

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy	54	32
Fri: Showers	48	31
Sat: Cloudy	52	30
Sun: Sunny	54	34
Mon: Showers	56	37
Tue: Showers	55	37
Wed: Partly Cloudy	49	34



Upstream Elevation Predicted 11/25/09	
Lake Chatuge	1919.90
Lake Nottely	1765.10
Blue Ridge	1676.40

INDEX

3 sections, 24 Pages

Arrests.....	2A
Church/Obits.....	2,3B
Classifieds.....	3C
Editorial.....	4A
Elected officials.....	4A
Legals.....	4C
Sports.....	8,9,10A
Television.....	2C

Chamber Chronicles Page 11A

Happy Thanksgiving

The staff of the Towns County Herald wishes all residents a Happy Thanksgiving.

In doing so, the Herald offers to help during hard economic times.

For those currently unemployed, Senior Citizens and U.S. Military veterans, the Herald offers \$5 subscriptions for 1 year. That's a savings of \$21 off the newstand price.

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

Simply bring proof of unemployment status; a simple Photo ID will suffice for Senior Citizens.

Veterans must provide proof of U.S. Military service.

The Herald also offers \$10 subscriptions for new subscribers from Towns and Union counties in Georgia and Clay County, NC.

At the end of one year, those subscribers can renew at a rate of \$15.

Again, have a Happy Thanksgiving from the Herald staff.



VFW Thrift Store sale is on

The VFW Thrift Store on Berrong Street is having a whale of a sale.

No, there are no whales to be found. However, the store is offering a buy one, get one free sale on all men's, women's and children's apparel.

Hurry while the shopping is good. First come, first serve.



Click It or Ticket

Click It or Ticket this holiday season.

The Georgia State Patrol and Towns County Sheriff's Office are teaming up to keep local roads safe. Concentrated patrols currently are underway to check for seat belt violators on interstate roads during the day. Seat belt road checks are being utilized to catch seat belt violators on state and county roads at night.

Tournament time means dollar signs for businesses

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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Eleven teams, 154 wrestlers. That was the King of the Mountain middle school wrestling tournament in a nutshell.

But the tournament's impact reached far beyond the scope of wrestling in Towns County. Cash registers were ringing over the weekend and that spilled into Monday and Tuesday, all impacted by middle school and high school sporting events.

Athletic events such as the King of the Mountain wrestling tournaments, the Tip Off Classic and the soon to arrive Battle of the States basketball tournament will provide a boost to local businesses when it matters most.

"The winter months are really slow for busi-

nesses, especially during the current economic situation for the country," Towns County Indians' Head Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers said. "It would be interesting to determine how much of an economic impact our local sports teams have on the local economy."

There were more than 40 coaches accompanying those wrestlers. The athletes also were escorted by countless fans and family members. The Reservation was packed on Saturday.

Afterward, the teams converged on local restaurants, pouring welcomed dollars into the local cash flow.

On Monday and Tuesday, the school system's athletic program contributed even more to the local cash registers with the annual Tip Off Classic basketball tournament.

Three teams from out



Indians Head Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers, tournament director for the middle school King of the Mountain wrestling tournament explains the event's format to competing wrestlers on Saturday at Towns County Schools. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

of the area traveled for two days, many purchasing gas, food and other necessities during the captivating stay.

On Dec. 4th and Dec. 5th, 16 teams and 224 wrestlers converge on Towns County to compete in the

high school version of the King of the Mountain wrestling tournament.

"There will be at least 11 of those teams and their fans and family members staying in the hotels, eating in the restaurants and shop-

ping in our stores," Stowers said. "Each team has 14 wrestlers, they've all got parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins. You never know how many

See *Tourneys*, page 3A

ARS brings down 'The Hall'

By Jessica Keaton
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All these years and the music remains the same.

And for the most part, little has changed about the legendary band from Doraville, the Atlanta Rhythm Section.

The boys best known for hits that include *Imaginary Lover*, *So Into You*, *Spooky*, *Doraville* and the iconic *Champagne Jam* brought down the house at Anderson Music Hall on Saturday night.

ARS didn't miss a beat, playing one hit right after another as a crowd that had seemed intent on seeing the night's second act, Marshall Tucker Band, was pleasantly surprised that they did remember ARS.

The band, which really isn't Southern Rock and really isn't heavy metal or even Country Music inclined, thrilled a crowded



The Atlanta Rhythm Section jams onstage at Anderson Music Hall on Saturday night. The band, whose hits include *Imaginary Lover*, *So Into You*, *Doraville* and *Champagne Jam* brought down the house. Photo/Jessica Keaton

Anderson Music Hall with their special blend of almost Southern Blues and Jazz flavor.

"Atlanta Rhythm Section was great!" Carol Martin, from Hayesville, shouted as she left the building.

Judging from the rest of the boisterous crowd's response, she wasn't the only person who shared that opinion of ARS.

To many in the crowd, ARS upstaged the evening's primary act, Marshall

'Build positive and lasting memories'

By Sen. Jim Butterworth
Special to Towns County Herald

Each day we focus on health care, the economy, the war in Afghanistan and our personal issues. This Thanksgiving, let's take a moment to put all problems aside and focus on one thing: giving thanks. I recently drove past a church in my area and came across a sign that read "if you can't count your blessings, count your pulse." This quote struck me because even when we don't have much, everyone has reason to give thanks — even if it is only for the little things.

We, as a nation and as a state, have one common element to be thankful for: the men and women who put God and country above all else. These brave soldiers are willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our safety and freedom. As a retired United States Air Force pilot, I offer my most sincere gratitude to all those at home and abroad who proudly serve our nation. If you know someone who is serving or who has served, or if you know of a family



State Sen. Jim Butterworth

that will be missing a loved one this holiday, say "thank you." It is a remarkably simple way for us to give thanks and support our troops.

As we gather with friends and family around the table this Thanksgiving, let's talk about school projects and fall festivals rather than partisan politics and worry of tomorrow. In 1621, the Pilgrims and the Indians set this precedence. For one night, they cast aside all conflict and divisive issues replacing them with compassion and friendship.

This Thanksgiving, there will be many families who do not have the means for a big turkey dinner. There are many local opportunities for volunteering and

See *Jim*, page 2A

2009 a busy year in Young Harris

By Jessica Keaton
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Who is the most hard-working woman in Young Harris? Mayor Andrea Gibby is probably at the top of the list. She has been as busy as a bee working for the city of Young Harris in the year 2009.

Mayor Gibby has been overseeing the installation of automatic meter readers to all of the Young Harris City water customers.

"This," she said, "will decrease the amount of time our staff spends reading water meters each month. It will also decrease potential for injuries as our staff doesn't have to go into yards anymore."

Moreover, the computer system has been under a major upgrade this year, complete with new



Mayor Andrea Gibby

software for utility billing and accounting.

"By the beginning of 2010, we hope to have installed the last piece, accepting credit cards, debit cards, and online payment options," Mayor Gibby said.

There also has been a very visible change to Mayor's Park. A new fence surrounding the park has been installed this year.

"We are currently in-

stalling a new water tank near the college," she said. "This will be a 500,000-gallon tank (an upgrade over the old one, which was 100,000 gallons)."

Cupid's Falls has been a significant project in 2009. A new park is being created there that has been partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Forest Service.

"As this is an educational grant, the park will contain a children's interpretive walk," she said. "We want to encourage children of all ages to explore and learn about our natural resources."

Also, Mayor Gibby wants to encourage the community about becoming involved with the efforts to beautify Cupid's Falls.

"In November, we had two community works days

See *Gibby*, page 3A

First Mountain Lion an Indian

By Charles Duncan
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Young Harris College Women's Head Basketball Coach Brenda Paul is ready to hit the court.

She's got Dec. 4th marked on her calendar, that's the date that Towns County Lady Indians and Union County Lady Panthers square off in the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium at 7 p.m.

She's almost ready to announce the Young Harris



Young Harris Women's basketball Coach Brenda Paul talks shop with high school basketball coaching legend Robbie Stancil.

College Mountain Lions' first signee, but isn't quite ready to reveal the name.

Paul told those attend-

ing the November meeting of the Georgia Mountians

See *Coach Paul*, page 3A

Patty at the Hall

By Charles Duncan
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"The Voice" is coming to Hiawassee.

Sandi Patty, the voice of contemporary Christian music is coming to Anderson Music Hall on Saturday.

Tickets are still available for the 2009 Christmas Show at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Ticket Prices are \$35 plus \$2 handling and \$25 plus \$2 handling, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said.

Church Groups of 10 or more also receive a \$5 discount, Thomason said.

Patty, 53, was born into a family of musicians; her father was a minister of music and her mother served as the church pianist. According to her official Web site, she first performed at the age of 2 when she sang "Jesus Loves Me" for her church. A few years later, she and her brothers joined her parents in a performing group, known as "The Ron Patty Family," and sang at churches across the nation during summer holidays.

The rest as they say is history. Patty recorded her first album, *For My Friends*, an independent



Sandi Patty

endeavor that landed in the hands of executives at Singspiration! Records. In 1979, she signed with Singspiration! and released her first professional record, *Sandi's Song*.

At the peak of her career, her concerts were so heavily attended that she performed in often sold-out mainstream arenas and concert halls. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, she averaged more than 200 concerts a year, and supported a staff of more than 30 that managed her career.

Showtime for her Christmas Show is 7 p.m. on Saturday, 28.

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