

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy 60 47
 Fri: Showers 56 34
 Sat: Cloudy 54 28
 Sun: Sunny 45 26
 Mon: Sunny 50 32
 Tue: Showers 54 36
 Wed: Cloudy 55 41



Upstream Elevation Predicted 01/25/12
 Lake Chatuge 1918.53
 Lake Nottely 1763.09
 Blue Ridge 1671.86

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Friends

Moshetto's Restaurant of Young Harris will host a fundraiser for Friends of the Libraries of Towns County on Jan. 26-28 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. A portion of the meal ticket will be donated to Friends of the Libraries. For more details about the event, see **Page 3A** in today's edition.

Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Distribution is scheduled for Tuesday Jan. 31 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. All that are in need of food assistance are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to pick up your food, please contact The Pantry at (706) 896-4783 prior to distribution day. All clients and inquiries are kept confidential.

PTSO Meet

Parents of children all ages, as well as teens are invited to meet licensed professional counselor, Linda M. Silva of Family and Play Therapy at Towns County High School Cafeteria on Thursday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. Her topic will be *Your Child's Role Model*. A Q & A session will follow the presentation. Childcare and refreshments will be provided. The meeting is sponsored by Towns County Parent, Teacher, Student Organization. See **Page 3A** for more details.

Condolences

To the family of Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton. The sheriff lost his beloved grandmother Simone Elise Charlotte Brun Nicholson, who passed away on Saturday, Jan. 21. Banister Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements. Please join the Towns County Herald in extending prayers for the family of Sheriff Clinton.

Installation of hydrants ahead of pace

County workers have installed 90 of the 150 fire hydrants approved by voters last year

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

It all started with voters going to the polls last March.

Less than a year later, the voter-approved Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax will pay for approximately 150 new fire hydrants which will greatly reduce the county's ISO rating to a Class 5 in many areas, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said.

The installation of those hydrants is well ahead of pace. To date, 90 of the 150 fire hydrants approved by voters have been installed, said Marty Roberts, Towns' 911 Mapping Director, who is helping to oversee the project along with Fire Chief Mitch Floyd.

The first hydrant was installed on July 7th. To date, 90 fire hydrants have been installed. That's mov-

ing pretty fast, said Roberts. "If we'd had pretty weather, we could have installed a lot more," Roberts said.

Roberts said that the county has no timeline to finish the project due to weather concerns.

"Overall, we'd like to have them installed by spring," Roberts said.

Close proximity to a fire hydrant saved a condominium in Hawks Harbor on Sunday.

"If it hadn't been as close to a hydrant as it was, it would have been gone," Roberts said. "It was a windblown fire that was extremely dangerous and difficult to extinguish. Good work by firefighters and I'm glad they had plenty of water to work with."

The county has 28 more hydrants to install be-

See **Fire Hydrants**, page 12A



County workers are installing fire hydrants at a record pace. Only the weather is keeping these important infrastructure pieces from being installed any faster. Photo/Marty Roberts

Senior Center going up fast

Only the weather could be a setback for newest county facility

By Charles Duncan
 Towns County Herald
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A Chad Winkler promise is as good as gold.

Winkler & Winkler Construction out of Blairsville broke ground on the new Towns County Senior Center in early November. At the time, Winkler said that weather-permitting, the project would be completed in 180 days.

Even with all the wet weather the region is experiencing, Winkler & Winkler Construction is well on its way to completing the 5,800 square foot Senior Center on time.

With the front entrance and back porch included, the facility will be around 7,000 square feet.

And Winkler promises that there isn't another Senior Center around that will have the back porch view that the Towns County Senior Center will have. It

See **Senior Center**, page 12A



From pouring the foundation to drying in the building, the new Senior Center is on pace to meet the 180 days or so construction deal with the county. Photos/Marty Roberts

Sheriff: 'No word yet' on ID

Visit townscountyherald.net for updates throughout the week

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County sheriff's authorities continue to await word from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Crime Laboratory as to the identity of human remains found in southern Towns County on Jan. 15th Sheriff Chris Clinton said.

Sheriff Clinton said that his department had yet to receive word regarding the identity of the human remains discovered near the Appalachian Trail.

"We're still awaiting word from the GBI and the state crime lab," Sheriff Clinton said. "We don't have anything new to share at this time. We hope to have something later in the week."

On Sunday, Jan. 15, small game hunters discovered what they believed to be human remains on U.S. Forest Service land near the Appalachian Trail. They made contact with the Towns County Sheriff's Office about their discovery. Towns County Sheriff's Lt.



Sheriff Chris Clinton

Brian Wilson and Deputy Doug Lloyd and a DNR ranger were the first authorities to arrive at the scene. The officers determined that the find was indeed human remains.

A call to Sheriff Clinton prompted a call from the sheriff to the GBI to assist in the investigation.

Towns County Deputies and DNR rangers secured the scene and were joined by U.S. Forest Service law enforcement and GBI as they began a search

See **Human Remains**, page 12A

Qualifying fees for 2012 set

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall had one order of business at the county's regularly scheduled meeting last week in the Towns County Courthouse.

Commissioner Kendall set the qualifying fees for the eight local races scheduled for 2012 elections.

Qualifying fees are based on 3 percent of the salaries for each office, Commissioner Kendall said.

Qualifying for the offices begin at 9 a.m. on May 23rd and will end at noon on



Commissioner Bill Kendall

May 25th, Election Superintendent Jonni Marie Shook said.

The General Primary will be held on July 31st and the General Election will be held on Nov. 6th, Shook said.

The qualifying fees are as follows:

- Commissioner: \$1,407.54;
- Probate Judge/Magistrate: \$1,578.31;
- Tax Commissioner: \$1,229.04;
- Clerk of Court: \$1,229.04;
- Sheriff: \$1,407.54;
- Coroner: \$36.54;
- Board of Education, Post 4: \$36;
- Board of Education, Post 5: \$36;

Commissioner Kendall is the incumbent County Commissioner; David Rogers is the incumbent Probate Judge/Magistrate; Bruce Rogers is the incumbent Tax Commis-

See **Qualifying**, page 12A

Grand Jury Indictments

Towns Grand Jurors hand up 11 true bills

Towns County Clerk of Court Cecil Dye has released the following indictments by Towns County Grand Jurors:

· Chandler Bryan Adams: Manufacture/deliver/distribute/administer/sell/possess with intent to distribute controlled substance; unlawful for person to purchase, possess, or have under his control any controlled substance;

· Nicholas Randell Neace: Manufacture/deliver/distribute/administer/sell/possess with intent to distribute controlled substance; purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution, or sale of marijuana; unlawful for person to purchase, possess, or have under his control any controlled substance; unlawful for person to purchase, possess, or have under his control any controlled substance;

· Patty Diane Neace: Manufacture/deliver/distribute/administer/sell/possess with intent to distribute controlled substance; unlawful for person to purchase, possess, or have under his control any controlled substance;

· Lori Dawn Palmer Lovingood: Manufacture/deliver/distribute/administer/sell/possess with intent to distribute controlled substance; Manufacture/de-

liver/distribute/administer/sell/possess with intent to distribute controlled substance; Manufacture/deliver/distribute/administer/sell/possess with intent to distribute controlled substance; unlawful for person to purchase, possess, or have under his control any controlled substance;

· Charles Kenneth Gray Sr.: Felony attempt or conspiracy to violate Georgia's Controlled Substance Act;

· Erik Steven Underwood: Aggravated stalking; battery; cruelty to children – allow to witness felony/battery/Family Violence – third degree;

· Kendrick Lamar Hillsman: Terroristic threats and acts; battery – Family Violence (first offense) misdemeanor; simple battery – Family Violence;

· Alisha Marie Williams: False statements or writings; conceal facts or fraudulent documents in matters of government;

See **Indictments**, page 12A

TCHS robotics team advances to state

By Charles Duncan
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The legend of robotics and Towns County Schools continues.

Three of the Towns County Middle School students who placed third in the state last year in the FIRST LEGO League Robotics Tournament and first nationally in Core Values Inspiration in San Diego, CA, now suit up for another first year team.

Towns County High School's 21st Century See **Robotics**, page 12A



PIE team members Jasmine Forrester, Sara Scott, Zyndel Payne, Gabe Gilliland, Mia Manto. Michael Austin (not pictured).

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



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