

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

www.townscountyherald.net

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

Publication Number 635540 Volume 82 Number 10

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur:	Snow	29	9
Fri:	Sunshine	32	16
Sat:	Sunshine	37	23
Sun:	Clouds	42	28
Mon:	Rain	48	30
Tue:	Snow	46	26
Wed:	Snow	43	22



Upstream Elevation Predicted 01/12/11	
Lake Chatuge	1918.66
Lake Nottely	1762.62
Blue Ridge	1624.50

INDEX

14 Pages

Arrests.....	2
Church/Obits.....	6,7
Classifieds.....	9
Editorial.....	4
Calendar.....	4
Legals.....	9
Sports.....	12,13
Television.....	8

Sports Page 12

Don Williams Update

Don Williams will return to Hiawassee on March 26 for a 7 p.m. performance, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thompson said on Monday.

Due to health reasons, Williams had to cancel his October show last year. However, he promised to reschedule Hiawassee and he has, Thomason said.

Tickets go on sale Feb. 4. Prices are \$35 plus \$2 handling for Level I seating and \$25 plus \$2 handling for Level II seating.

The Charlie Daniels Concert slated for March 19 will be rescheduled.

Public Hearing Jan. 13

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall has scheduled a called county meeting for 11 a.m. Thursday on Jan. 13 to discuss an intergovernmental agreement with the cities of Hiawassee and Young Harris related to a proposed SPLOST election in March.

The Commissioner has proposed a March 15 ballot to approve a 1 cent sales tax to pay for capitol improvement projects that otherwise would come out of the taxpayer equation.

The lead items on the proposed referendum include development of 51 acres of park land.

Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will hold its free food distribution on Tuesday, Jan. 18 if Towns County Schools are open. The distribution will be held at the Towns County Food Pantry on Jack Dayton Circle from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. All that are in need of assistance are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to pick up your food, please call (706) 896-4783 for more details prior to distribution day. This allows us to make arrangements to deliver food to you. All clients and inquiries are kept confidential.

Winter storm packs a wallop in Towns County

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

It's cold, icy and snowy.

That about covers the state of Georgia, Towns County included.

Old Man Winter returned with a vengeance late Sunday and early Monday, showing no mercy whatsoever.

The trouble is he's sticking around for the rest of the week with snow and ice likely again on Thursday, according to the National Weather Service.

Northeast Georgia just can't catch a break.

Schools are closed, likely the rest of the week. Roads are frozen on many main and secondary roads and the likelihood of actually seeing salt on the roads is about slim and none.

Due to previous snow storms, Towns and Union counties are out of salt. Prior

to the weekend winter storm, the counties were expecting a new shipment in about a month. All that could change with the amount of salt used to keep Metro Atlanta moving.

All that Georgia Department of Transportation traffic during the storm in the mountains was just to push snow off the roadways, not to spread salt and sand. GDOT focused primarily on keeping the interstates and the roads in Metro Area clear.

Speaking of Atlanta, the images on the television Sunday night showed that the Metro Area looked like a winter wonderland. For a change, Atlanta television crews didn't have to come to the mountains to report on a winter storm. They had all they could handle.

See Winter Storm, page 5



Old Man Winter paid more than just a visit; it appears he's moved into Unicoi Gap. A winter storm moved into Northeast Georgia at midnight early Monday and stuck around. Photo/Sherri Behrens

Community sends wrestlers packing



Chad Hooper of The Ridges Resort, far left and Juanita Shope of Community Bank & Trust pose with Towns County's wrestling team before they head for Area 3 Duals in Atlanta. Local businesses helped the team get out of town a day early in anticipation of a winter storm. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By James Reese
Towns County Herald
tcherald@windstream.net

Three local businesses and two anonymous donors made sure that the Towns County Wrestling team made it to Area 3 Duals in Atlanta on Friday.

Community Bank & Trust, The Ridges Resort, the Towns County Herald and two anonymous donors raised the funds to allow the team to leave on Thursday and stay in an Atlanta hotel ahead of a predicted snow storm.

The team finished fifth

in the Area 3 Duals, knocking off state wrestling powerhouse Trion on the first day, before falling to Holy Innocents and Walker in close matchups on the second day of the tournament.

See Community, page 3

TCHS goes platinum

High School claims another Governor's award

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

Towns County High School has gone platinum.

Principal Roy Perren had to make room in the academic trophy case again last week as the school learned that it had received platinum honors from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement.

It was the second high honor since 2007. That's when the TCHS was awarded the Governor's Cup by Gov. Sonny Perdue for achieving the greatest single year gain in SAT scores.

"I'm proud for our students," Principal Perren said. "There are a lot of schools that have never done this and for us to have accomplished this feat twice in four years, that's quite an achievement."

Towns County High School was only one of 46 schools statewide to earn



Principal Roy Perren

the 2010 student achievement award. Also, it was one of only four traditional public high schools to earn platinum status statewide.

The 2010 honor is based on the success of the Class of 2011, Principal Perren said.

Perren received a letter last week from interim State School Superintendent Brad Bryant letting him know that the school had placed high in the Single

See Award, page 5

Medley ready to play The Hall

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

Bill Medley wonders what happened to Rock N' Roll.

Medley, inducted into the Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame in March 2003 alongside his Righteous Brother partner Bobby Hatfield, said the music is different today.

Today's Country Music has become yesterday's Pop, said Medley in an exclusive interview with the Towns County Herald.

"I don't know where the music has gone," Medley said. "Rock N' Roll is still around and there's still some good music out there. But, it's different today than when it got off the ground in the 1950s, that's for sure."

"If I was 22 again and



Bill Medley brings a surprise guest to Anderson Music Hall on Jan. 22 - his daughter McKenna Medley, a rising music star.

going into the business, I'd be country," he said. "Certainly, the Righteous Brothers would be country, even though we were very Rhythm and Blues. *Lovin' Feelin'*,

Unchained Melody and *(You're My) Soul and Inspiration* would be country today."

See Medley, page 3

Moss joins exclusive club

TCHS senior becomes 18th Lady Indian to score 1,000 points in a career

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
tcherald@windstream.net

The Moss surname has become synonymous with sports excellence in Towns County over the last 50 years so it surely comes as no surprise to long time followers of TCHS basketball that Lady Indian senior Jordan Moss has become the latest member of the 1,000 point club. She began her basketball career at the Towns County Recreation Department in the third grade and,



Jordan Moss (24) takes a seat after scoring her 1,000th career point against Hebron Christian on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

See Moss, page 14

Winter causes problems again for school system

Behrens must revamp the 2010-2011 calendar again

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

Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens is headed back to the drawing board.

A winter storm closed schools on Monday and Tuesday it didn't look good for Wednesday for that matter. That means more make up days for Towns County Schools.

If winter has more frozen precipitation days in store for 2011, it could be a very long school year.

Consider this: the school system missed four days prior to Christmas Break due to snow and ice on secondary roads. The Towns County Board of Education approved making up those days, after making up a missed meeting due to the frozen precipitation.

Students have already made up one of those days, coming back a day early from Christmas Break.

The BOE approved an amended 2010-11 school calendar to include school dates of Jan. 3, Jan. 17, Feb. 21 and March 14 as days school is in session. They also extended the school's first semester through Tuesday.

The first day of the second school semester was scheduled to begin Wednesday.

The bone-chilling inclement weather leaves Dr.



Dr. Richard Behrens

Behrens scratching his head.

"I'm sure the students are very excited," he said. "Depending on how this weather works out, we could be out all week. It's not looking good. I'm praying that we can get back in the classrooms, but unfortunately, I've got 1,200 students praying against me."

The Towns County Board of Education also must schedule a makeup date as Monday night's meeting also was canceled due to inclement weather.

"It almost feels like we're digging ourselves a hole," Dr. Behrens said.

Getting back in the classrooms anytime soon

See Schools, page 2

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

