

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 84 Number 27

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Thu: Clouds | 77 54 |
| Fri: Storms | 75 54 |
| Sat: Storms | 71 52 |
| Sun: Clouds | 70 42 |
| Mon: Sunny | 64 42 |
| Tues: Sunny | 71 49 |
| Wed: Sunny | 76 53 |



| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Upstream Elevation Predicted | 05/08/13 |
| Lake Chatuge | 1926.43 |
| Lake Nottely | 1777.77 |
| Blue Ridge | 1687.74 |

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Sports

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FFA Car Wash & Yard Sale Rescheduled

Saturday, May 11 at Towns Co. High School

Towns County Rabies Clinic

Saturday, May 11
• 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Young Harris Elementary
• 10 a.m. - 12 noon & 1 - 3 p.m.
Towns Co. Elementary
• 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital
• 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Hiawassee Animal Hospital
See page 10A

Blood Drive



Wednesday, May 8
Towns County High School
Blood Assurance will be doing the drive in conjunction with the Health Occupations Program at Towns Co. High School
See page 5A



3rd Annual Big Green Eggfest
Saturday, May 18
Georgia Mtn. Fairgrounds in Hiawassee, GA
Begins @ 9 a.m.
Taster Tickets: \$20
Free "Meet & Greet" May 17 @ Anderson Music Hall



County Wide Yard Sale
Sat., May 25 • 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
On The Square in Hiawassee
Reserve Your Space
Email: tcfrecorps@gmail.com
or Call Judy 706-897-3798
or Liz 404-754-3430

Help Support Your Volunteer Fire Fighters!

John Barge comes to Towns

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

It's not everyday that the State School Superintendent is seen in Towns County, but that's exactly what happened at the Towns County Retired Educators Association meeting.

Georgia School Superintendent John Barge was the special guest speaker at the Retired Educators Association Awards Dinner held last week at the Mountain Senior Center in Hiawassee.

A delicious meal was catered by Rib Country of Hayesville, NC and entertainment provided by the Church Family of Hiawassee.

Barge has a pretty impressive background in education as he earned a Bachelor's Degree from Berry College in Rome, a Master's Degree and an Educational Specialist's Degree from the State University of West Georgia in Carrollton, and his Educational Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Georgia in



State School Superintendent Dr. John Barge speaks to Towns County Retired Educators Association. Photo/Libby Shook

Athens. In his 22 years in public education, Barge has served as a high school English teacher, a middle school Spanish teacher, an assistant principal, and a principal.

He has served as the state Director of Career, Technical and Agriculture Education (CTAE) for the Georgia Department of Education, and

prior to becoming state School Superintendent, Barge served as the director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction with the Bartow County School System.

But that's not nearly as impressive as the background that Retired Educators Association Membership Chair

See Barge, page 11A

Pearson: 'Graduation spells success'

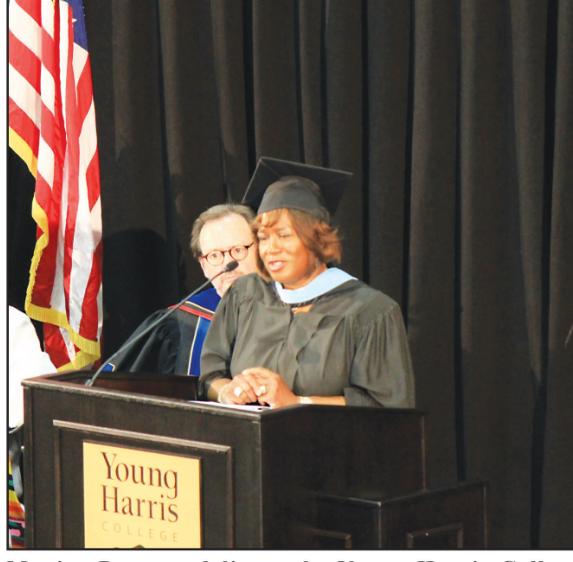
By Libby Shook
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Retired WSB-TV News Anchor Monica Pearson, delivering the commencement address to the Young Harris College Class of 2013, told the group that graduation is a 10-letter word.

"Graduation is a 10-letter word that spells success," Pearson said. "You have worked very hard to earn the right to be standing here today, but you didn't get here all by yourself.

"You had some help along the way," she said. "Be grateful to those people that have helped you get to where you are today. Be appreciative of what they have done for you. Remember to

See Graduates, page 11A



Monica Pearson delivers the Young Harris College Commencement Address on Saturday. Photo/Libby Shook

Kendall adopts D.A.T.E. resolution

By Libby Shook
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, in an effort to create a positive out of a negative, has adopted the Towns County Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Resolution which authorizes the creation of a Towns County Drug Abuse Treatment and Education (D.A.T.E.) Fund Advisory Committee.

Towns County is taking a proactive approach in the treatment, education, and prevention of drug abuse.

The best part of this plan is that it won't cost Towns County taxpayers a single penny to fund.

It will be paid for by the folks arrested and convicted of a felony Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act (VGS-CA).

Deputy County Clerk An-



Deputy County Clerk Andrea Anderson reads the D.A.T.E. resolution. Photo/Libby Shook

drea Anderson read the Resolution in its entirety at the Commissioner's meeting in April.

"Judge Murphy Miller approached me about this and said he'd like for Towns County to implement a drug treatment and education program," Kendall said. "All counties in the Enotah Judicial Circuit are participating and have adopted this same

resolution.

"That includes Towns, Union, Lumpkin, and White Counties," he said. "I think it's a real good idea and I think it's something we need for the county."

Section 15-21-100 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated allows for additional

See D.A.T.E., page 11A

Three-county chase ends in Union

By Charles Duncan
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A 47-year old Gainesville woman faces 16 charges in Towns County following a three-county chase that ended in neighboring Union County, Towns County arrest warrants show.

The chase began in Rabun County, and concluded in Blairsville, and led to the arrest and multiple charges in three counties for 47-year-old Cindy Leona Carlin-Chis, arrest warrants in Towns and Union counties show.

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said Carlin-Chis, 47, of Gainesville faces dozens of charges after she led authorities in three counties on a chase that ended when she slammed into the patrol car of Union County sheriff's Deputy Sam Combs at Ledford Road and Georgia 515 in Union County.

"Well, she messed up our patrol car, but, I'd say she had insurance, we'll get that fixed," Sheriff Mason said. "We're just proud she didn't injure any of our citizens."

Citizens in Towns County were spared injury thanks to Towns County sheriff's Deputy C.J. Worden, who pursued Carlin-Chis during her daring run that began in Rabun County when she struck a parked vehicle.

Law enforcement officers with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service gave chase after the initial crash incident, Sheriff Mason said.

Carlin-Chis' ride took her into Towns County where Deputy Worden picked up the chase at Georgia 288 near Macedonia Baptist Church at Sunnyside.

Worden picked up the chase shortly after 3 p.m., Towns County arrest warrants show.

Carlin-Chis, of 3229 Arbor Drive in Gainesville, weaved in and out of traffic, avoided law enforcement at various road blocks, threatening the lives of law enforcement and other motorists in her path. She almost ran over a number of people near Young Harris College, where graduation ceremonies had taken place

there, Sheriff Mason said.

"She went through there like nobody's business," Sheriff Mason said, referring to Carlin-Chis' ride through Young Harris.

Worden chased Carlin-Chis through Hiawassee and Young Harris, where she ran a red light at Georgia 515 and Georgia 66, near Young Harris College, Towns County arrest warrants show.

At one point, she attempted to pit Deputy Worden's patrol vehicle during a rolling roadblock, Towns County arrest warrants show.

She passed Deputy Worden's patrol car and then swerved the Ford Expedition toward Worden's patrol car in an attempt to wreck him, Towns County arrest warrants show.

Later, Deputy Worden gave way to Union County deputies at the Towns-Union line.

Carlin-Chis, who was on the phone with Towns County 911 during the chase, reportedly was responding with suicidal tendencies, authorities said.

The chase ended with See Chase, page 11A

Towns County mourns loss of Lt. Brian Wilson

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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The Towns County Sheriff's Office is in deep prayer today, praying for the family of one of their own.

Lt. Brian Wilson died Friday, May 3rd, following injuries sustained in an April 28th one-car accident on Georgia 288.

Lt. Wilson died at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville.

Funeral services for Lt. Wilson will be Wednesday, May 8th at 2 p.m. at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Hiawassee.

The Rev. Harold Ledford will officiate the services.

Graveside services will follow in Burch Cemetery. Banister Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Lt. Wilson served in the United States Marine Corps, and after being honorably discharged, he came to work for Towns County Sheriff's Office.

He began his law enforcement career working in the Towns County Detention Center, advanced to the Patrol Division, and served as Patrol Deputy, K-9 Handler, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Commander of Patrol.



Sheriff's Lt. Brian Wilson

Lt. Wilson and his family are much beloved in the agency, as well as the community as a whole.

He dedicated his life to his family, and much of his life's work was directed toward protecting the people of Towns County.

The crash that claimed his life occurred around 9:40 a.m. on April 28th when Lt. Wilson, 29, lost control of the 2007 Dodge Charger he was driving after it crossed the centerline and traveled into the westbound lane, according to Georgia State Patrol spokes-

See Wilson, page 11A

YHC faces federal lawsuit in Gainesville

By Charles Duncan
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Young Harris College has until May 27th to respond to a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Gainesville regarding alleged hazing incidents at the college and allegedly letting go two professors who questioned the hazing practices, according to the lawsuit.

Former YHC instructors Theresa Crapanzano and Joseph Terry, and a student, Jo Hannah Burch, who alleges she was required to submit to hazing rituals of the YHC sorority Gamma Psi, have filed suit in U.S. District Court in Gainesville.

Crapanzano and Terry both claim they lost their jobs because they challenged the hazing at YHC, which they also allege involved a member of the YHC faculty, according to the lawsuit.

Burch alleges that she was hazed while a pledge to the Gamma Psi sorority last year. Burch is still enrolled at the college, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit alleges that the college violated Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and state negligence laws.

Young Harris College officials deny the allegations and said in a news release that hazing goes against the school's values.



YHC President Cathy Cox

The Greek sorority Gamma Psi has been suspended for violating the no-hazing policy, according to the college.

Also, according to the college, Crapanzano was hired on a one-year non-renewal contract and was let go when her contract ended, while Terry was terminated after he failed to complete his doctoral degree as promised after three extensions to complete the degree.

According to YHC, "this lawsuit contains false, sensational allegations on multiple fronts, all of which are far removed from the everyday reality we live on our campus. We look forward to addressing all these matters in the proper forum, which is the courts."

The lawsuit also alleges that YHC stopped its student newspaper from reporting about the hazing incidents.

According to the lawsuit, Burch enrolled as a full-time student at YHC in August 2011

See Lawsuit, page 11A

Judge Gunter sits in on Georgia Supreme Court

Towns County Herald Special
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Superior Court Judge N. Stanley Gunter of the Enotah Judicial Circuit has been designated to serve in place of Justice David E. Nahmias in the appeal of Georgia Pacific, LLC et al. v. Rhonda Fields et al.

The Supreme Court of Georgia heard arguments in the case on Monday, May 6 during its 10 a.m. session.

The appeal in this Cherokee County case stems from a lawsuit brought by a woman with malignant cancer against a number of companies that sell or manufacture products containing asbestos.

In addition to hearing arguments, Judge Gunter will participate in the Court's decision.

Judge Gunter, 53, was appointed to the Enotah Superior Court in North Georgia in 2012 by Gov. Nathan Deal.

The four-county Enotah Judicial Circuit includes Lump-



Judge Stan Gunter

kin, Towns, Union and White counties.

Prior to becoming a judge, he served as the Assistant Executive Counsel to Gov. Joe Frank Harris during that governor's second term

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