

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Sunny	64 38
Fri: Sunny	70 47
Sat: Sunny	75 52
Sun: Sunny	82 53
Mon: Sunny	81 54
Tue: Sunny	80 55
Wed: Cloudy	75 50



Upstream Elevation Predicted 04/11/12	
Lake Chatuge	1921.42
Lake Nottely	1767.63
Blue Ridge	1671.98

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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. If you haven't noticed, we've got the Legal Advertisements online. Feel free to take a look.

FFA Fundraiser

On Friday and Saturday, April 13-14, 2012, the FFA will be having a yard sale and car wash at Towns County Schools to raise funds for the Georgia State Convention later this month. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Sabrina Garrett at (706) 435-8265.

Ronnie Dunn

The voice of Brooks and Dunn is coming to Anderson Music Hall on May 11th, at 7 p.m.

Ronnie Dunn, who has won more than 20 Broadcast Music Incorporated Awards, brings his solo act to Hiawassee. Tickets for the event cost \$47, including handling.

Dunn has twice won Country Songwriter of the Year, in 1996 and 2001. He has won 27 AMA awards for top Vocal Duo.

He and Kix Brooks formed Brooks and Dunn in 1990, a duo that lasted 20 years. Together, the duo has won more Country Music Awards and Academy of Country Music Awards than any act in the history of Country Music.

Tickets are on sale now. Call (706) 896-4191 for details.

Also, on April 20, Colt Ford comes to town to play The Hall. Tickets start at \$25.

Beloved retired Herald editor Vanzura dies

Served as newspaper's editor from 1995 through 2008; Publisher Kenneth West: 'he'll be missed'

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Towns County and its historic newspaper are mourning the loss today of long-time Towns County Herald Editor Carl Vanzura.

Vanzura died last week at St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta following an extended illness.

Memorial services for Vanzura will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Blairsville.

Vanzura spent 14 years at the helm of the Herald, following in the footsteps of former Editor, Jimmy Powell.

Vanzura was a racecar driver by trade, a natural businessman, and a newsman at heart.

"Carl leaves us with a

wealth of memories," said Towns County Herald Publisher Kenneth West. "Carl didn't have ink flowing through his veins, but he had the heart of a lion, with a passion for getting the news that mattered out to the residents of Towns County.

"We'll miss his passion for racing, his nose for news, and his zest for life," West said. "We've lost a friend until we meet again."

Tears flowed from the eyes of long-time Herald photographer Lowell Nicholson as soon as he was told of the news of Vanzura's passing.

"Carl was a good man and people loved him," Nicholson said. "He'll be missed by all of us."

Current Towns County Herald Editor Charles Duncan said he'll miss Vanzura, who came out of



Retired Herald Editor Carl Vanzura

retirement to fill in for him during a personal health crisis in 2009.

"Carl was nestled into

retirement when the phone rang that we needed help when I had my open-heart surgery at the Ronnie Green

Heart Center in Gainesville," Duncan said. "Carl didn't hesitate, he came in and filled the void like he had never left the editor's desk."

"After my recovery, Carl would come by on Thursday and we'd do lunch," Duncan said. "Those were cherished moments; I had been gone from the mountains for several years and Carl filled in the blanks for me about Towns County."

"I know Carl is looking down on me, Shawn (Henrikson) and Lowell right now and wondering if we're going to meet deadline," Duncan said. "Of course Carl knows, we've never missed one yet."

Copy Editor Shawn Henrikson said she'll always remember Vanzura's laugh

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More than 200 search for eggs

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

What do you get when you combine 3,000 Easter eggs, more than 200 children and a carload of prizes?

A guarantee of a whole lot of fun and excitement to be had at an Easter egg hunt.

On Saturday, hundreds of colorful eggs were plentiful at the 19th Annual Countywide Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by Towns County Parks and Recreation

See Randy Travis, page 12



On Saturday, the race was on at the 19 Countywide Easter Egg Hunt. More than 200 children participated. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

New Farmers Market opens in June

Special to Towns County Herald
tcherald@windstream.net

A young farmer program is on the way in Towns County and it also means opportunities for local residents.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, the University of Georgia Extension Office, the Extension Leadership System and Towns County Future Farm-

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Towns County's FFA program yields a high number of scholar students. Jeanne Bradley, right, is the 2012 STAR Student and she packs a pretty high grade point average over her four-year scholastic career. Photo/Charles Duncan

Isakson returns to YHC in May

Georgia's junior U.S. Senator to deliver commencement address

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, (R-Ga.), is coming back to Towns County on May 5th.

The junior senator from Georgia will deliver the commencement address at Young Harris College in the Recreation and Fitness Center on the YHC campus.

The nation's seventh most conservative U.S. Senator will deliver the address when ceremonies begin at 11 a.m. at the Recreation and Fitness Center.

Approximately 133



U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson

students are scheduled to participate in the graduation ceremony. Of those, 91 will graduate with a bachelor's degree in biology, business and public policy, communi-

cation studies, English, history, music, musical theatre, outdoor leadership or theatre.

Last August, Isakson, joined by senior U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, told students and local residents attending a forum at Young Harris College that America was up to 'the lick log.'

Translating the Appalachian slang into a modern day expression, the United States is up to its neck in debt.

Sen. Isakson said that things have to change and in a hurry.

"We're about to be

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TSPLOST debate heats up

Regional sales tax vote has Blairsville residents on edge

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Blairsville - Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax opponent Mike Sims of Blairsville spells out a haunting version of the TSPLOST if it is passed on July 31.

Counties like Towns, Rabun, Union, Dawson, Hart, Franklin and Stephens counties would be nothing more than donor counties, Sims said.

The counties that are designed to really benefit



Mike Sims

from the tax will be Hall, Forsyth, Lumpkin and White. The remaining nine counties will be donor counties to financially feed the projects in those four coun-

ties, Sims said.

The projection of the TSPLOST is for 6 percent sales tax growth every year for the 10 years following the passage of the tax.

"You and I both know that's not going to happen," Sims said, speaking to a crowd of 40 people at the Blairsville Civic Center last week. "It will take two years of collections before the first project begins. And, if their collection projections

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Kendall, Wilkinson, to speak to GOP

Also, 9th District Congressional candidate Hunter Bicknell

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall is the keynote speaker at the monthly meeting of the Towns County Republican Party on Thursday.

The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee.

Other guests include Senate District 51 State Rep. John Wilkinson, who will speak about the recent actions in the Georgia General Assembly, and Hunter Bicknell, who seeks the GOP nomination for the 9th Congressional District.

Commissioner Kendall is on a mission and he's calling for residents to shoot down a 1-cent proposed regional sales tax that could elevate local sales tax rates to 8 cents on the dollar in both counties.

The Transportation Special Option Sales Tax is a legitimate threat to Towns County,



Commissioner Bill Kendall



State Sen. John Wilkinson

Generations upon generations have attended the "the little White Church on the Lake," better known as

See GOP, page 12

April 17th TSPLOST meeting is canceled

Chamber, Homeowners remain impartial

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

A scheduled forum sponsored by the Towns County Homeowners Association to discuss the merits of the Transportation Special Option Local Sales Tax has been canceled.

Towns County Homeowners Association President Jack Miller made the announcement on Monday.

"The Towns County Homeowners Association (TCHA) regrets informing the public that we will not be having the T-SPLIST Forum on Tuesday, April 17th, at the Towns County Schools Auditorium," TCHA President Jack Miller said. "The forum was intended to give voters the opportunity to hear both sides of the issue of raising our local sales tax to 8 percent for the next 10 years for transportation in the state.

"The event was to be co-sponsored by the Towns County Chamber with speakers from Georgia Department of Transportation giving one viewpoint and Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall giving his viewpoint," Miller said.

"Last week, the Commissioner cancelled leaving



Candace Lee

the forum with only one viewpoint, which was not the intent of this public discussion," Miller said. "TCHA as an organization is not taking a stand one way or the other on this issue, although what our individual members decide is, of course, up to them."

"We do regret having to cancel the forum on this important subject which will come up for a vote on July 31st," Miller said. "We will be having our annual meeting on Friday, June 15, 2012 at the Senior Center to elect officers. More details will be

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

