

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

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Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy 53 31
 Fri: Cloudy 49 28
 Sat: Cloudy 47 29
 Sun: Cloudy 41 25
 Mon: Cloudy 41 27
 Tue: Cloudy 46 27
 Wed: Sunny 48 33



Upstream Elevation Predicted 12/16/09
 Lake Chatuge 1918.90
 Lake Nottely 1762.50
 Blue Ridge 1670.90

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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 newsstand 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.

Flu Shots

Flu vaccinations for the H1N1 virus are available at the Towns County Health Department. Walk-ins are welcome but appointments are preferred. Vaccination days will be held on Thursday, Dec. 21, and Monday, Dec. 28th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Health Department.

For more details about H1N1 vaccinations, call (706) 896-2265.

Bring a new toy and golf

Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa continues to team up with the Marine Corps League's Toys-for-Tots campaign to help needy children. The Resort is offering special pricing on its mountain golf course to do so.

Bring a new, unwrapped toy with a value of at least \$10 between now and Dec. 23 to the Pro Shop at the Resort's Golf Club and enjoy a round of golf, including a cart for only \$25.

For more details, including tee times, contact Brasstown Valley Resort at (800) 201-3205, or online at brasstownvalley.com.

Marine Corps League helps mother keep the faith

By Matthew Jarrard
 TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
 matthew.tcherald@brmenc.net

For 11 years, Angelica Ledford has kept the faith that the Lord will provide.

On Saturday, the Towns County Marine Corps League did their part to make Christmas special for Angelica's 11-year-old daughter Alexis.

At 14 months old, Alexis was diagnosed with Recurrent Respiratory Papillomatosis (RRP), a rare disease that is characterized by the growth of tumors in the respiratory tract. The tumors can spread into the trachea, interfering with swallowing, breathing, and vocal cord function. If the tumors spread down into the lungs it can be fatal.

"This started when she was 14 months old," Angelica said. "Before she

started the chemo she was having surgeries every five weeks and now it's every four months. Thankfully, when they've sent the tumors off to get a biopsy they come back negative but they could turn anytime. If they keep growing past her esophagus there may be nothing they can do about it."

Angelica and Alexis were one of more than 60 families that benefited from the good will of the Towns County Marine Corps League Toys-for-Tots program.

The program was in high gear on Saturday as the League spread Christmas cheer around. The League gave away more than 800 toys as well as Walmart, Ingles, and Dills gift certificates.

"The challenge regarding Toys-for-Tots is to get word to those who really need it. The ones who can't read the newspaper or can't



A cache of toys await a multitude of children as Bobby Jarrard of the Marine Corps League waits to hand out the Toys-for-Tots Christmas Cheer on Saturday at the Towns County Courthouse. Photo/Matthew Jarrard

buy the paper," said Bobby Jarrard, Marine Corps League representative.

Sixty-four families made their way through the doors of the Towns County

Courthouse on Saturday. Some parents walked alongside their children as they filled their supplied bags with toys. Some parents arrived alone, having snuck off

while keeping their kids at bay as they sought out toys as presents to open on Christmas Morning.

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Shop with a Cop gets a boost

By Charles Duncan
 TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
 charlesduncan@brmenc.net

Santa Claus came to town in a big way for the Hiwassee Police Department's Shop-With-A-Cop program.

The program, which makes Christmas a little brighter for 12-16 year olds in the city, has far exceeded its goal of serving at least 22 children this holiday season.

The department, which targets the 12-16 age group, will be able to be Santa Claus to 40 local youths. And for the second consecutive year Shop with a Cop has exceeded its goal.

"No one has to tell me that times are hard, believe me, we already no that," Chief Jimmy Wright said. "We had some incredible people step up and make a difference this year. I can't tell you how shocked and pleased I am to be able to



Chief Jimmy Wright

make 40 children smile this week."

Several businesses and civic organizations donated money to help the program thrive this year. But it was the four-figure anonymous donations that made this holiday season a little brighter.

A few weeks ago the department had only enough funds to make Christmas brighter for 16 pre-teens and teens. That all changed after the Towns County Herald brought the program's dilemma to light in a Nov. 18 news story.

"We had one anonymous donation of \$3,000," Wright said. "That just blew me away."

The children in need of holiday gifts are identified through Amy Gibby-Rosser with Towns County Family Connection, Chief Wright said.

"Our goal is to spend \$200 a piece on each child and let them spend it on anything that they want to buy," Chief Wright said. "Thanks to the most generous community in America, we'll be able to do that again this year."

Last year, the department raised enough money to benefit 22 local children and treat them to a trip to Walmart and Pizza Hut via the Shop with a Cop program.

"We are very excited that the children got this op-

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Fewer Empty Stockings this year in Towns County

By Charles Duncan
 TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
 charlesduncan@brmenc.net

The Towns County Sheriff's Office closely resembles Santa's Workshop.

And Sheriff Chris "Santa" Clinton and his hard working elves Vicki Ellis and Heather Whitaker are still making a list and checking it twice, making sure that as many local children as possible enjoy a very, Merry Christmas.

Next week, they'll put together bags of toys to give to local parents to distribute underneath their Christmas trees for some very good boys and girls.

"What can I say, it's all about the kids," Sheriff Clinton said.

What once looked like a bleak Christmas year for newborn children up to 12 years old is shaping up to be a rather nice holiday season. Sheriff Clinton was in awe on Monday as he surveyed the mass quantity of toys that have found their way to the Sheriff's Office.



Sheriff Chris Clinton

"I just can't believe it," Sheriff Clinton said. "The economy is in the tank, money is tight, but thanks to the most giving community on the face of this earth, there are going to be a bunch of children that wake up smiling on Christmas morning. God Bless Towns County."

Sheriff Clinton and his staff at the Towns County Sheriff's Office continue to try to bridge the gap between those children who have, and those who don't.

The Sheriff's Christmas Parade, A Georgia

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Lions' Give a Christmas shines

By Matthew Jarrard
 TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
 matthew.tcherald@brmenc.net

While Christmas is still nine days away for most folks, it came early for many families on Saturday as the Towns County Lions Club hosted their annual Give-A-Christmas event at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

Donations of every kind decked the Music Hall as more than 150 children, along with their families, all experienced this pre-Christmas gathering together under one roof.

And not one person was turned away as hundreds stood in line while the event catered Christmas to those within the town who are less fortunate. Invitations were handed out through the school system, seeing firsthand which children are most in need.



Jingle Joy the Clown and Miss Ga Mountain Fair herself Miranda Lee Carballo provide entertainment as positive role models for the children in the community at the Lions Club Give-A-Christmas event. Photo/Matthew Jarrard

"You don't see many that shouldn't have come. If they needed it, they're here," said Gene Mitchell, former President as well as current Lions Club member. "We do it every year and we try to make it fun."

Tables and clothing racks of various brand

names, sizes and styles, mostly winter apparel for the cold months, were donated. Fully decorated Christmas trees were given away to those who didn't have one of their own. Santa Claus was all-ears as he sat in for

See Lions, page 2A

CDC cures toy cravings in Towns

By Matthew Jarrard
 TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
 matthew.tcherald@brmenc.net

Christmas will ride in on two wheels this year for nearly 30 lucky Towns County children.

Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control put together and presented 30 hand-built bicycles to Bobby Jarrard and Mike Brown of the Marine Corps League's Towns County Toys-For-Tots program. It's the second year in a row the CDC



Mike Brown and Bobby Jarrard of the Towns County Marine Corps League stand with 75 members of Atlanta-based CDC inside the decorated lobby of the Brasstown Valley Resort. Photo/Matthew Jarrard

has paid a holiday visit to the Brasstown Valley Resort in Hiwassee.

"The Resort has been great hosts for us for two

See CDC, page 2A

Floodplain hearings set for Thursday

By Charles Duncan
 TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
 charlesduncan@brmenc.net

The public is encouraged to attend the Thursday Towns County Commission meeting as Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall hosts a meeting with Federal Emergency Management Agency officials and representatives of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

The meeting is considered a public hearing on the redesigned federal floodplain maps that could impact landowners and future construction, Commissioner Kendall said.

The enhanced map and its preliminary changes will be presented during an Open House for the public, to be held on at the Towns County Courthouse from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the courthouse location at 48 River Street, Suite B, Kendall said. During the Open House, representatives from local government, DNR and FEMA will provide the most current information regarding Towns County's flood risk, flood insurance requirements,



Bill Kendall

floodplain development regulations, floodplain mapping, and timeline for DFIRM adoption. The enhanced countywide floodplain maps will be displayed.

DNR and the FEMA have completed an enhanced Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Towns County and all its municipalities including: Hiwassee and Young Harris. This FIS includes

See Floodplain, page 8A

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