

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Snow	40 14
Fri: Snow	27 9
Sat: Snow	27 12
Sun: Sunny	33 16
Mon: Cloudy	42 26
Tue: Snow	44 27
Wed: Snow	44 28



Upstream Elevation Predicted 1/6/10	
Lake Chatuge	1918.30
Lake Nottely	1761.50
Blue Ridge	1667.80

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The Towns County Herald wants to make a difference during hard times.

For those currently unemployed, Senior Citizens and U.S. Military veterans, the Herald offers \$5 subscriptions for 1 year. That's a savings of \$21 off the newsstand price.

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

Simply bring proof of unemployment status; a simple Photo ID will suffice for Senior Citizens.

Veterans must provide proof of U.S. Military service.

The Herald also offers \$10 subscriptions for new subscribers from Towns and Union counties in Georgia and Clay County, NC.

At the end of one year, those subscribers can renew at a rate of \$15.

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



Food Distribution

The monthly mobile food distribution for families in need will be held at North Mt. Zion Church of God on Friday, Jan. 8th from 10 a.m. to noon. This outdoor food distribution will be held in the rear parking lot of North Mt. Zion Church of God on Scataway, rain or shine. We look forward to seeing you there.



Cruise-in meeting

The Towns County Tourism Association is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruise-In Car show Aug. 12-14 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. The event was a tremendous success last year bringing more than 5,000 visitors to the community. A community meeting will be held at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Thursday, Jan. 7th at 6 p.m. in the Anderson Music Hall. Promoter Rakes Parish will discuss community involvement for the 2010 show. Call (706) 896-4966 for more details.

Resorts rock in the New Year

By Matthew Jarrard
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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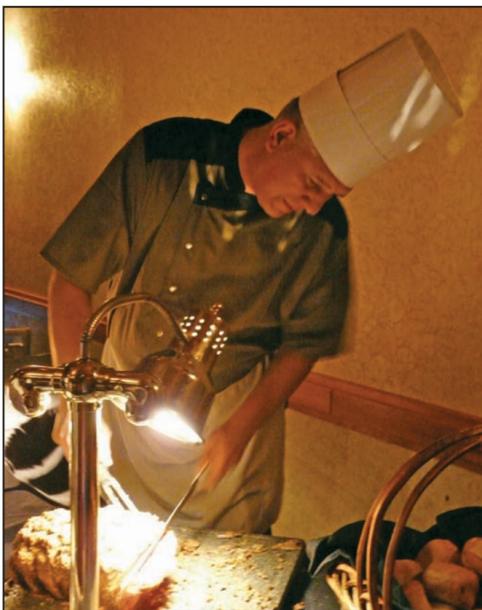
The Ridges Resort rang in 2010 with the perfect combination of class and unrestrained enchantment. The lights were dimmed just enough to still see the hopeful glow of what the New Year might bring.

For a countless many, the year was financially merciless, not to mention other natural life adversities. Yet the crowd was not going to let the hardships of 2009 get the best of them.

Frank and Bridget Rodriguez were visiting The Ridges Resort for the first time over the weekend and loved every celebratory minute of it.

"It's our 30th anniversary and we knew we wanted to be some where special," said Frank, a retired New Orleans police officer.

"Every year we go to a different site. This year my father suggested we come up here," said Bridget, an English teacher at Flowery Branch High School.



Banquet Chef Daniel Harvey carves up some New Year's prime rib at The Ridges Resort gala event. Photo/Jessica Keaton

"He said these are good people who know how to have fun and I'll tell you something, he was right on the money."

Rick Davenport and

the Sundown Band were, in more ways than one, an instrumental part of the New Year as they performed

See New Year, page 2

Shoney's closes; new restaurant on the way

By Charles Duncan
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The restaurant with the \$10 million view, Shoney's of Hiawassee, is no more as its owners prepare a new local food concept designed to have a more regional, appetizing and aesthetic appeal to customers.

It's all part of the changes that include a \$250,000 facelift at Hiawassee's Ramada Inn at Lake Chatuge Lodge, Chatuge Resorts Inc. announced on Monday.

"To be honest, Shoney's has become a tired brand," owner Jimmy Allen said. "We've got a plan to freshen things up and bring in a new restaurant concept that the people of Towns County deserve and can be proud of when they visit us."

Careful not to tip his hand, Allen said that the next eating experience overlooking the pristine view of Lake Chatuge would be immaculate.

"The restaurant that we put there must be held to the highest level of standards," Allen said. "We've

got a plan; it's time to freshen things up. We're retooling at the Lodge and retooling at the restaurant. We're getting ready for the next phase."

The existing restaurant will be closed for the interim as the Shoney's brand is removed, the building renovated and the new food concept brought to fruition, Allen said.

"We want to bring in something fresh and new," Allen said. "There are several different ways we can go. We've explored the franchise concepts. We're exploring our options."

"Whatever we decide, we want to deliver the best restaurant experience," he said. "We want the best for Towns County, the best for its people and the best eating experience in the region."

During the restaurant's See Shoney's, page 2

Steadfast during hard times

By Charles Duncan
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Lassie's Diner at the Towns County, Clay County, NC line on Georgia 66 was quiet on New Year's Day.

Other than the television sounds of Auburn struggling to beat Northwestern 38-35 in the Outback Bowl, the only noise to be heard was Lassie cheering on the Wildcats.

You see, Lassie Bauser loves football; she loves the underdog and in a way, she is the underdog.

The doors to Lassie's Diner opened in July in the midst of one of the greatest economic depressions this country has ever known.

She longs to open a hot bar and breakfast bar, but cold weather and unusually wet weather have kept her loyal construction customers out of work and out of the restaurant.

Most would have already raised the white flag of financial surrender. Not Lassie Bauser. In her own words, "I'm just too stubborn."

"I really believe that 2010 will be a real good



Lassie Bauser and her granddaughter Kyra Mata stand beside the sign that is the signature of Lassie's Diner-Service. Photo/Charles Duncan

year," she said. "I believe in serving good food with good service. Nothing on our menu is frozen; it's all fresh and prepared with each order."

"It's not fast food, but it's good food and it's fresh," she said. "That means a lot to folks."

Lassie was born in the North Georgia Mountains and later moved to Indiana. She married, raised a family and moved back home four years ago. Her daughter and granddaughter help her in the restaurant.

Lassie's worked in restaurants all of her adult life.

She's managed at Burger King and knows what the average Joe wants to eat as soon as they come in the door.

She won't serve food that sits under a heating light all day. She believes in cook to the order and the customer's tastes.

"We've got regulars that come in all the time, but we're also looking to attract new customers," she said. "I believe in folks leaving with a full stomach and a smile on their face."

On New Year's Day, See Lassie, page 2

Fla. couple rescues puppies from cold

By Charles Duncan
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Thanks to Hiawassee Police Officer James Harkins and a Sarasota, Fla. couple, seven young boxer-mix puppies are in the warm environment of the Mountain Shelter.

The couple found the puppies wandering in the middle of U.S. 76 on New Year's evening and couldn't just leave them in the bitter cold.

Suzanne McBrayer and Jay Jeffreys gathered up the puppies and put them in their truck.

As they drove through Downtown Hiawassee, they encountered Officer Harkins working his scheduled shift. Harkins quickly began making contacts for emergency shelter for the puppies as McBrayer and Jeffreys couldn't take the puppies home to Florida with them.

"We found the Humane Society Mountain Shelter in Blairsville," McBrayer said. "They usually have a waiting list and charge \$25 per pup due to

See Pups, page 4



A Sarasota, Fla. couple saved these seven puppies from the bitter cold on New Year's Day. The pups had been abandoned on Highway 76.

Temptations jump start 2010

By Matthew Jarrard
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Music fans packed Anderson Music Hall on Saturday where they gave into some of their very first, and best, Temptations of the New Year. The Grammy Award-winning Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees The Temptations brought enough energy to the Hall to warm up a small town, and they did so just as smoothly as they ever have in their 50-year career.

They started off, or rather turned on, the evening with ease as they performed the 1971 smooth melody *Just My Imagination*. And ready they were as the crowd dished out just as much energy as The Temptations emitted.

Gaining harmonious momentum by the second, the group of five, with Otis Williams, the only original group member remaining, continued on with the 1966 heartstring tugging, all too relatable relationship ballad *Ain't Too Proud To Beg*. The single ruled the Billboard R&B charts at No. 1 for two



The legendary Temptations packed Anderson Music Hall on Jan. 2, bringing that Hall-of-Fame R&B sound to Hiawassee. The group sang their countless list of hits from five decades in the music business. Photo/Matthew Jarrard

consecutive months in 1966. Judging by the crowd's reaction Saturday night, it remains to be the most powerful lovesick yet engaging song that the music world has ever heard, since its original debut.

The Temptations donned one of many signature styles as their orange and purple almost zoot suit-like apparel added flash and highlights, especially during their more serious, hard-edged and Blues inspired tune *Papa Was A Rollin' Stone*,

which won the group three Grammy Awards in 1973. But the suits were merely an afterthought compared to their stage presence, dancing as light on their toes as if Otis Williams and Company were in the heart of Motown again.

Next they sang just the perfect song for the New Year, their 1966 hit *Get Ready*, an inspirational and uplifting Motown song origi-

See Temptations, page 2

No mercy; bitter cold will continue

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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If you think it was cold over the weekend, brace yourself, it's going to get colder.

Riding the wave of an Arctic Blast that has swept across the eastern United States, bitter cold continues its relentless grip on Towns County as the region remains stuck in a deep freeze.

Snow flurries fell overnight on Monday; more snow is expected on Thursday and Friday.

The National Weather Service has forecast a 40 percent chance of snow showers on Thursday; a 20 percent chance exists for Friday. With the ground frozen following continued freezing temperatures, the opportunity for significant accumulation exists.

Temperatures in the teens gripped the community over much of the weekend. Wind chill factors made Sunday night's 19 degrees feel like 9 degrees. By Monday

morning, the mercury actually had dipped to 7 degrees.

If that wasn't enough, the weather service continues to warn about snow showers expected on Thursday night and throughout the day on Friday.

The mercury is expected to dip as low as 19 degrees Thursday night with single-digit wind chill factors; 10 degrees on Friday night with single-digit wind chill factors and 8 degrees by Saturday morning with the wind chill factor expected to reach below zero.

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday should feel like a heat wave with overnight temperatures ranging from 20 degrees on Sunday to 29 degrees by Tuesday.

Until then, it's going to be bitter cold, according to the National Weather Service.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

