

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Thur: Sunny | 49 28 |
| Fri: Clouds | 48 21 |
| Sat: Clouds | 43 22 |
| Sun: Sunny | 49 28 |
| Mon: Clouds | 53 31 |
| Tue: Sunny | 52 29 |
| Wed: Sunny | 54 30 |



| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Upstream Elevation Predicted 12/7/11 | |
| Lake Chatuge | 1917.83 |
| Lake Nottely | 1761.08 |
| Blue Ridge | 1669.24 |

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Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Distribution is scheduled for Tuesday Dec. 13 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 so arrangements can be made to deliver your food. All clients and inquiries are kept confidential.



Love Light Tree

The Annual Love Light Tree Celebration at Chatuge Regional Hospital and Nursing Home is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 8. A short program of Christmas songs is scheduled.



Election Results

The results of the Dec. 6th runoff for District 50 State Senate will be made available on the Web site of the Towns County Herald on Election Night.

Voters must choose between Dr. Rick Austin of Demorest and John Wilkinson of Toccoa.

Visit us on the Web at www.townscountyherald.net for election results.



Free Tutoring

Young Harris Family Development Center at Stephens Lodge Community Center is offering tutoring, games, snacks, meals, counseling, parenting workshops and activities on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Contact Towns County Family Connection at (706) 896-4131 for more details on how to enroll your student.

Dick Paris Memorial in works

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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The Georgia Mountain Fair Inc. and the Towns County Lions Club are working in concert to create a lasting memorial to H.D. "Dick" Paris, the 97-year-old Community Icon who passed away Nov. 22.

Mr. Paris was a cornerstone of the Towns County community. A year after having served three years in the European Theater of World War II, Mr. Paris moved to Hiwassee and started a business that still lasts today, Hiwassee Hardware Company.

Mr. Paris rolled up his sleeves once he arrived here in Hiwassee in 1947.

A tireless worker, Mr. Paris focused his efforts on Hiwassee Hardware, the Bank of Hiwassee, and later the Georgia Mountain Fair.

"Dick Paris was a part of the cornerstones of growth for Hiwassee and



A movement is underway to develop a memorial for Community Icon Dick Paris. Mr. Paris passed away Nov. 22. Photo/Lowell Nicholson.

Towns County for decades," Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said.

According to a statement released Monday by the Towns County Lions

Club, the Lions Club and Georgia Mountain Fair will begin raising funds to "create a fitting memorial to Dick Paris."

See Memorial, page 12A

Gabby hits 1,000-point plateau

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
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The beat continues for the Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team as the third sterling accomplishment by a member of the 2012 team in just 11 days occurred last Tuesday night in the Hayesville High School Gym.

First of all, Eryn Cochran set a modern school record and established a second place standing for girls in the state for free throws made in a single game 10 days prior at Dawson County and then Lindsay Patton signed a scholarship to play basketball for Point University.

This time it was senior Gabby Arencibia creating excitement as she became the latest member of the career 1,000-point club in basketball at TCHS. She took a pass from Cochran and nailed a 3-point basket from the right wing at the 4:55 mark of the second quarter, giving her team a 27-22 advantage over the home standing Lady Jackets. It seemed appropriate that the shot would be a 3-pointer, actually giving her 1,001 points, as she last year set a state record with 13 treys made in a single game against Commerce. The game was stopped briefly with the Hayesville public address announcer making the announcement and Arencibia received a standing ovation from both the Towns County and Hayesville fans.

Gabby began her basketball career at the Towns



Senior Gabby Arencibia (4) is swarmed by teammates as play was stopped in Hayesville after she scored the 1,000th point of her playing career as a Towns County Lady Indian. Photo/James Reese

County Recreation Department as a very young second grader and continued there through sixth grade before moving on to the Towns County Middle School Team for two years. She saw double duty with the Lady Indian JV's and Varsity for a few games as a high school freshman but quickly established herself as a full time varsity player, leaving JV duties behind. As a very young senior who won't reach the age of 18 until June, she would be just a junior in high school if less than three months younger.

In reaching the magic

1,000-point total, Arencibia scored 168 points as a freshman, 342 as a sophomore, and 429 as a junior before adding 79 in four games this year for a total of 1,018 by the end of the Hayesville game. She did double duty with the Lady Indian JV's and Varsity for a few games as a freshman but quickly established herself as a full time varsity player. While generally scoring in single digits in her primary role as point guard as a freshman, she included a preview of the future that

See Gabby, page 12A

Low income heating aid on hold

Heating assistance dollars part of budget battle in Washington

By Charles Duncan
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The well has gone dry before cold weather has even arrived.

The \$18 million in federal heating assistance dollars for Georgia low income families has been spent and applications that were expected to be taken on Dec. 1 at the Ninth District Opportunity office on Jack Dayton Circle won't happen anytime soon.

The heating assistance dollars allotted for 2011 for low income families were gone in 30 days – statewide.

Congress must now pass a new resolution before the end of the year, to allocate additional funds, to help more people cover the costs

of keeping their homes warm this winter.

In a statement released by Teresa Stephens of Ninth District Opportunity, Inc., "Ninth District Opportunity Inc. will not open the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program to the general public on December 1, 2011 due to lack of funding. NDO will advertise when and if funding is available."

The federal heating assistance program is designed to cover one month of heating expenses for people who would otherwise have trouble paying that expense because of a lack of their own money.

Beginning in November, Ninth District was taking only applications from

priority candidates for the federal heating dollars, namely applications from elderly and homebound residents. Participation was so high during the early application period that the state's energy assistance program depleted its allocation for the entire year.

At this point, the state of Georgia does not have any additional funds that could be used to help people with their winter home heating assistance.

The funding crisis couldn't come at a worse time.

Although temperatures have been unseasonably warm thus far, colder temperatures are forecast

See No Heat, page 10A

Empty Stocking Christmas Fund is nearly empty

100 or more children could do without on Christmas

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton was smiling as he led the Annual Empty Stocking Fund Parade through Downtown on Saturday.

But deep down, the sheriff was feeling kind of low. The economy is impacting the flow of Christmas toys and cheer to Towns County's most needy children.

Donations to the Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund are at an all-time low. Admittedly, the sheriff is concerned that as many as 100 local children – newborn to age 12 – might wake up Christmas morning to find that "it's just another day."

The sheriff's elves have let him know that donations are at rock bottom, the effects of a dismal economy taking serious root in Towns County.



The Real Santa was at the Parade too. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

"I know that the economy has hurt a lot of folks," he said. "I understand that. What hurts my

See Empty Stocking, page 12A

Pearl really was 'a day that lived in infamy'

By Charles Duncan
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On Dec. 7, 1941, 353 Japanese fighters, bombers and torpedo planes in two waves, were launched from six aircraft carriers nestled in the Pacific Ocean.

Their mission: do as much damage as possible on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in order to keep the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet from interfering in Japanese military operations in the Pacific.

One hundred eighty-eight U.S. aircraft were destroyed in the sneak attack; eight battleships were damaged or destroyed, 2,402 Americans were killed and another 1,282 were wounded.

On Dec. 8, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt met with lawmakers in a joint session of Congress. He told lawmakers on Capitol Hill that a full declaration of war was necessary.



Chief Johnson

President Roosevelt described the Dec. 7 attack by the Empire of Japan as "a date which will live in infamy."

The U.S. entered World War II on two fronts, in Europe and in the Pacific.

That was 70 years ago, we all know the end results.

See Pearl, page 12A

Santa comes to Young Harris Tree Lighting

By Charles Duncan
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Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby had no sooner flipped the "on" switch to the city's Christmas Tree in Mayor's Park on Friday, when a colorfully dressed old man came walking out of the mist.

He was dressed in crimson, his suit trimmed in white; his beard was long and white. He was no stranger to the more than 100 young children attending the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Young Harris.

"Santa!" the children screamed and squealed, as they jumped for joy at first sight of the jolly old elf.

Yes, Santa had come to Young Harris, seemingly summoned by the flipping of the "on" switch of the city's Christmas Tree.

He greeted the children with a friendly smile as they tugged on his traditional suit and begged for his attention.

Santa led the children inside Young Harris City Hall, where he could sit beside the indoor Christmas Tree and listen to each child as they explained a list of toys that they would expect underneath their Christmas Tree on Christmas Morning.



Santa greeted children in Young Harris on Friday during the tree lighting ceremony.

The Holiday Season was greeted with pomp and circumstance in the city of Young Harris. Moments before the city's outdoor Christmas Tree was lit, event goers heard several Christmas songs performed by Young Harris College's Pentatonics Brass Quintet, featuring 2010 Towns County Valedictorian Jeff Stewart on the trombone. Other band mem-

See Tree, page 10A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

