

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy 46 29
Fri: Cloudy 46 28
Sat: Rain/Snow 46 24
Sun: Cloudy 49 26
Mon: Cloudy 49 32
Tue: Cloudy 53 38
Wed: Showers 57 33



Upstream Elevation Predicted 11/25/09
Lake Chatuge 1919.10
Lake Nottely 1763.40
Blue Ridge 1671.10

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Our gift to you

The Towns County Herald wants to make a difference during hard 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, we hope to make a difference when folks need it the most.



Cold Weather

Stack up the cord wood and break out the blankets, winter is arriving early.

Temperatures are expected to dip into the upper to mid-20s by Thursday and a storm system in the Midwest already is producing a wintry mix of rain, sleet and snow.

The National Weather Service is calling for a rain/snow mix in the Towns-Union area as soon as Saturday, with temperatures as low as 24 degrees.

Today the storm system lifts out of the Gulf of Mexico and races into the Appalachian Mountains.

The storm system marks the first opportunity for extreme temperatures to enter the North Georgia area.

See the Classifieds for firewood sales.



Towns vs. Union

The Indians and Panthers do battle on Friday at Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium. The basketball action begins at 4 p.m. with Junior Varsity games. Varsity girls follow at 7 p.m. with the Varsity boys to follow at 8:30 p.m.

It's tournament time for Indians as KOM glory awaits

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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The Towns County Indians wrestling team hopes for another historic moment when they line up to take on 15 other teams in the Sixth Annual King of the Mountain wrestling tournament.

On Friday, 224 wrestlers and more than 60 coaches converge on Towns County to compete in two days of the King of the Mountain tournament.

The Indians claimed their best finish ever last year with a fifth place spot in one of the toughest wrestling challenges in the state. Timmy Collier and Mat Hogsed also entered the record books becoming the first two Indians to have won traditional titles in the same KOM tourney.

"Actually, it's the first time we've ever had more than two wrestlers in the fi-

nals," Indians' Head Coach Jeff Stowers said. "It also was the first time we've ever had two champions in the same tournament."

Collier and Hogsed are back and lead a talented Indians' team that includes Max Updike, Josh Barnes, Tyler Keyes, John Henry Hobbs and Zach Stroud. It also includes talented freshmen Tyler Hoffman and Joseph Foster.

Barnes made it to the KOM finals last year in the 275-pound weight class but fell to Donovan Byers of Hayesville, NC.

"It was just two big backwoods boys going head-to-head and somebody had to win," Barnes said. "He was just a bit stronger than I was and I just simply ran out of gas."

Barnes hopes to earn KOM glory by the time medals are awarded on Saturday evening.



Indians' Head Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers expects a peak performance out of his Towns County Indians during the Sixth Annual King of the Mountain wrestling tournament. The Indians claimed an historic fifth place in KOM in 2008. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The event features a strong mix of upper wrestling classifications from Georgia and North Carolina. As usual, there's always a strong field that includes a lot of good wrestlers, Coach Stowers said.

"You can count on seeing some solid wrestling this weekend," he said.

Lumpkin County and Pickens County claimed the top two spots in Duals last year.

The tournament couldn't come at a better time as most of the local area seems dug in for the winter, expecting a long, cold and financially tough few months.

See KOM, page 2A

Hundreds see Christmas Parade

By Jessica Keaton
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The Empty Stocking Fund for Towns County Sheriff's Office remains a needy community project as locals and businesses continue to recover from the hard times of economic recession.

The program got a small boost from Saturday's Annual Christmas Parade.

Sheriff Chris Clinton and his deputies collected about a vehicle trunk full of toys on Saturday as they continue to try to bridge the gap between those local children who have, and those who don't. It's that time of year again and the Sheriff's Christmas Parade, *A Georgia Mountain Christmas* happened again on Saturday.

Part of the benefit of the parade is what entrants brought to the event.

Parade participants brought new, unwrapped



Volunteer Richard Botting rides the Towns County Food Pantry's parade entry during Saturday's *A Georgia Christmas Parade* in Downtown Hiawasse. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

toys for the Annual Empty Stocking Fund toy drive. The Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund is designed to assist underprivileged and needy children in the Towns County community.

"We served 192 children from 70 local families last year, depleting our Empty Stocking funds," Sheriff Chris Clinton said. "We are in dire need of help

this year providing toys for the children."

The fund benefits children from newborn to 12 years old. The true benefits are putting a smile on a child's face at Christmas that might otherwise go without.

The sheriff and his helpers picked up a trunk full

See Parade, page 2A

Sandi Patty soothes The Hall

By Jessica Keaton
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"The Voice" lived up to her reputation during the holiday weekend.

On Saturday, Nov. 28th, performing popular Christmas hits with her own unique spin on them, Sandi Patty put Anderson Music Hall in the *Christmas Spirit*.

Jingle Bells, Oh Holy Night, and Angels We Have Heard on High were just a few of the songs on Patty's list of favorites for the family evening of entertainment.

Jingle Bells was especially unique, performed in the styles of Opera, Latin, and Jazz. *Silent Night* was also unique because Patty turned the microphone to the audience, encouraging them to lift their voices in song.

However, the evening was not solely dedicated to



Sandi Patty performed at Anderson Music Hall on Saturday during the annual Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Christmas Show. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Christmas.

"Even though it's Christmas, we still need to have some church," Patty said as she performed the classic hymn *His Name is Wonderful*.

During the intermission, the guitar signed by all the performers at Anderson Music Hall was raffled off, along with cash prizes of

\$4,000 for one lucky winner and \$500 for three more.

The proceeds collected from the raffles went to the Towns County Lions Club, which donates to underprivileged children during the Christmas season.

Hiawasse was just one of the stops in Patty's tour.

See Carnegie, page 3A

Sheriff, deputies halt burglaries

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton, Chief Deputy Jeff Edge and several detectives and deputies halted an unauthorized Black Friday shopping spree in the Cedar Cliff neighborhood.

The sheriff and his deputies responded to the Cedar Cliff neighborhood to reports of several burglaries in the area.

Utilizing teamwork, the sheriff and his deputies



Sheriff Chris Clinton

quickly developed a potential suspect in the alleged burglaries. After several in-

terviews and eyewitness accounts, the Criminal Investigations Division of the Towns County Sheriff's Office is now securing an arrest warrant for 32-year-old Tyler Darden, 32 of Clinton S.C., on a burglary charge.

Sheriff Clinton credits the quick resolution to a total team effort on behalf of both the Sheriff's Office and the residents of the Cedar Cliff subdivision for their watchful eye for detail and their detailed descriptions which led to the arrest warrant for Darden.

Cash registers ringing in holidays

By Jessica Keaton
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For local businesses, *Black Friday*, marked the first official Christmas shopping weekend of 2009.

It was a rousing success, local store owners said.

"Business was great. I have no complaints at all," Cathy DeLong, owner of Victoria's Attic, said, smiling from ear to ear. The store full of clothing, accessories, and furniture opened at 9 a.m. on Friday to people lined up outside the doors.

The origin of the marketing term *Black Friday* is one referring to sales and profits coming from the red zone to the black. These local businesses sales are indicators of a stimulated economy.

"Buying from local businesses stimulates the local economy, so be sure and check out what the local stores have to offer before you go shopping outside the area," Towns County Chamber President Angel Long said.

Victoria's Attic and Anderson's in Downtown Hiawasse, other than Hiawasse Hardware and the Towns County Herald, have been in business the longest of any other business in town.

Their longevity became a predictor for the booming weekend.

"Vests, scarves, (and) jackets" were popular items, noted by DeLong. "We have stuff that is a little more unique. It's not just something they can walk into a mall and find," DeLong added.

Accessories were also hot ticket items purchased during the weekend.

"Mirrors (and) artwork" were just a couple of the popular accessories sold," DeLong said. "Furniture was a popular buy as well.

"We're kind of diverse. We're not just a furniture store. We're not just a clothing store. We have a little bit of everything," DeLong points out, looking out over the array of items offered in the store.

Anderson's store is much the same. More concentrated in clothing than furniture, Holly Tiger holds the fort down with her two cats, Lily and Sadie.

"Business was good this past weekend," Tiger said while rubbing Lilly's soft, white fur. "A lot of people are up shopping. It was a great weekend for the business."

Anderson's opened at

See Shopping, page 2A

Tour of Homes weekend begins

By Charles Duncan
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The Towns County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Tour of Homes kicks off Friday in Downtown Hiawasse with the Lighting of the Tree at Mayor's Park in Young Harris.

The event begins with an ArtWalk that begins at 5:30 p.m. and concludes at 8:30 p.m. The highlight of Friday's activities is the annual lighting of the Christmas Tree presented by the Enota Garden Club in Mayor's Park in Young Harris at 6 p.m.

Last year's tree lighting event featured Christmas Carols accompanied by music from the Towns County Indians Raider Marching Band's horn section. Bundle up this year, the mercury is expected to dip down to 28 degrees.

ArtWalk locations are in Hiawasse, Young Harris and Hayesville. In Hiawasse, galleries include the Artworks Artisan Center, Joan of Art, Deb Collins Signature Gallery and Tan-



Angel Long

gerine Frog and the Grahlgallery. In Young Harris, galleries include Appalachian Gallery and the Campus Gate Gallery and in Hayesville at Goldhagen Studios.

The Tour of Homes begins Saturday with numerous homes open to tour from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Sunday, the tour begins at 1 p.m. and ends at 5 p.m.

Refreshment stops along the way on Saturday and Sunday include Brasstown Valley Resort,

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