

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy	65 49
Fri: Rain	60 41
Sat: Cloudy	58 39
Sun: Cloudy	59 45
Mon: Cloudy	65 47
Tue: Rain	67 44
Wed: Rain	64 43



Upstream Elevation Predicted 03/07/12	
Lake Chatuge	1918.27
Lake Nottely	1762.73
Blue Ridge	1672.25

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Log onto our Web site

Log onto Towns County Herald.net to keep up with breaking news that impacts Towns County. March 6 election results can be found on Towns County Herald.net on Tuesday night. See how Towns County voted in the Presidential Preference Primary.

Knockdown

Towns County Fire Rescue Department got an early morning call on Saturday to respond to Georgia 17/75 behind The Pasture convenience store.

One of the buildings inside the park behind the store was on fire. When firefighters arrived, a second structure was blazing, Towns County Assistant Fire Chief Harold Copeland said.

"The fire started in the storage area of the residence at 4154," Copeland said. "It wrapped back up into the ceiling area. It's probably 85 percent burned."

"The wind and high heat caused the neighboring structure to ignite," Copeland said. "It's close to 100 percent destroyed. Upon arrival, the structures were totally involved, per my Captain. On the other side of the initial burning structure, there were a couple of windows that popped because of the heat."

Copeland said if not for a new, voter approved fire hydrant being available, there could have been a disaster of epic proportions.

"If we don't have that new fire hydrant and the 5-inch lines, we're in serious trouble," he said. "These structures are so close together, I truly believe we've got a domino effect with the wind blowing like it was. Every one of these buildings could have gone up today without the fire hydrant paid for by the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax."

The close proximity to the new hydrant, and the use of the new 5-inch diameter supply hose, provided an uninterrupted supply of water that was more than adequate to extinguish the fire.

"These hydrants and 5-inch lines save lives partner. They paid off again."

EF-2 tornado strikes heart of Murphy, NC

No one dead or injured as 120 mph winds destroy five businesses; damage 41 more; five homes destroyed

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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God was watching over Cherokee County, NC and Murphy, NC on Friday evening.

It's the only way Matthew Flaig could describe the events of March 2.

"We were blessed," said Flaig, of Mission Thrift Store in Andrews. "It didn't hit Andrews, but it's still Cherokee County. We stick together in this community."

Flaig of course was referring to the EF-2 tornado that ravaged parts of Cherokee County and its business community in Murphy. The storm also impacted Hiwassee Dam, the Grape Creek community, Texana, and Peachtree communities, Cherokee County Public Information Officer Doug Clement said.



An EF-2 tornado struck the heart of the Murphy, NC business district on Friday. No one was killed; no one was injured. The scene here is on Andrews Road, the home of Wayne's Feed Store and Doyle's Restaurant. Aerial Photo/NC Extension Service

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Ladies fall at home to Darlington

By Jerry Kendall
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The Darlington Lady Tigers ended the Elite 8 hopes of the Towns County Lady Indians on the Lady Indians' home court by a score of 63-58.

The win sent the Lady Tigers to Marietta and a date with Wesleyan. That ended quickly for Darlington, as they lost handily to the perennial state champion by a score of 95-41.

With Darlington's loss to Wesleyan in the Elite 8 round, a run of five straight years of the Lady Indians falling to at least a state Final Four team through last year has come to an end. The Lady Indians lost at defending state champion and State Final Four finisher Southwest Atlanta Christian in the first round in 2007, to state champion Calvary Day in the State Final Four in 2008, to state champion Wesleyan in 2009 and 2010, and to state runner up Pace



Head Coach Jim Melton awaits the results of senior Ali Bleckley's three-pointer against Darlington. The Lady Indians' season came to an abrupt end last week, 63-58. Photo/James Reese

Academy in 2012.

Overall, the Lady Indians came up one victory short of a trip to the Elite 8 round at Marietta High School. Darlington entered the game with a 26-3 record and ranked seventh in two statewide Class A polls. The Lady Indians entered with a 23-6 record and ranked ninth in the Georgia Prep Country Internet Poll.

The game was a real battle from start to finish with Darlington using a 12-1 run to start the fourth quarter as they built a 12-point lead and held off a late Lady Indians' rally for the victory.

It is easy to think of the final score and realize that just three more deuces

See Lady Indians, page 7

Judge Barrett retires from Enotah Bench

Barrett's 20-year career on the bench has ended

By Charles Duncan
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In a 51-word letter to Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, Senior Enotah Circuit Superior Court Judge David Barrett has retired from the bench, according to a retirement letter obtained by the Towns County Herald.

In what was almost a brief of a response, Gov. Deal accepted the letter from Judge Barrett, according to an acceptance letter obtained by the Towns County Herald.

Judge Barrett had come under fire for a Feb. 22 incident in Lumpkin County Superior Court. He reportedly pulled his personal handgun out during a joint bond hearing and temporary restraining order hearing to make a "rhetorical point" to an uncooperative witness during the proceedings.



Judge David Barrett

Georgia law allows judges to carry concealed weapons in a courtroom for their own protection.

In his letter to Gov. Deal, Barrett wrote:

"Dear Governor Deal, please accept this as the announcement of my retirement as a Superior Court Judge effective March 1,

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Lions celebrate Honors Night

Twenty-one seniors share the spotlight at Anderson Music Hall

By Charles Duncan
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The Towns County Lions Club once again paid tribute to Towns County High School's best and brightest.

The celebration at Anderson Music Hall included honoring the school's STAR Student and STAR Teacher, Jeanne Bradley and Sabrina Garrett respectively.

It also honored the Wall of Fame, or better known as the students with the highest achievement in



Jeanne Bradley and Sabrina Garrett share a moment at the Towns County Lions' Honors Night. Photo/Charles Duncan

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BOE Week March 12-16

Special to Towns County Herald
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The Towns County Board of Education will join in a statewide celebration next week to salute the efforts of local school board members.

The week of March 12-16 has been proclaimed School Board Appreciation Week in Georgia.

The weeklong observance calls attention to the contributions of local boards of education.

"Citizens elect board members to represent the community's voice on education matters and to set the



Melissa Williams

vision for the school district," said Superintendent Mrs. Melissa Williams. "Our board spends countless hours fulfilling its responsibilities and working together to continually improve our education sys-

tem."

"As the men and women citizens elect to represent them in education matters, local school boards represent a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision-making in education," said Superintendent Williams.

The five Towns County Board members serving our school district are:

Board Chairman Mr. Larry Kimsey, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Michael Anderson, and members: Mrs.

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Missing person arrested

Sheriff says domestic violence involved

By Charles Duncan
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A 24-year-old Hiwassee woman is being held on charges that include aggravated assault and third degree cruelty to children, Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton said.

The details surrounding the arrest of Rebecca Lynn Franklin initially began as a missing person case. It concluded with her arrest related to a Feb. 28 incident in the Woods Grove community in northern Towns County.

Investigators say that on Feb. 28, at approximately noon, a missing person report was called in to Towns County 911 Center, and Towns County Sheriff's deputies arrived at a scene in the Woods Grove area in the northern part of the county.

Investigators discovered that a male and female, both adults, who lived in a residence in the area, had apparently had a domestic dispute and left the scene approximately three hours earlier. The person who called in the information had allegedly waited some time before calling authorities.

Information and evidence discovered at the scene caused responding sheriff's deputies to issue an



Sheriff Chris Clinton

alert for authorities to Be On the Look Out (BOLO) for the two individuals, and surrounding county law enforcement agencies were given descriptions of the two and the vehicle in which they were believed to be traveling in.

As there was concern for the welfare of one or both parties who were allegedly missing, Sheriff's investigators continued searching for the persons and vehicle throughout the next day, Feb. 29. The Region 8 office of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation was contacted and a Special Agent arrived to

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