

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

www.townscountyherald.net

Publication Number 635540 Volume 81 Number 14

Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur:	Cloudy	40	22
Fri:	Cloudy	38	22
Sat:	Snow	41	23
Sun:	Sunny	44	24
Mon:	Flurries	44	25
Tue:	Cloudy	47	30
Wed:	Cloudy	47	29



Upstream Elevation Predicted 2/10/10	
Lake Chatuge	1919.30
Lake Nottely	1763.00
Blue Ridge	1672.60

### INDEX

2 section, 20 Pages

Arrests.....	2A
Church/Obits.....	8,9A
Classifieds.....	7B
Editorial.....	4A
Community Calendar.....	4A
Legals.....	8B
Sports.....	3,4,5B
Television.....	2B

## Chamber Chronicles Page 6A

### Subscribe

The Towns County Herald wants to make a difference during hard times.

For those currently unemployed, Senior Citizens and U.S. Military veterans, the Herald offers \$5 subscriptions for 1 year. That's a savings of \$21 off the newsstand price.

This offer extends to residents of Towns and Union counties in Georgia and Clay County, NC.

Simply bring proof of unemployment status; a simple Photo ID will suffice for Senior Citizens.

Veterans must provide proof of U.S. Military service. The Herald also offers \$10 subscriptions for new subscribers from Towns and Union counties in Georgia and Clay County, NC.

At the end of one year, those subscribers can renew at a rate of \$15.

Again, we hope to make a difference when folks need it the most.



### Food Distribution

The monthly mobile food distribution for families in need will be held at North Mt. Zion Church of God on Friday, Feb. 12th from 10 a.m. to noon. This outdoor food distribution will be held in the rear parking lot of North Mt. Zion Church of God on Scataway, rain or shine.



### Pancake Supper

Please support Towns County High School Scholarships, our Food Pantry and Towns County Lions Club eyeglass project by attending the pancake supper on Tuesday, Feb. 16th.

Ticket price is \$5. The supper is scheduled from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Hiwassee United Methodist Church on Hwy. 76 in Hiwassee.

Tickets to the event can be purchased from any Towns County Lions Club member.

For more details, call Ken Fuller at (706) 781-4661.

## FEMA grants Kendall's request for more time

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
charlesduncan@brmenc.net

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has said "yes" to a request by Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall to delay the due date for the county's compliance with FEMA's floodplain study for Lake Chatuge.

Kendall received written approval of his request on Monday that temporarily delays the feds' completion of an updated Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) for Towns County.

"It is imperative that we stop these inaccurate maps which will greatly diminish the value of our residents' property and would require very expensive flood insurance," Commissioner Kendall said. "This also

would substantially decrease our tax digest and would result in other residents with property outside the flood zone paying more of the cost of government and schools."

The delay granted by FEMA allows Kendall to move forward with the acquisition of aerial Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data to make for a more accurate Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map for Towns County.

Kendall entered into a memorandum of agreement with FEMA to schedule an aerial fly date within March to ensure that data is collected during a time when the leaves are still off the trees and while Lake Chatuge remains at its winter pool level.

The predicted pool level for the lake on Wednesday was 1,919.30 according

to the Tennessee Valley Authority's pool level chart for Lake Chatuge.

"In the event Towns County is unable to meet the schedule requirements outlined within this agreement, Towns County will be able to use the LiDAR data acquired as leverage for future flood study updates," according to Collis Brown, state Floodplain Management Coordinator.

"We appreciate your cooperation in this matter as well as your willingness to assist the state and FEMA in updating Towns County's flood map to reflect the most accurate flood risk," Brown said. "It is the primary objective of the state and FEMA to update Georgia's flood maps to reflect current flood risks using the most accurate data available."

FEMA and DNR

missioner Kendall said.

Ultimately, Commissioner Kendall said he feels it is appropriate to use general funds if necessary to correct the inaccurate map data problem because everybody wins.

"This issue which we were not aware of until two to three months ago has been very time consuming and frustrating," he said. "However, the ultimate importance of this critical data to the county and city property owners is of such magnitude that we must do everything possible to correct the problem."

Towns County's proposed floodplain maps, rife with errors, are not unique to Towns County but are nationwide, Commissioner Kendall said.

"Accurate LiDAR

See Floodplain, page 2A



Commissioner Bill Kendall

were prepared to use inaccurate data until Commissioner Kendall agreed to fund the acquisition of high-tech LiDAR data to save county taxpayers thousands of dollars that they would have spent on flood insurance if the county were forced to submit to the use of the inaccurate data.

The cost of the LiDAR data acquisition: between \$50,000 and \$100,000, Com-

## Conrad crowned 2010 Queen

By Jim Bryant  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
sports.tcherald@brmenc.net

The 2010 TCHS Basketball Homecoming ceremony was fast and furious, but that also describes its Homecoming Queen.

On the basketball court she is furious and on the cross country trail she is fast.

Senior Missy Conrad was elected queen following the procession of king and queen nominees from the various grade levels.

Amy Vardeman, 2009 Football Queen and Tiffany Garrett, Football Queen Runner-Up did the crowning honors.

The 2010 Basketball Runner-Up was Alex Bohannon, another senior.

Others seniors in the queen's court were, Ashley Chastain, Heather Hamilton, Kerri Abernathy. In the king's court, Parker Bradshaw, John Bleckley, Austin Arrowood and Ethan Burch. The 2010 TCHS Basketball King was John Bleckley.

The Junior Princess Court was represented by Alexa Arencibia, Kristin Fuhs, Brittany Walls and Ginny Rhoades.

The Court of Princes was Aaron Bradshaw, Brett



TCHS 2010 Basketball Queen, Missy Conrad is surrounded by princesses (L-R) Claire Wilson, Alexa Arencibia and Ali Bleckley. Photo/Jim and Lisa Bryant

Bradshaw, Bradley Swanson and Nik Rhoades. Alexa Arencibia and Brett Bradshaw were crowned as Junior Princess and Prince.

Representing the Sophomore Princess Court were Kindle Moss, Ali Bleckley, Countney Farmer and the Prince Court was Dakota Barrett, Zack Stroud and Cody Smedley. Ali Bleckley and Stroud were crowned Princess and Prince.

The Freshman Princess Court was represented by Megan Ellis and Claire Wilson, while Ryan Tallent and Tyler Hoffman made up

the Prince Court. Crowned Princess and Prince were Wilson and Hoffman.

Prior to the accolades honoring the students, the audience was asked to help fill the buckets that were passed around by the cheerleaders for earthquake relief in Haiti.

In a show of support for the victims of the earthquake, participants wore a red ribbon.

At press time the exact amount collected was not known but if history repeated itself, the generosity of Towns County will be inspiring to say the least.

## Senator unveils key to taxpayer savings

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
charlesduncan@brmenc.net

State Senate District 50 Sen. Jim Butterworth unveiled legislation on Monday promoting continued transparency and savings in government.

The Transparency in Government Act of 2010 is designed to enhance reporting requirements of the public information Web site, open.georgia.gov.

The Paper Reduction Act is an effort to bring cost savings by reducing the unnecessary, wasteful use of paper and increase electronic distribution and publication practices.

The legislation encourages the state to take advantage of 21st century technology and conserve natural resources.

Ultimately, the legislation could save taxpayers millions in print and paper costs.

"Economic struggles encourage efficiency and the Paper Reduction Act is just one small way to save money and bring state government into the 21st century," said Butterworth, who represents Towns, Banks, Franklin, Habersham, Hart, Rabun, and Stephens coun-



State Sen. Jim Butterworth

ties and part of White County.

"Increasing transparency and enhancing open.georgia.gov is a priority of mine and will allow the public the information they deserve," the Clarkesville Republican said.

Georgia's Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, who attended the press conference, overwhelmingly supported the legislation unveiled by Sen. Butterworth.

"I applaud Sen. Jim Butterworth for his work and leadership to bring savings and enhance transparency in state government," Lt. Gov. Cagle said in a release to the Towns County Herald.

"In this economy, every dollar counts and that is why we need to identify every avenue possible to save

See Legislation, page 5A

## Goodall coming Feb. 18 to YHC

By Jessica Keaton  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
jessica.tcherald@brmenc.net

Young Harris College is gearing up to host one of the world's most renowned scientists, Dr. Jane Goodall.

If the name sounds familiar, it's because her work with chimpanzees has been documented in books, movies, and various aspects of popular culture. Founding the "Roots & Shoots" program, Dr. Goodall supports youth conservation efforts. A "Roots and Shoots" chapter was recently founded at Young Harris College.

This year marks a monumental milestone for Dr. Goodall and JGI. Fifty years ago, Dr. Goodall, who is today a world-renowned primatologist, conservationist and humanitarian, first set foot on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, in what is now Tanzania's Gombe National Park.

Dr. Goodall began her landmark study of chimpanzees in what is now Tanzania under the mentorship of famed anthropologist and paleontologist Dr. Louis Leakey. Her work at Gombe Stream would become the foundation of future primatological research and redefine the relationship between humans and animals.



Young Harris College welcomes Dr. Jane Goodall to Glenn Auditorium on Feb. 18. Tickets are \$10. Photo/Goodall Institute

The chimpanzee behavioral research she pioneered there has produced a wealth of scientific discovery, and her vision has expanded into a global mission to empower people to make a difference for all living things.

Dr. Goodall's evening lecture, entitled "Gombe 50: Celebrating Dr. Jane Goodall's Extraordinary Legacy," includes fascinating stories about her groundbreaking work with chimpanzees. In addition, she will discuss details about the JGI's innovative community-centered conservation projects in Africa and its global environmental and humanitarian youth program, Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots.

The program engages

young people from preschool through college to take positive action in their communities and beyond.

The lecture begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> in Glenn Auditorium. Tickets for the general public are \$10.

Tickets are limited, so be sure and secure your seats quickly. They became available by phone at (706) 379-4307, or in person at the Young Harris College Box Office on Monday. Tickets also are available online at www.yhc.edu/tickets.

A book signing will follow the lecture in the auditorium lobby. Dr. Goodall's books, as well as JGI merchandise and memberships, will be available for purchase at the book signing.

## County agrees to rent land for recreation

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
charlesduncan@brmenc.net

Always in search of property for additional athletic fields, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall has agreed to lease property from the Industrial Development Authority for the Towns County Recreation Department.

"It is common knowledge that we don't have enough athletic fields," Commissioner Kendall said. "I got together with the Industrial Authority and they have agreed to lease unused property for the use of temporary athletic fields."

Commissioner Kendall, Authority Chairman Morris Phillips and the entire Industrial Authority Board, as well as Wes Hooper, Towns County Recreation Director, all expressed their full support for this move as a temporary fix for the need of athletic fields Towns County youth.

However, both Kendall and Phillips emphasized that



Chairman Morris Phillips

the Industrial Park Property must be retained for Industrial Development while the authority continues to work to bring in much-needed jobs for Towns County residents.

"The lease agreement states that either party may terminate the lease with a 30-day notice," Commissioner Kendall said.

During his campaign for Sole Commissioner, Kendall expressed the need

See Fields, page 3A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

