

# Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 82 Number 30

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Thur: Clouds | 92 63 |
| Fri: Clouds  | 93 65 |
| Sat: Clouds  | 91 65 |
| Sun: Rain    | 92 63 |
| Mon: Clouds  | 87 63 |
| Tue: Sunny   | 86 63 |
| Wed: Sunny   | 86 63 |



|                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Upstream Elevation Predicted 06/01/11 |         |
| Lake Chatuge                          | 1925.83 |
| Lake Nottely                          | 1778.01 |
| Blue Ridge                            | 1674.51 |

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## Chamber Chronicles

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## Yard Sale

The Towns County Food Pantry will be holding its 3rd Annual Yard Sale, June 3rd and June 4th. The sale is on tap from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 3rd and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 4th. Items to donate to the yard sale can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1294 Jack Dayton Circle. If you are unable to get the items to the Pantry, please call (706) 896-4783. Proceeds benefit the Pantry.



## Golf Cart

The Towns County Food Pantry needs a golf cart for Food Pantry volunteers to use on distribution days.

Please call Richard at the Pantry, (706) 896-4783.



## Community Meeting

The Harley Owners of Georgia Rally Community Meeting will be held on Monday, June 6th at the Anderson Music Hall, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Community merchants are encouraged to attend and participate. This is a great opportunity to ask questions for the upcoming HOG Rally in September.

The meeting will be in the Lobby of Anderson Music Hall, June 6th, at 5:30 p.m.



## Lady Indians

The Towns County Lady Indians' Basketball Program will hold their annual Car Wash and Cook Out on Saturday, at Towns County High School. Team members are pre-selling hotdog or hamburger plates now. Please see one of the girls to get yours! Everyone is welcome to also come by TCHS on June 4 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. to pick up a hamburger or hotdog plate (includes slaw, baked beans, and chips) for \$5 each or come by to get your car washed from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. for \$5.

# Perren: 'God be with you Class of 2011'

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

There's no better place to hand out the Zell Miller Scholarship than in the backyard of Towns County's native son.

After all, Miller, Georgia's former Governor and U.S. Senator, started the HOPE Scholarship that has helped make a difference in the lives of countless Georgians over the past 18 years.

Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren handed out two Zell Miller Scholarships to very deserving TCHS grads during Commencement Exercises on Friday evening at the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium.

Camille Guss, the school's historian, and Nora Sutton, the school's STAR Student, each received Zell Miller Scholarships.

To qualify for the

scholarship award, the students must graduate with a minimum 3.7 grade point average and a minimum combined score of 1,200 on the math and critical writing portions of the SAT.

"While I want to make it clear that the Georgia Student Finance Commission has the final say on who will receive this scholarship, and you have to go to a post-secondary school in Georgia to actually receive this scholarship, it is clear that we have two students who qualify," Perren said. "It is my pleasure to recognize the first recipients of the Zell Miller Scholarship from Towns County High School, Camille Guss, and Nora Sutton."

It was an emotional night for Perren, as he said good-bye to another out-

See Graduation, page 3



Towns County High School's Class of 2011 gets a rousing send off from family, friends and TCHS Principal Roy Perren Friday evening at Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium. Photo/James Reese

# Gwizdak: 'God Bless America'

Towns County remembers those who paid 'the ultimate sacrifice'

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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John Gwizdak was proud of the crowd at Veterans Memorial Park on Monday morning.

He was proud they weren't out cooking hotdogs, shopping at a mall, or poised on the living room couch watching television.

Gwizdak was honored that they came to the place where Towns County annually honors its service men and women, and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

"I thank you personally," Gwizdak said. "I thank you for taking time out of your day today to take a moment to celebrate freedom and sacrifice."

Gwizdak said he was proud of Towns County residents for being there on Monday.

See Sacrifice, page 3



A young scout points to a name on Veterans' Wall and North Georgia Honor Guard provides the Gun Salute on Monday. Photos/James Reese and Lowell Nicholson

# The Ridges celebrates veterans

By James Reese  
Towns County Herald  
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A crowd of Patriots came to The Ridges Resort & Marina Sunday evening to celebrate the memories of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Food, music and fireworks brought out a crowd as Memorial Day Weekend was celebrated as The Ridges paid tribute to veterans.

"We had an outstanding crowd," said Chad Hooper, The Ridges' general manager. "The boat crowds were large, a lot of people on the property here and they all seemed to enjoy this."

See Fireworks, page 7



Event goers stared in awe as The Ridges Resort & Marina paid tribute to veterans on Memorial Day Weekend. Photo/James Reese

# BBQ, Birds of Prey highlight festival



This horned owl was just one of the many Winged Ambassadors at the Annual BBQ Festival at Brasstown Valley. Photo/James Reese

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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All roads led to The Stables at Brasstown Valley Resort on Memorial Day Weekend as the Fourth Annual Horsin' Around Barbeque Showdown drew a crowd on a gorgeous holiday weekend.

Thousands made their way to the Enchanted Valley to celebrate a weekend of beautiful weather and an annual BBQ festival at The Stables.

Event goers of all ages were in awe of the amazing Winged Ambassadors Birds of Prey exhibit, new

See BBQ Fest, page 7

# Raymond sentenced to 20 years; will serve 10

Towns County man pleads guilty to child molestation

By Charles Duncan  
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Stan Raymond will spend the next 10 years behind bars after pleading guilty last week to one count of child molestation in Towns County Superior Court.

Northeastern Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley said that Raymond agreed to plead guilty to improperly touching a minor child under the age of 16 with the intent of sexually arousing himself.

Raymond was under a 12-count indictment that included 10 counts of child molestation and two counts of aggravated child molestation. Aggravated child molestation means that Raymond is accused of causing physical injury during the alleged encounter with the child, Superior Court records show.



Stan Raymond

"I told him if he would plead guilty to one count, I would nolle prosequi the other counts," Langley said. "He did and that's why we're here today."

According to prosecutors, Raymond's history as a sexual predator with minor children dates back 35 years.

See Raymond, page 3

# Towns County man honored for lifetime achievement at GDOT

Special to Towns County Herald  
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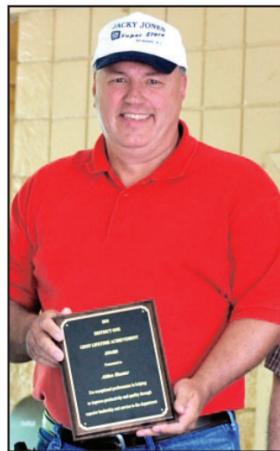
Alden Hunter worked his way through the ranks at the Georgia Department of Transportation.

He began his career with GDOT as a maintenance employee and has served in the Maintenance Division his entire career. He served in almost every position, from equipment operator to Highway Maintenance Foreman to Assistant Area Engineer for Maintenance.

Last December, Hunter became the Assistant District Maintenance Engineer. He and his staff are responsible for ensuring more than 2,500 miles of interstates and state routes remain safe and open for motorists to use.

Recently, GDOT District Engineer, Todd McDuffie announced that Hunter was honored at this year's District Employee Appreciation Day with the Inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding customer service and excellence in his daily job duties over an entire career.

This first annual Lifetime Achievement Award is at the sole discretion of the District Engineer. The criteria is not exceptional work on one project or even over the course of an entire year.



Alden Hunter

This award seeks an exceptional career with GDOT — an employee who daily works toward a safe, seamless and environmentally sensitive transportation infrastructure for Georgia.

"Alden is an outstanding employee," McDuffie said. "He knows our interstates and state routes like the back of his hand. That knowledge combined with his strong work ethic and commitment to keeping our roads safe and open for motorists make Alden a

See Hunter, page 3

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

