

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Snow	42 23
Fri: Sunny	44 24
Sat: Sunny	50 30
Sun: Sunny	53 37
Mon: Clouds	58 40
Tue: Rain	54 38
Wed: Rain	55 34



Upstream Elevation Predicted 3/03/10	
Lake Chatuge	1917.80
Lake Nottely	1762.20
Blue Ridge	1672.90

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For a limited time, the Towns County Herald will offer \$8 subscriptions for one year to new subscribers.

The offer extends to residents of Towns and Union counties in Georgia and Clay County, NC.

The newspaper is making a difference during hard times.

For more than two months, the newspaper has offered those currently unemployed, Senior Citizens and U.S. Military veterans \$5 subscriptions for 1 year. That's a savings of \$21 off the newstand price.

This offer also extends to residents of Towns and Union counties in Georgia and Clay County, NC.

Again, we hope to make a difference when folks need it the most.



Schools closed

The arrival of a storm system expected to leave behind up to four inches of snow prompted Towns County Schools to close on Tuesday.

Snow was falling in the morning hours mixed with rain. Snow showers were projected to continue into Wednesday evening. Dr. Richard Behrens, the system's superintendent made the call Tuesday morning.



Food Pantry

A free food distribution is scheduled Tuesday, March 9th. The distribution will be at the Towns County Food Pantry from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. All in need of food are encouraged to attend. If you're unable to pick up food please call (706) 896-4783, prior to distribution day.



Fund Raiser

The Towns County Booster Club will host a Car/Truck/Motorcycle Show on May 15 in the Towns County High School parking lot. Admission to the event is \$5. Entry fees are \$20 for a car or truck and \$10 for a motorcycle. No awards will be given; this is a fundraiser event. The event benefits athletics in grades six through 12 in Towns County Schools. Deadline for entry is May 1. Call (706) 781-8763 for more details.

Lady Indians advance to Sweet 16

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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How sweet it is! The Towns County Lady Indians (23-6) advanced to a Sweet 16 berth in the second round of the Class A state playoffs with a first round overtime triumph over the Holy Innocents Golden Bears (24-5) on Saturday night.

Towns County senior Melissa Conrad gave the hometown folks something to cheer about in the final home game of her high school basketball career as a Lady Indian as the playoff conquest came at the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium.

Conrad, who finished with 21 points, scored 9 of the Lady Indians' 11 fourth quarter points to propel Towns County onto a Sweet 16 match up with top-ranked

Wesleyan Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Norcross.

Read more about the Lady Indians' playoff exploits in the Towns County Herald Sports pages as Herald Basketball Beat Writer Jerry Kendall provides the breakdown and all the details.

Conrad helped the Lady Indians to a 62-62 tie at the end of regulation. Towns outscored the highly touted Lady Bears 14-10 in overtime to advance to the next round of the Class A state playoffs.

Junior Jordan Moss, who had 5 assists, finished with 17 huge points for the Lady Indians. Sophomores Gabby Arencibia, Lindsay Patton and Ali Bleckley finished with 14, 11 and 7 points respectively.

It was Patton, with ice water running through her veins, who sank two free



Towns County's Jordan Moss grabs a rebound and prepares to start the Lady Indians' fastbreak against the Golden Bears of Holy Innocents. Towns won the match up 76-72 at the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium in Hiwassee and wiped the smile off Lexy Kepano's face. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

throws with 9.4 seconds remaining in the overtime period to give the Lady Indians an insurmountable 76-72 lead. That lead held up

when the Lady Bears missed a 3-point attempt and fittingly, Patton claimed the rebound for Towns as time expired.

Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren was ecstatic about the Lady

See Sweet 16, page 2A

'The Possum' doesn't disappoint

By Jessica Keaton
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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The crowd at Anderson Music Hall was "hotter than a two dollar pistol" on Saturday night.

Folks traveled to Hiwassee from near and far to get a glimpse of a Country Music legend renowned as much for his nickname "The Possum," as his Christian name, George Glenn Jones.

The 78-year-old Country Music legend enticed the crowd with his celebrated hits that include the autobiographical *Choices*, *White Lightnin'*, *He Stopped Lovin' Her Today*, and *I Don't Need Your Rocking Chair*. Jones, once also renowned as "No Show" Jones, played to a full house at The Hall.

Before "The Possum" took the stage, Wilson Fairchild got the crowd



George Jones, center, belts out *He Stopped Lovin' Her Today* before a packed crowd at Anderson Music Hall. 'The Possum' is one of the most popular Country Music acts in history. Photo/Jessica Keaton

revved up with a fanciful blend of comedy and music. Formally known as Grand Staff, the Reid cousins were brought together by their famous fathers, Harold and Don Reid of the Statler

Brothers. The duo performed Conway Twitty's legendary hit *I'd Love To Lay You Down*, going an octave lower with each

See The Possum, page 6A

Behrens: 'wait and see'

Lawmakers explore shorter school year

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens says he'll soon have a better understanding of state lawmakers' means to shorten the annual school year from 190 days to 180.

Currently, each school system has a 190-day calendar that includes 180 days for student classes and 10 days for teacher planning days.

He's not sure which days are proposed to be eliminated by the Georgia General Assembly as a cash savings measure for the financially-strapped state budget.

"I know they're hurting," Dr. Behrens said on Monday. "I'm just not sure what's going to happen. I'm looking at what days they want to cut. I'm assuming they're looking at more fur-



Dr. Richard Behrens

lough days. We know they're in tough shape.

"It's probably the only way the state is going to be able to get money out of the budget," he said. "Until I see what they're looking at, I'm not sure how it's going to affect us."

Dr. Behrens, who is a member of the state Superintendents' Financial and Budget Committee, will meet as a member of that

See Budget Cuts, page 5A

Lions Club honors best, brightest

By Charles Duncan
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Thomas Black is your normal, everyday teenager. His sense of humor shines through his modest, easy-going personality.

The one thing that sets him apart from his Class of 2010 compatriots: his SAT score.

Black, a Georgia Tech-bound senior at Towns County High School, has the distinction of posting the highest SAT score in the school's history, Principal Roy Perren told members of the Towns County Lions

See Honors, page 3A



Towns County STAR Teacher Alecia Frizzell and STAR Student Thomas Black were honored last week by the Towns County Lions Club. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Deal steps down

Congressman resigns his 9th District seat

By Charles Duncan
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U.S. Rep. Nathan Deal is surrendering his 9th District Congressional seat to focus full-time on his efforts to secure the GOP nod for governor.

Deal, a Hall County Republican, announced that he will leave office on March 8th to devote his full atten-

See Deal, page 5A



U.S. Rep. Nathan Deal

Brides apt to shine

By Jessica Keaton
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YOUNG HARRIS - Spring is essentially renowned as the wedding season.

Young Harris kicked it off in style with Soiree's Southern Events presents Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa Bridal Extravaganza.

The show included local vendors and brides to showcase products that are essential to pulling off the perfect wedding. Throughout the afternoon, wedding cake samples were tasted, dresses were admired, and plans were solidified as local brides and their loved ones made their way through the showcase of wedding essentials.

A fashion show brought the evening to



Just one of the lovely models at Sunday's Bridal Show at Brasstown Valley Resort. The event showcased products essential to pulling off the perfect wedding. Photo/Jessica Keaton

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Kendall seeks projects funding

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall is covering all the bases when it comes to finding funding for local projects.

Kendall, who is considering a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum to help pay for capital improvements, met with department heads last week to determine how much grant funding is available for local projects that include a new fire station.

County Fire Chief Mitch Floyd told Kendall that

See Stimulus, page 5A



Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall met with county department heads last week at the Towns County Commission Office to discuss funding options for local capital projects. Federal funding for local projects is becoming more and more scarce as more than half of the \$787 billion federal stimulus package is already spent.



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