

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, April 23, 2014

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Sunny	73 53
Fri: Rain	77 50
Sat: Sunny	79 49
Sun: Clouds	77 49
Mon: Storms	72 53
Tue: Rain	72 50
Wed: Rain	70 46



Upstream Elevation Predicted 04/23/14	
Lake Chatuge	1,923.81
Lake Nottely	1,772.31
Blue Ridge	1,683.24

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SPORTS

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The Mountain Home Show
Friday, April 25, 2014 9AM - 5PM
Saturday, April 26, 2014 9AM - 5PM
North Georgia Technical College
1/2 mile West of Stateville, GA on Hwy 215

Don't miss the Mountain Home Show!
Friday, April 25th
Saturday, April 26th
North Georgia Technical College

Towns Co. Food Pantry Fundraiser
see page 3A

TOWNS COUNTY FIRE CORPS

Annual Meeting
Monday, May 12th
See page 3A

Nationwide Prescription Take Back Day
Sat. April 26th
See page 5A

BASEBALL:
Tues. Apr. 22 vs. Lakeview 5 PM
Thurs. Apr. 24 @ Lakeview 4:30 PM

SOCCER:
Tues. Apr. 22 vs. Providence 5 PM

2014 Mayor's Prayer Breakfast May 1

Towns County Herald News Special

One of the ways a community becomes strong and a safe place to live is when its citizens pray together.

Residents of Towns County will do just that on Thursday morning, May 1.

The community will join hundreds of thousands of Americans all across the nation to celebrate the 63rd National Day of Prayer.

The venue is the splendid new Towns County Recreation and Conference Center just off Mining Gap Trail in Young Harris. The meeting time is 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

The event is the 2014 Mayors' Prayer Breakfast and the public is invited. Among the guests of honor are our mayors, county commissioner, first responders, our key educators, law enforcement folks, and others to whom we are indebted and on whom we want to ask God's blessing. You are invited also.

A national day of prayer



was called for by the first Continental Congress in 1775 and was first established by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863.

Nearly a century later, in 1952, Congress unanimously voted to establish a National Day of Prayer.

The day was made official when President Harry S.

Truman signed it into law.

In 1988, Congress and President Ronald Reagan amended the law to designate the first Thursday in May each year as National Day of Prayer.

Most National Day of Prayer efforts are focused on

See Prayer, Page 10A

Riley wins Towns County's first Firewise Award



Georgia Forestry Commission Ranger Tony Harkins and Frank Riley with the Firewise Leadership Award. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

It's not easy to catch Frank Riley off guard. He's usually pretty quick when it comes to being on top of things.

When he received an award at the Commissioner's meeting on Thursday, Riley said that he was "totally shocked."

Hopefully, it was a pleasant shock. The Firewise Leadership Award is the first of

its kind, and given to those who lead their community in the mission to become safer, less flammable, and more fire adaptive.

Eric Mosley, who presented the award, had nothing but kind things to say about Riley.

"I almost feel like I need to name it the Frank Riley award, because Frank has been a mentor to me, and someone who I have looked up to for

See Firewise, Page 10A

The rain can't scare the Easter Bunny



By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

The Easter Bunny visited Towns County on Saturday, looking suspiciously like Parks and Recreation Director Wes Hooper.

Towns County Parks and Recreation has put on the annual, countywide Easter Egg hunt for the past 25 years, "rain or shine," according to Hooper, who has worked at the Recreation Department for an admirable 37 years.

He, Alan Rogers, and volunteer Sheena Kendall put a lot of time into planning the

event. Unfortunately, the rain definitely turned up this year.

But what's a little rain to intrepid Easter adventurers?

About 100 children, from 4 to 9 years old, scoured the ball grounds in their hoods and rain jackets searching for treats.

Special large Easter baskets were awarded to children who found the special golden eggs, so the air of competition was thick.

It takes a lot to continue a tradition like the Easter Egg Hunt. The recreation department ordered a whopping 2,800 eggs. The prize baskets were purchased at the local Fred's

Store. "We try to boost the local economy a little bit, as well," said Hooper.

The countywide Easter Egg Hunt was originally sponsored by Towns County Bank and United Community Bank as well as the recreation department, but the banks dropped out early.

"They dropped their share in it, and I continued it," explained Wes.

Now, the Easter Egg Hunt benefits Towns County in general, but it especially the

See Easter, Page 10A

Sen. Wilkinson tours Towns County

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

District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson was a busy man on Friday.

The Toccoa Republican, who represents Towns County in Senate District 50, arrived early, broke bread with residents at Mary's Southern Grill, and then gave a talk about the 2014 General Assembly, his love of Towns County and how he loves libraries.

Sen. Wilkinson, who runs unopposed in the 2014 GOP Primary, and November General Election, has been a friend to the Towns County community. He's been a champion of libraries in Hiwassee and Young Harris, bringing home \$1.8 million in state money to aid in the renovations of those libraries.

"It takes 29 votes to pass anything in the Senate," Sen. Wilkinson told the Mountain Movers and Shakers at Mary's Southern Grill. "A lot of people worked really hard to get that



State Sen. John Wilkinson speaks to the Mountain Movers and Shakers in Young Harris, part of his Friday tour of Towns County. Photo/Charles Duncan

library funding.

"To me, a library is a very important part of a community," he said. "I know it's a very important part of this community. To bring home \$1.8 million over the last two years, it took a lot of people working together."

Afterward, Sen. Wilkin-

son and Mountain Movers and Shakers cofounder Sam Fullerton went to visit the Towns County Library construction project, which will add 4,000 square feet to the existing 3,800 square-foot library.

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Two Towns residents charged in Hall

Towns County Herald News Special

A Hiwassee man was arrested in Hall County on multiple charges stemming from an alleged auto theft, which occurred at a Young Harris dealership.

Bradley Jeremy Sutton, 34, of Hiwassee, was charged by Hall County authorities with aggravated assault, obstruction and theft by receiving in con-

nection with the stolen Towns County vehicle.

Tiffany McNabb, 28, of Towns County, also was charged in the incident.

A call from the local business was placed to 911 and a BOLO (Be On Lookout) was sent out to Law Enforcement. Based on information received from witnesses, Towns County Sheriff's Office deputies were also concerned for the safety of

one of the witnesses.

According to Hall County sheriff's reports, the vehicle was found in a Wal-Mart parking lot after it had been backed into another car, and the suspect or suspects allegedly fled on foot. Two people were later found and charged by Oakwood Police Department and the vehicle was impounded.

The incident is still under investigation.

Dehler says he didn't step down from Ethics Board

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

On March 4, Mark Dehler learned that he had resigned from the City of Young Harris' Board of Ethics.

It was news to him.

And it's news to the *Towns County Herald* that Dehler, a local attorney, has filed an ethics complaint against Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby stating that she misrepresented the truth in a regularly scheduled public meeting of the Young Harris City Council.

In an April 1 letter addressed to the Young Harris City Council from Dehler, obtained by the *Towns County Herald*, Dehler alleges that on March 4, minutes before the beginning of the regularly scheduled council meeting, Mayor Gibby handed him a letter dated Jan. 7 regarding his resignation from the city's Board of Ethics.

"I read the first couple of sentences, looked at her directly and told her I did not resign," Dehler writes. "She responded that she was trying to extend me a 'professional courtesy' and spare me the embarrassment of being fired."

"I told her that I did not think she had the authority to 'fire' me and again told her I did not resign," according to Dehler. "Not 10 minutes later, in response to a



Mark Dehler



Mayor Andrea Gibby

question from Councilman Stuart Miller, the Mayor announced that I had resigned. When I quietly corrected her, she replied: 'Do you really want to get into that

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Kendall signs two proclamations



Commissioner Kendall signs the Patriots Day and Confederate Memorial Day proclamations last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

At the monthly Towns County Commission meeting on Thursday, Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall declared himself "very impressed" with the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and their sister organization, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Ann Atkinson came to represent both organizations. Daughters of the Ameri-

can Revolution and United Daughters of the Confederacy both promote benevolence and patriotism, said Atkinson.

Both organizations have put in over 200,000 hours of work in the United States. Locally, the Daughters of the

See Proclamations, Page 10A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

