

Towns County Herald

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Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Storms	81 61
Fri: Storms	79 60
Sat: T-Storms	79 60
Sun: T-Storms	81 61
Mon: T-Storms	82 61
Tue: Storms	83 61
Wed: T-Storms	83 61



Upstream Elevation Predicted 8/13/09	
Lake Chatuge	1923.70
Lake Nottely	1772.60
Blue Ridge	1683.40

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"Spirit" wear on sale

Towns County Varsity Cheerleaders are doing a fundraiser selling "New Spirit Wear for 2009-2010." All sizes from Toddlers -5XL are available. Spirit wear is available in Blue, White, Grey, and Black. Short Sleeves, \$10, Long Sleeves \$15, Sweatshirts \$20, and Hoodies \$25. Please contact the school (706) 896-4131 ext. 0, Joyce Moss, Sara Morrison, Sheli Capehart, or see a Varsity Cheerleader.

Clearance sale

The VFW Thrift Store is having a Buy One, Get One Free sale on clothes, shoes, and purses this month. Plus many more deals. The VFW Thrift Store is at the corner of Berrong and Lakeview in Hiawassee near the Towns County Library. Hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Free Food

The Towns County Food pantry will have a free food distribution for Towns County residents on Tuesday, Aug. 18 from 9 a.m. - noon. Those that are in need are encouraged to come. If you are unable to pick up your food, please call (706) 896-4783, prior to distribution day, so arrangements can be made to have your food delivered to you. All clients and inquiries are kept confidential.

Food Drive

The local postal service is having its first county-wide food drive to benefit the Towns County Food Pantry. On Friday, Aug. 14 and Saturday, Aug. 15, Postal workers will be collecting food to help feed those in need. Place donated items in or around your mail boxes for rural route carriers to pick up. Also, they can be dropped in donation boxes at both the Young Harris and Hiawassee Post offices. Help support USPA in their effort to help those in our county that have found themselves in difficult circumstances. To make monetary donations, mail check to Towns County Food Pantry, P.O. Box 42, Hiawassee, Ga. 30546.

Towns County man missing after crash

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

A Hiawassee man is missing and Towns County sheriff's detectives need your help.

James Gregory Lowery, 43, of Hiawassee is now listed as a missing person following a one-vehicle crash on Wednesday, Aug. 5 on Georgia 75, Towns County Chief Deputy Jeff Edge said.

Based on information recovered from the wreckage, deputies believe that Lowery, 43, of a Hiawassee address was the driver of the wrecked vehicle that left Georgia 75 and traveled approximately 100 feet down a steep embankment, Edge said.

"At approximately 10 p.m. on Wednesday evening, Aug. 5, a vehicle traveling northbound on

Highway 75 south of Hiawassee left the roadway and traveled approximately 100 feet down a steep embankment. Another motorist witnessed the accident and called 911," Edge said.

Following three days of searching, sheriff's authorities determined a missing person's report would be filed related to Lowery's disappearance, Edge said.

"As it became obvious that (Lowery) could not be found locally under current conditions, a missing person report was filed and placed on state and national computer records," Edge said. "Surrounding counties also were contacted to see if any other driver or vehicle had been reported missing."

The case became an active missing person case on Monday morning as the Towns County Sheriff's Office launched a nationwide

missing person case related to Lowery's disappearance.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton asks that anyone having any knowledge of Lowery's whereabouts to please contact the sheriff's office at (706) 896-4444.

James Gregory Lowery is described as a white male, with a medium build, blue eyes and brown hair with a crew cut and weighing between 190-210 pounds, Edge said.

"As more information becomes available, it will be made public," Edge said.

Towns County sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the accident scene shortly after the crash was reported on Wednesday, Aug. 5. When they arrived they quickly discovered that rescue workers had yet to locate the vehicle's driver

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Blairsville man charged with third-degree arson

By David Seckinger
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

A Blairsville man has been charged with third-degree arson following an Aug. 3 mobile home fire in Young Harris.

William Cory Carpenter, 32, of Blairsville, was arrested on Wednesday Aug. 5 and charged with third-degree arson. He was taken into custody without incident within 48 hours of the reported blaze, sheriff's reports show.

That's when deputies with the Towns County Sheriff's Office were dis-

patched just after 10 p.m. to a structure fire at a residence off Georgia 66 near Mulkey's Garage, with possible victims still inside, sheriff's reports show. The Towns County Fire Department was already on the scene when deputies arrived; the mobile home was fully engulfed with the roof partially collapsed.

Firefighters arrived moments before law enforcement to find an unoccupied single-wide mobile home fully engulfed in flames.

See Arson, page 3A

BRMEMC ties into City of Young Harris sewer system

By David Seckinger
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Members of the Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation got everything they wanted from the Young Harris City Council during their regular meeting on Aug. 4.

BRMEMC went to the council requesting two things for their new headquarters to be built just east of the city. First, they wanted permission to tie on the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority's water line. Second, they wanted to tie on the City of Young Harris' sewer line.

Councilperson David Sellers asked BRMEMC General Manager Joe

Satterfield why the electric company wouldn't consider using the city's water instead of the authority's. Sellers said it will cost the city to provide sewer to the site, but the city could make some money if they provided water too.

BRMEMC retired operations supervisor Mike Kelley answered that the construction site is 1500 feet past Timberline Road, where the city's nearest fire hydrant stands. Kelley said BRMEMC had been working with the late Mayor Dan Nichols on deciding whose water to use, and they ran tests to see who provided the best water pressure at

See BRMEMC, page 2A

North Mountain Dr. residents ask Hiawassee City Council for help

By David Seckinger
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

A group of neighbors met with the Hiawassee City Council on Tuesday, Aug. 4 to ask for help with a dangerous road and other hazards created by recent construction.

North Mountain Drive resident Marilyn Waye spoke for the group. Using photographs to illustrate her points, she showed council where ruts in the road had been created by metal tracks and placed where the sides of the road had caved in.

Waye claimed the electrical company had created a sink hole and threw



North Mountain Drive residents Eddie Zanetti, Monique Gauthier, Marilyn Waye, and Amy Black talked about road problems in their neighborhood with the Hiawassee City Council last week.

Photo/David Seckinger

asphalt on someone's personal property.

"This is an emotional situation for all of us up

there. We feel you (the city council) needs to know

See Council, page 2A

Towns students return to classrooms



First grader Cheyanne Shook sits at her mother Felisea's desk in the TCES office during the early hours on the first day of school last Thursday. Cheyanne admitted she was a little excited about school, but she didn't know what to expect. However, she already knew her teacher's name—Mrs. Wilson. "Felisea is not here right now," joked Cheyanne, who enjoyed sitting in the catbird seat while her mother was out helping students and parents prepare for the school year.

Photo/David Seckinger

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

Those big yellow school buses are back on the road as Towns County schools opened Thursday without a hitch. Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens said.

As of Monday, 1,143 students K-12 were enrolled at Towns County schools, Dr. Behrens said.

"It looks like we're starting off a little down in the high school, about the same at the middle school and about 20 less in kindergarten," Behrens said. "We have some indications that next year our numbers are going to go back up as we look at our Pre-K numbers. "This year's numbers are pretty much what we

expected," Dr. Behrens said. "We'll have kids coming in through the first part of September and our actual QBE count comes the first week in October.

"We expect our numbers will be up a little bit more," he said.

Dr. Behrens was excited to see all the students on Day One.

"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. I know they all have goals that they want to achieve."

Dr. Behrens met the first day of school with a bit of anxious anticipation.

"With all the improvements to the facilities, yes,

there was a bit of anticipation," he said. "Of course I can fall back on my hero Monroe Ledford. He and the maintenance staff got that school ready for the kids and did a heck of a job."

Roy Perren, principal of Towns County High School was excited to be back in the halls for another exciting school year.

"We're looking forward to getting the kids off to a real good start this year," Perren said. "It's exciting every time you get a new group of seniors. It's always something to watch them mature during their four years in high school. It's exciting to see them finally reach that point where they're getting ready to

See Schools, page 5A



Mike Kelley speaks to the Young Harris City Council while Mayor Andrea Gibby looks on.

Photo/David Seckinger

Young Harris woman charged with furniture theft

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

Towns County sheriff's detectives have charged a 54-year-old Young Harris woman with theft of approximately \$66,000 worth of stolen property, sheriff's reports show.

The arrest of Deborah Ann Larrimore followed an investigation of a June 13 burglary by sheriff's detectives Brian Wilson and Pat Williams. That investigation led the detectives to Clay County, NC and eventually, to arrest Larrimore, sheriff's reports show.

Wilson and Williams were investigating the theft of patio furniture reported

stolen from a Young Harris home on June 13. The investigation led the detectives to Clay County, NC, where they discovered six storage units were being used to store stolen property taken from the residence, Towns County sheriff's reports show.

Working with the Clay County Sheriff's Office, detectives Wilson and Williams obtained search warrants to examine the six stor-

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