



### Towns County food pantry receives donation

This year rather than purchasing the usual calendars to give away to customers for the holidays, Danny Burch Insur-

ance decided to do something a little different. He decided to donate that money he would have spent on calendars to the

Towns County Food Pantry in honor of all of his clients.

Thank you to Danny Burch and all of his customers! T(Dec29,A1)srh

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of the Monday start, the tournament began on Tuesday. No game results were available at press time.

The busiest workers during the storm were of course emergency service providers, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC workers and Georgia Department of Transportation work crews. Towns County Fire and Rescue workers were responding to an average of 40 calls a day. Sheriff deputies and Hiawassee police stayed busy around the clock answering calls of stranded motorists or fender benders created by the icy road conditions.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton urged motorists to use their heads and not their hearts when contemplating travel in extreme weather conditions.

"It is still early in the season and we have already had quite a bit of snow and ice along with some extremely low temperatures,"

Sheriff Clinton said. "Along with the beauty of a White Christmas comes the increased hazard associated with winter driving."

"It is always best not to drive during snowy or icy conditions," he said. "Whenever possible avoid driving during extreme winter weather. Even front wheel drive and four-wheel drive vehicles are susceptible to snow and ice."

"If you must drive, the following suggestions are meant as helpful tips to avoid increasing the risk," he said. "During winter you should always make certain that your vehicle is prepared. Vehicle preparation should include keeping your vehicle properly tuned up and making sure that your tires are in good shape. Tires should be properly inflated and have a tread depth of at least an eighth inch. Always keep plenty of fuel in your vehicle's tank and make sure

that your battery is up to date and properly maintained."

Thankfully, temperatures returned to the more comfortable 40-degree range by Tuesday and were expected to stay there through the rest of the week. By Friday, the mercury was projected to reach into the 50s through Sunday, according to the National Weather Service.

The busiest recreational workers during the storm of course were those individuals building incredibly large snowmen. From Young Harris to Upper Hightower, a snowman builder's work is never done.

Those snowmen will soon dissipate, rain is in the forecast for the New Year as Saturday and Sunday are expected to be wet before giving way to sunshine on Monday and Tuesday. The National Weather Service predicts a return of unfrozen precipitation by Jan. 5.

