

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy	63	41
Fri: Cloudy	63	41
Sat: Sunny	54	34
Sun: Sunny	56	40
Mon: Rain	58	38
Tue: Sunny	56	40
Wed: Cloudy	54	34



Upstream Elevation Predicted 02/16/11	
Lake Chatuge	1918.20
Lake Nottely	1763.30
Blue Ridge	1621.40

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Chamber Chronicles Page 10

Melton honored

Towns County Lady Indians Head Coach Jim Melton has been named the Region 8-A Coach of the Year in a vote of his Region peers.

Melton wasn't the only local name on the Region's award list.

Lady Indians' senior Jordan Moss was selected first team All-Region and junior Gabby Arencibia, who set the state high school record for most 3-pointers made in a single-game last week with 13 treys in a 43-point effort against Commerce, was named second team All-Region.

Commerce senior Jasmine Grier, who scored 20 points in the 85-40 blowout loss to the Lady Indians, was named the Region's Player of the Year.

CPR Class

The American Red Cross is holding its annual Free Adult CPR Training course on Saturday, March 5th. The class will be held in the Towns County Recreation Center at 10 a.m. The class lasts about three hours. Call (800) 282-1722, to sign up.

TCES

Principal

The Towns County Board of Education followed the recommendation of Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens and unanimously selected Dr. Sandra Page as the new principal at Towns County Elementary School.

Dr. Page, currently the assistant principal at TCES, was a logical choice to follow in the footsteps of Don Dermody, who submitted his letter of retirement last month to the Board of Education.

"Sandy is quite the educator," Dr. Behrens said. "We're excited. She knows the system, she knows the parents and most importantly, she knows the children."

Arencibia sets state record for single-game treys

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
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Wow.
Towns County Lady Indians junior Gabby Arencibia seemingly couldn't miss in the regular season basketball finale against Commerce.

She was on to the extent that she set a Georgia high school record for 3-point baskets in a single game for girls' basketball. She tied the boys' state record.

The single-game record for 3-pointers made in girls' high school basketball in Georgia now stands at 13 and the name beside it is Gabby Arencibia, Towns County High School.

The most amazing part of Arencibia's feat was that her achievement was completed in only three quarters of basketball.

According to the Georgia Prep Country Web site, Arencibia's performance

breaks the record of 11 treys in one game held by Nancy Williams of Dade County. That mark has stood since Feb. 5, 1999. It ties the boys' state record of 13 set by Vincent Banks of South Atlanta during the 2003 season.

A look at the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Web site further reveals that Arencibia tied the known girls Southeastern USA record of 13 treys established by Heather Mayes of Fyffe, Alabama, on Feb. 7, 1995. Mayes established the record-setting total against Pisgah High School of Alabama, a Lady Indians' opponent in last season's Tip Off Classic.

The known National girls record for 3-pointers in a game is 15, established in 1998 in Michigan and later tied by four other players. Three additional players

See Arencibia, page 14



Not even Region 8-A Player of the Year Jasmine Grier can stop Gabby Arencibia. Photo/James Reese

Iwo Jima vets remember the horror

By Charles Duncan
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Leon West looks off in the distance, struggling to find the words to describe his experience on the tiny island of Iwo Jima near Mount Suribachi in Japan.

West, now 85, was a U.S. Navy Corpsman aboard the U.S.S. Wisconsin with the duty of providing triage to wounded U.S. Marines in the early onshore fighting for control of the nearly five-mile island.

He wept as he remembered the bloody Marines who were wounded as they stormed the island to take control of the vital Japanese airstrips on Feb. 19, 1945 during World War II.

He painfully remembered a Marine from Pennsylvania, shot to pieces, but still alive. West helped the critically wounded Marine onto a Navy hospital ship. He listened as the young



Iwo Jima veterans Leon West, left and Clarence E. "Bud" Johnson say Saturday's anniversary of the start of the Battle of Iwo Jima brings back haunting memories. Photo by Charles Duncan

man talked about his wife and young son.

"All he wanted to do was make it home to see his son again," West said. "He was shot to pieces; I don't know how he was still alive, but he was. He lived until the next morning."

"I didn't cry then," West said as tears streamed down his face during a recent interview with the

Towns County Herald.

West has kept the memories of Iwo Jima and Operation Detachment close to the vest for 66 years.

On March 13-15, West and other Towns County Marine Corp League vets like retired U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Clarence E. "Bud"

See Iwo Jima, page 3

GDOT proposes median for GA 515

Proposed widening 8.3 miles from Blairsville to Young Harris

By Charles Duncan
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A proposed widening of state route 515/US 76 is the scheduled topic of conversation when the Georgia Department of Transportation hosts a Stakeholders Meeting to discuss the 8.3 mile widening project.

The project, in conceptual phase of project development, will be discussed with stakeholders on Feb. 22 at Young Harris City Hall from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., according to a notice obtained by the Towns County Herald.

The meeting is a follow up from a Dec. 7, 2010 meeting with local representatives regarding the 8.3 mile

widening project in Towns and Union counties, according to the notice.

Attempts by the newspaper to reach a spokesperson with GDOT and not an answering machine on Tuesday morning were unsuccessful.

Also, attempts to reach GDOT consultant Project Manager Dom Saulino were unsuccessful on Tuesday morning as well.

A search of the GDOT Web site yields no information about Project APD-0056-02(209), Union and Towns Counties, P.I. No. 122900. It also doesn't have any details about the cost of

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Two grapplers head to state

By James Reese
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Bremen - The Towns County Indians' wrestling team is sending two grapplers to the Gwinnett Arena on Saturday, Feb. 19 to compete for state wrestling gold.

Tim Collier at 135 pounds and Tyler Hoffman at 152 pounds will compete in their respective weight classes as they represent Towns County in the state tournament in Gwinnett.

Collier and Hoffman advanced to the state tournament after competing in the Area Sectionals held at Bremen High School on Saturday.

Three other Indians represented Towns County

See Wrestlers, page 14



Tyler Hoffman overpowers his opponent in Bremen in the Area Sectionals. Hoffman and Tim Collier now head to state Saturday at the Gwinnett Civic Arena. Photo/James Reese

Towns County sheriff's detectives launch probe of drug-related death

Sheriff: overdose suspected in death

By Charles Duncan
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One person is dead and another is recovering from what Towns County sheriff's investigators believe to be a prescription drug-related incident, Towns County sheriff's reports show.

Sheriff's investigators await autopsy results related to what is believed to be a prescription drug overdose that caused the death of a 49-year-old Towns County man at his residence, sheriff's reports show.

A 27-year-old female, recently released from the hospital, spent two days in Intensive Care related to the same incident, sheriff's reports show.

Sheriff Chris Clinton advises that prescription drug-related deaths have occurred several times over the last three years. The sheriff believes in putting those responsible for the illegal distribution of prescription narcotics behind bars.

Sheriff Clinton said arrest warrants are being secured related to the most recent incident; sheriff's Detective Lt. Brian Wilson is overseeing the ongoing investigation.



Sheriff Chris Clinton

Lt. Wilson has extensive background and knowledge pertaining to investigations of narcotics and drug-related deaths.

In 2010, a 44-year-old Towns County man pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter in connection with the May 10th, 2009 prescription drug death of 46-year-old Tammy Branam.

Senior Enotah Circuit Superior Court Judge David Barrett sentenced Danny Stephen Rogers to 40 years, 15 to serve, in connection with the 2009 case. A charge

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



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Indians' Region hopes are over

Prince Avenue ends Towns County boys' season in Commerce 82-45

By James Reese
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Commerce - It wasn't supposed to end this way.

First, the Towns County Indians (5-21) got hit by the flu bug. Then, the Prince Avenue Christian Wolverines delivered a knockout blow to the Indians' Region 8-A tournament hopes.

With seniors D.J. Rogers and Brett Bradshaw battling flu-like symptoms and junior Brandon Henderson on the bench with an upper respiratory problem, the Indi-

See Indians, page 14



Bradley Swanson goes to the hole against Prince Avenue Christian Wolverines on Monday night. Photo/James Reese