupied. It was on a piece of property with another structure on it."

"It was a total loss,"

See Lightning, page 6A

Towns man charged in crash

By Charles Duncan
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A 44-year-old Texas woman is in intensive care at Grady Hospital in Atlanta following an Aug. 4th head-on crash on Georgia 288 in Towns County.

Melissa Reeve was life-flighted to Grady Hospital after she was extricated from her Kia following the two-vehicle crash, Towns County Fire Chief Mitch Floyd said.

Chief Floyd said the crash was one of the worst he's seen in Towns County during his tenure.

"The woman in the Kia was alone and entrapped; we had to extricate her," Chief Floyd said. "She went by helicopter to Grady."

"The driver of the other vehicle declined treatment to my knowledge," Chief Floyd said.

The accident occurred near the Friendship traffic light, patrol reports show.

The accident occurred around 10:47 p.m. after George Leonard Poole, 41, of Hiawassee, allegedly lost control of his vehicle and crossed the centerline striking Reeve's Kia head-on. The bulk of the impact was evident on the passenger side of the Kia, according to the Georgia State Patrol's Post 27 based in Blue Ridge.

According to the state patrol, Poole was traveling South on Georgia 288; Reeve was traveling North on Georgia 288.

Poole lost control of his

vehicle, crossing the double yellow line into the north-bound lane, struck two mailboxes and then struck Reeve's Kia, according to the state patrol.

After impact, Poole's Dodge rotated clockwise and overturned four to five times according to a witness, and came to rest on its top, patrol officials said.

The Kia, driven by Reeve, rotated counter clockwise after impact, left the roadway on the West side and came to "an uncontrolled rest" approximately 130 feet from the point of impact, according to patrol officials.

The Dodge, driven by Poole, came to rest approximately 174 feet from the point of impact, patrol officials said.

Towns County Sheriff's Office reports show that Poole was arrested by the state patrol and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, felony serious injury by vehicle, reckless driving and failure to maintain lane.

Poole was released on bail on Saturday from the Towns County Detention Center.

BOE to hold the tax line

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County's Schools Superintendent has recommended no increase in the millage rate set by the Towns County Board of Education.

Dr. Richard Behrens presented the updated Tax Digest to school board members on Monday night. The Tax Digest has declined over the past year. Even with leaving the school's millage rate at 4.784 mills, revenues are down approximately 2 percent, or \$100,000.



Dr. Richard Behrens

In anticipation of a deflated Tax Digest, in July, Dr. Behrens recommended trimming more than \$1 million from the 2009-2010 school budget.

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

