

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	60 31
Fri: Cloudy	55 31
Sat: Rain	51 29
Sun: Cloudy	50 26
Mon: Cloudy	54 32
Tue: Rain	58 41
Wed: Showers	59 35



Upstream Elevation Predicted 02/15/12	
Lake Chatuge	1917.27
Lake Nottely	1760.83
Blue Ridge	1669.83

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Log onto our Web site

Log onto Towns County Herald.net to keep up with breaking news that impacts Towns County. If schools are closed, major accidents happen, or any late breaking news occurs, you'll find it on Towns County Herald.net

Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Distribution is scheduled for Tuesday Feb. 21 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.

Johnson Update

Fort Pierce, Fla police officials have confirmed that a body found Jan. 17 is the missing son of a Hiawassee man. Scott Johnson, 56, of Harbortown Marina, was confirmed to be the recovered body last week. His father U.S.N. Chief Petty Officer Retired Bud Johnson said authorities had alerted him to the confirmation that his son is dead.

"During this whole ordeal, the police in Fort Pierce have been wonderful," Bud Johnson said. "I want to thank them for everything they've done for me."

Kindergarten

Registration will be held Feb. 27 through March 2. Items you will need to bring to register your child include immunization Certificate Form 3231, Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, and proof of residency (a water bill or electric bill).

Arencibia sets the state standard for treys

Hoops star breaks Ladies' state record for career 3-pointers against Commerce

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
tcherald@windstream.net

COMMERCE - On Feb. 8, 2011, Towns County High School Junior Gabby Arencibia set a new state high school record for 3-point field goals in a single game with thirteen in just three quarters on her home court against Commerce High School. Exactly 52 weeks later, on Feb. 7, 2012, she set a new state record for 3-point field goals in a career when she sank her 294th at the 5:36 mark of the second quarter in a 74-39 victory at Commerce.

Just as reported in last week's article about Dallas Manus' apparently breaking the record for points by a freshman at TCHS, it is impossible to state as a certainty that Arencibia now holds the state record for career treys but the likelihood is based upon the most

complete information available. The Georgia Prep Country Internet Website is the source used for such records and depends upon the various schools to submit the existence of records as they occur.

With the 3-point shot not allowed in high school until the 1988 season, it is more likely that impressive totals would be reported to the website than totals for points and other such statistics with long past top totals more likely to have been overlooked or unknown. And, too, it was several years before shooting, or at least making, 3-point baskets in girls basketball became common. A look back at the TCHS scorebooks of the nineties reveals a rarity of made treys by both the Lady Indians and their opponents with occasional exceptions.

Arencibia sank 24

See Arencibia, page 13A



Senior Gabby Arencibia (4) gets the glad hand from teammates following a record-breaking 3-pointer against Commerce. The game was stopped to give her the ball. Photo/James Reese

Willie packs The Music Hall

It was standing room only for the Red-Headed Stranger

By Libby Shook
Special to Towns County Herald
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Willie Nelson returned to a packed out, standing room only Anderson Music Hall Saturday night and wowed the crowd with his unique style of music and songs. He was accompanied by his band: Mickey Raphael on harmonica, Paul and Billy English on drums, Billy English on bass, and Willie's sister, Bobbie Nelson on piano.

The show was opened by Elizabeth Cook and her band as she performed an eclectic medley of songs, including those from her latest CD, *Wilders*.

Willie finally walked out on stage around 8:15 p.m. and the crowd went wild and they gave him the much anticipated "Willie Reception" with hearty applause and screams of "We love you Willie!"

All the fans rocked out

See Willie, page 13A



Willie sings *Always On My Mind*. Lee and Lisa Wardlaw hold up a poster for Willie. Photos/Lowell Nicholson and Reggie Shook

Melton enters record books

Becomes winningest basketball coach in school history

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
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COMMERCE - As much as can be said about the Towns County Lady Indians' record-breaking season, Jim Melton had a date with the record books himself in his 14th season as the team's head coach.

The regular season conclusion against Commerce yielded Melton's 273rd career victory as head coach of the Lady Indians. The milestone win allowed Melton to surpass the legendary Dion Eller as the winningest coach in school history. Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, a long-time teacher, coach and superintendent in Towns County, is third on that victory's list with 222 career wins.

The achievement came on a night when Coach Eller was in the stands and he was the first to congratulate Coach Melton once the 74-39 vic-



Jim Melton and Dion Eller share an historic moment. Photo/James Reese

tory over the Lady Tigers was in the books.

Eller carved out 272 victories during 19 seasons as the Lady Indians' head coach from the 1969 through the 1987 seasons plus two games as interim coach at the start of the 1993 season. Eller wound up with a 272-216 record while Melton's record entering this week's Region 8-A Tournament is 273-124 from the 1999 season to the present. Eller's

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Deal appoints Kendall to GRDC

By Charles Duncan
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Gov. Nathan Deal has appointed Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall to serve as a member of the Georgia Rural Development Council.

Kendall and 10 other local government and business leaders make up the Development Council.

"It's an honor to have the opportunity to play a part in new development opportunities that could strengthen our county economically and other communities statewide," Commissioner Kendall said. "Together, the



Gov. Nathan Deal swears in his Rural Development Council which includes Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall.

individuals who make up the Georgia Rural Development Council will deal with the issues that impact rural Georgia and seek viable solutions to those issues."

Gov. Deal said that the Georgia Rural Development Council (GRDC) advocates for rural Georgia, champi-

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CRNH receives 5-Star rating

By Charles Duncan
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Chatuge Regional Nursing Home was recently recognized honored by the Centers for Medicare Services (CMS) and the American Health Care Association (AHCA).

The nursing home was recognized for achieving a 5-star rating and deficiency free survey.

This rating is based on a comprehensive assessment of the facility's adherence to rules and regulations and the over all care and



treatment of facility residents. This is a significant accomplishment and staff is to be congratulated for their efforts in attaining this distinction. Events like the

recent Ms. Chatuge Regional Nursing Home Pageant display the love and affection residents receive at Chatuge. The Towns County tips its hat to CRNH.

Sheriff offers fire safety tips for winter weather

With cooler weather often comes increased risk of accidental house fires due to heating. Fire safety is an important issue and this seems to be an appropriate time to remind everyone to be safe when it comes to fire.

The sad fact is that many Towns County families have lost loved ones due to house fires. This type of tragedy occurs far too often. There are some things that you can do to help keep yourself, and your family, safer. The following are some basic tips on fire safety that are being offered in the spirit of helping you and your family remain safe.

- 1) Install and maintain smoke detectors. Smoke detectors can save your life, but only if they are in good working order. Maintain and test smoke detectors regularly, and never remove the batteries for other uses.
- 2) If a smoke detector goes off while you are sleeping remember to roll to the floor and crawl. Do not stand up, as smoke may have already filled the upper part of the room, from the ceiling down. If you encounter smoke remember, the best air will be closest to the floor.
- 3) Be careful to give



Sheriff Chris Clinton

heaters and fireplaces plenty of space. Placing combustible material close to a heat source can cause it to ignite and start a fire.

4) Your family should have an escape plan in place, in case of a fire. You should practice this plan with your family so that everyone is familiar with it. A good plan should include two escape routes from any room in the home. You should designate a place to meet outside. Once out of the fire stay out.

5) "Stop, Drop, and Roll!" By now most of you

See Safety Tips, page 13A

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