

# Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 81 Number 25

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

|             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| Thur: Sunny | 75 47 |
| Fri: Sunny  | 81 56 |
| Sat: Storms | 77 60 |
| Sun: Storms | 76 61 |
| Mon: Storms | 78 55 |
| Tue: Clouds | 73 53 |
| Wed: Sunny  | 73 54 |



|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Upstream Elevation Predicted 4/28/10 |         |
| Lake Chatuge                         | 1925.20 |
| Lake Nottely                         | 1771.80 |
| Blue Ridge                           | 1683.90 |

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4 sections, 58 Pages

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### Subscribe Now

For a limited time, the Towns County Herald will offer \$8 subscriptions for one year to new subscribers.

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

The newspaper is making a difference during hard times.

For more than two months, the newspaper has offered those currently unemployed, Senior Citizens and U.S. Military veterans \$5 subscriptions for 1 year. That's a savings of \$21 off the newstand price.

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

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

### Mountain Home Show

The annual Mountain Home Show kicks off this weekend at North Georgia Technical College. The show opens at 3 p.m. Friday and lasts until 6 p.m. The show is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. The 40-page Home Improvement Guide is included in this week's Herald.

### Food Pantry

A free food distribution is scheduled Tuesday, May 4th. The distribution will be at the Towns County Food Pantry from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. All in need of food are encouraged to attend. If you're unable to pick up food please call (706) 896-4783, prior to distribution day.

All clients and inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

### Chili Cookoff

Fire in the Mountains, the Chili Cookoff that supports the Towns County Fire Corps is scheduled for May 29 on the Downtown Square. This year's event features a silent auction, a 5K races and of course, the Cookoff. Chili cookers begin at 8 a.m.; opening ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. Prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100 will be awarded to the first, second and third place finishers.

## So long Gene, 'we appreciate you'

By Jessica Keaton  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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Sixteen years ago, Gene Sprayberry rattled a small crowd with his rendition of Hee Haw's Junior Samples.

Sixteen years later, the executive vice president of United Community Bank's Blairsville office is turning in his dancing shoes.

Sprayberry, a fixture at United Community Bank for 37 years retires on Friday.

Those who attended the 16th Annual Bankers' Hour on Saturday got an up close and personal look at a company's tearful farewell to a favorite son.

Anderson Music Hall "Rocked Around the Clock" on Saturday, as Bankers' Hour sponsored by United

See Bankers, page 3A



Gail Day salutes UCBI Executive Vice President Gene Sprayberry during the conclusion of Bankers' Hour on Saturday at Anderson Music Hall. Sprayberry retires Friday after 37 years with UCB.

## Langley, George likely GOP foes in DA's race

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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Jeff Langley and Raymond George are ready to run for Enotah Circuit District Attorney.

District Attorney Stan Gunter is not seeking reelection to the office; rather he's running for a seat on the Georgia Court of Appeals.

Langley, the circuit's Chief Assistant District Attorney for the past 12 years, is seeking that seat. George, an attorney in private practice in Lumpkin County, and a former law enforcement officer, is seeking the seat as well.

At press time, neither had qualified for the seat, according to the Georgia Secretary of State's Web site. However, make no bones about it, they're running.

Both have Web sites



Jeff Langley



Raymond George

promoting their campaigns.

Langley touts his 12 Years experience as a prosecutor in Towns, Union,

See DA Race, page 5A

## Collegiate bass tourney holds key to future tourism

ABAC wins Chatuge tourney

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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Raindrops couldn't stop 13 teams of collegiate bass anglers from competing in the First Lake Chatuge Collegiate Bass Tournament.

As the raindrops fell and the final largemouth bass was weighed, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College out of Tifton, emerged as the tourney's first champion. ABAC anglers Jake Holloway and Matthew O'Dillon combined for a total catch of 11.52 pounds.

"It was wet and cold, we got soaking wet," O'Dillon said, as he shivered from the cold rain and wind. "I think it may have helped us to think like a fish from being so wet."

However, Holloway and O'Dillon didn't win the Chatuge

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The winning team of O'Dillon/Holloway pose with friends and family. Rutherford and White share a moment after finishing second in the Lake Chatuge Collegiate Bass tourney. Photo/Charles Duncan

Pioneers lay groundwork

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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The pioneers of collegiate bass fishing see the sport growing into something much, much larger.

"One day, a young person will be able to attend college on a bass fishing scholarship," said Matthew O'Dillon, of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton. "Being a part of this is the experience of a lifetime."

"Ten years from now, it'll be way bigger than it is today," he said. "Right now, for the participants, it's all about the love of the sport. This is our first year. We just got the charter from our school to do this last year. We're a consistent Top 10 team. We're making our college look good and having fun

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## Allison has Democratic opposition

By Charles Duncan  
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State Rep. Stephen Allison, (R-Blairsville) has qualified to run for re-election for the Georgia House of Representatives District 8 seat. With qualifying ongoing through Friday, he's already guaranteed to have opposition in November.

Jack Lance Jr., 30, a Blairsville native and local attorney, will seek the Democratic Party nod to run against Allison in November. Qualifying ends at noon on Friday.

A political newcomer, Lance, seeks to unseat Allison, 39, the incumbent. Many in the local high school basketball circles will remember Lance, a premier

State Rep. Allison defeated incumbent Dis-



State Rep. Stephen Allison

player for the Union County Panthers. Lance led the Panthers to a record 24 wins his senior season in 1998.

Lance returned to his hometown to practice law in Blairsville.

Allison, a deputy whip in the state House, represents Towns, Union, Rabun, and White counties. He's completing his first term.

State Rep. Allison defeated incumbent Dis-



Jack Lance Jr.

trict 8 State Rep. Charles Jenkins in the 2008 General Election.

In his first year in office, Allison either sponsored or co-sponsored 24 legislative actions, including House Bill 667, which related to hospital acquisition and House Bill 782 which offered Towns County residents the right to cast ballots to increase their local home-stead exemption from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

## Bradley FFA's top speaker in Georgia

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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Towns County High School sophomore Jeannie Bradley was nervous on Saturday during the Future Farmers of America extemporaneous speaking contest held in Macon.

However, she retained her composure and in the end, she came back to Hiawassee as the school's first extemporaneous speaking contest winner in almost 30 years.

"It was nerve-wracking," Bradley said. "But it paid off; it was well worth the stress."

The soft-spoken Bradley said winning the competition was "exhilarating." "It's an honor," she said. "You know, to be top notch, to be up there. But again, it's nerve-wracking. I hope I can hang in there with everyone else."

Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren was beaming on Monday as he made the announcement of Bradley's achievement to the school.

"I can't tell you how proud we are of Jeannie Bradley," he said.

Bradley's advisor Sabrina Garrett said Bradley's state achievement was absolutely incredible.

"It's great," Garrett said. "It's been almost 30



Jeannie Bradley



Alecia Frizzell

years since we've had a winner at Towns County High School. It's simply incredible."

Bradley will represent Towns County and Georgia FFA later this year in October at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

Perren also announced that Alecia Frizzell had been named the school's Teacher of the Year.

Frizzell also was named STAR Teacher in February by STAR Student Thomas Black.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



## Butterworth has GOP opposition

By Charles Duncan  
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District 50 State Sen. Jim Butterworth has opposition in the July 20th Republican Primary.

Butterworth, 43, who represents Towns, Banks, Franklin, Habersham, Hart, Rabun and Stephens counties, and part of White County, qualified for a second term in the Georgia State Senate on Monday.

Qualifying on Monday to run against him is self-employed businessman Terry Rogers, 56, of Clarksville, also a member



State Sen. Jim Butterworth

of the Republican Party.

"It has been an honor to serve the people of the 50th Senate district and I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving," Sen. Butterworth said.

Sen. Butterworth spent his freshman term



Terry Rogers

moving Northeast Georgia forward by promoting policies that recruit new industries and create jobs in the area. He has partnered with parents, educators and local schools to provide world class

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