

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy	42 27
Fri: Wintry Mix	44 32
Sat: Showers	45 26
Sun: Sunny	50 29
Mon: Clouds	52 33
Tue: Rain	47 23
Wed: Sunny	40 18



Upstream Elevation Predicted 02/02/11	
Lake Chatuge	1918.30
Lake Nottely	1761.98
Blue Ridge	1623.09

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Chamber Chronicles

Makeup Days

Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens will meet with faculty members before making a recommendation regarding snow makeup days.

Dr. Behrens said that the system has days it can use to make up for the inclement weather that has forced an additional six days to make up on the school system calendar.

In total, the school system has missed 10 days this school year due to snow and icy weather conditions. A decision on what days will be used to make up for the lost calendar days could come as early as Feb. 14, Dr. Behrens said.

"There are a lot of factors that will go into the selection of the days we use to make up for the missed inclement weather days," Dr. Behrens said. "We'll be seeking faculty input."

Extending the school year isn't in the thought process at the moment, Dr. Behrens said.

Furlough Days

Due to budget cuts, the Towns County Health Department staff is furloughed two days a month. The furlough dates for February are Friday, Feb. 4 and Friday, Feb. 18.

Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will hold its free food distribution on Tuesday, Feb. 8 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.

Seventh-ranked Lady Indians soar to 20-win plateau

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
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The Towns County Lady Indians basketball team reached the 20-win plateau Saturday night with a hard fought and rewarding win over the Class A ninth-ranked Holy Innocents Lady Golden Bears.

The team's 20-1 record is believed to be the best start ever in school history. The win on Saturday extends the Lady Indians' winning streak to 9 in a row. They began the season with an 11-game winning streak. That streak was halted during the 17th Annual Battle of the States Christmas Tournament. The Lady Indians lost to Gordon Lee in the tournament title game.

The win on Saturday capped a week which saw the Lady Indians capture three victories.

The Lady Indians ex-

tended their magic season with a home victory over Prince Avenue and road wins at Social Circle and Holy Innocents.

The Golden Bears entered the game with a 16-4 record, including 4-0 against Class AAA schools and ranked ninth in the state in the Georgia Prep Country Coaches Poll.

The Lady Indians were ranked seventh in the most recent Coaches Poll and in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution rankings, with Holy Innocents currently unranked in the AJC poll.

The Lady Indians have a perfect 9-0 record within Region 8-A with three games yet to play. The first two wins of the week came without much drama but the Saturday game came after a stiff challenge in Atlanta

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Jordan Moss led the way on Saturday against Holy Innocents in Atlanta. Photo/James Reese

Robotics team is state's third best

By James Reese
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Towns County Middle School's Kick 'N' Bots took part in the state's FIRST LEGO League Robotics Tournament with impressive final results.

The tournament, held at the Georgia Tech Student Center, included 50 teams and 480 students.

The Kick 'N' Bots rallied from 26th place after the first round to claim third place in the state tournament.

"I'm blown away at how well they've performed down here in this atmosphere with the competition their up against," said TCMS Principal Darren Berrong. "This thing was broadcast live on the Web and their down here."

"I think they've performed better than they've performed in any other tournaments so far," he said. "We're extremely proud of



Mia Manto and Michael Austin demonstrate the TCMS robotics project in Atlanta on Saturday. Photo/James Reese

them. We're winners just getting down here."

The robotics team scored 120 to rank 26th in the first round of the tournament. In the second round they scored 255 to jump to 5th place. In the final round, their 155 points was well enough to bring home a statewide third place trophy.

"These eighth graders won't be able to be on the team next year," Berrong

said. "They've learned that the Robotics was their weak point and they've come in here today and almost doubled their highest score on that."

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an organization that was founded to inspire interest in science and engineering

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Hardware burglaries top priority for Chief

By Charles Duncan
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Hiawassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright is aggressively pursuing leads in two recent burglaries at Hiawassee Hardware.

The first burglary in the morning hours of Jan. 4th was described by Chief Wright as "a smash and grab" where glass was broken to enter the store.

During that burglary, power equipment and a glass case of knives were taken, Chief Wright said.

The second burglary was more complex. Apparently, a thief, or thieves, spent the night in the store and broke out of the hardware, taking copper wire and power tools.

Chief Wright declined comment on whether one or more thieves were involved



Chief Jimmy Wright

in the capers.

"That's all part of the investigations," he said. "These cases are open investigations and we won't release too much information to the public at this time for obvious reasons."

"I can tell you that we did recover some items from the first burglary," he said. "Some of the stolen items were found on a back street. It's believed the items were left there for someone to

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Early voting begins Feb. 21 for SPLOST

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County resident Deanna Ledford said the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax is a win-win for the county and its municipalities.

"This SPLOST will take the pressure off property tax payers by funding essential capital and infrastructural projects and equipment," she said. "I am excited to know my property tax will remain the same. More exciting news is any money collected during these six years not spent on listed projects will be used to roll back property taxes."

The process began this week with publication of the legal notice of the special called election in this week's



Commissioner Kendall signed the SPLOST resolution Jan. 13; early voters can cast ballots on Feb. 21. Photo/Charles Duncan

Towns County Herald.

On March 15, Towns County voters will head to the polls to cast ballots that will decide if a 1 cent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax will be extended for county capital outlay projects.

The last day to register to vote in the special election is Feb. 14, so while you're out picking up those last minute Valentines, stop in at 91 Berrong Street, better known as the Old Rock

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Butterworth a busy man at State Capitol

District 50 State Senator has his plate full

By Charles Duncan
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Atlanta – District 50 State Sen. Jim Butterworth began his second term in office with his plate full.

With the 152nd Legislative Session in full swing, Sen. Butterworth has officially started work as one of Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle's appointees to the Senate Committee on Assignments, which governs the Senate's day-to-day operations.

"Very quickly after arriving in the Senate in 2009, Senator Butterworth established himself as a hard working, knowledgeable leader," Lt. Gov. Cagle said. "His colleagues and I look to him for insight on issues from water to economic development and value his wise counsel and deliberate nature."

"A fierce advocate for his constituents and respected by his colleagues, Jim is somebody that the citizens of the 50th Senate District and all Georgians can count on to deliver for them," Lt. Gov. Cagle said. "I look forward to working closely with him during this upcoming session to ensure all of Georgia has access to a reliable water supply, to encourage a business friendly economic climate that allows the private sector to create jobs, and to balance our state's budget without rais-



State Sen. Jim Butterworth

ing taxes."

Butterworth, who represents Georgia's 50th Senate District made up of Towns, Rabun, Habersham, Stephens, Banks, Franklin and Hart counties along with a portion of White County, was also one of three senators appointed to serve as Governor Nathan Deal's Floor Leader.

"Using common sense, conservative principles when crafting legislation is essential, especially as Georgia's economic recovery begins to take hold," Sen. Butterworth said. Gov. Deal and I are committed to these ideals and to seeing our economy flourish. I look forward to working with him and his staff to put Georgia on a path to prosperity and

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