

Towns County Herald

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Winter Storm Inga brings cold temps, icy roads



Towns County Comprehensive Schools experienced a water main break, causing school to shut down for two days until repairs could be made.

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

When Winter Storm Inga moved through the area last week, she brought with her snow, ice and frigid temperatures.

Fortunately, Inga only dropped about a half inch of snow the evening of Jan. 16 into Jan. 17, but temperatures dipped into the single digits and stayed well below freezing for several days, causing ice to form and stick around for a while.

Looking at the havoc Inga wreaked nearby, it's clear that things could have been much worse in Towns County.

At least seven deaths have been attributed directly to

the winter storm in Georgia and neighboring states, and some 11 deaths have been linked to sustained low temperatures in Inga's wake.

Thankfully, Inga's impact on Towns County was minimal for a winter storm.

"We were on the southern end of the system and missed most winter weather related problems," said Brandon Walls, Towns County EMA Deputy Director. "We had very few accidents in the county related to the storm, and nothing serious that I am aware of."

"We had some ice-covered roads, some of which have persisted into (Jan. 20). I know roads were worse north of us, and many more accidents were reported in nearby counties

to the north."

Gov. Nathan Deal declared a state of emergency for more than half of Georgia's counties on the first day of the storm, including Towns, and he issued the following statement the next day, on Jan. 17:

"Due to yesterday's winter weather and continued freezing temperatures, ice continues accumulating on our roadways. GDOT is responsible for the maintenance of more than 17,900 miles of state roads and interstates. Currently, there are more than 12,800 miles remaining to be cleared and treated."

Continued Gov. Deal: "In light of this, I urge people to stay

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Towns County Chamber of Commerce breaks bread, celebrates year ahead

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – The Towns County Chamber of Commerce paid tribute to 2017 accomplishments, set goals for 2018, and celebrated its membership at the Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation on Thursday, Jan. 18, at Brasstown Valley Resort.

Before getting down to business, chamber members were encouraged to enjoy the tasty hor d'oeuvres provided by the resort, as they mingled and networked.

Chamber President Candace Lee began the meeting by welcoming all in attendance, and she introduced Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, who administered the induction of the 2018 Board Members.

"I want to thank all of you



Induction of the 2018 Towns County Chamber of Commerce Board. Photo/Lily Avery

for your membership this past year with the Towns County Chamber of Commerce," said Lee. "This is our celebration of you, our membership."

"We're glad you could

come. We're glad you brought friends. We're so excited to be able to do this for you all here tonight."

Of the 15 board members, four retired this year, making

way for new people to bring fresh ideas and contributions to continue the chamber's success in the coming year.

The 2018 Board

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Milsap, T.G. Sheppard concert rescheduled

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

Go ahead and add Ronnie Milsap to the long list of people to come down with the flu this winter season.

"Ronnie Milsap has the flu and will be unable to perform on Jan. 20, 2018, in Hiwassee," according to GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com. "The show is being rescheduled to Feb. 3, 2018."

"Tickets purchased for the Jan. 20 show will be valid at the gates on Feb. 3. If you are unable to attend, you may come and exchange your ticket for Gene Watson (March 3) or turn your ticket in for a refund."

The man, the myth, the Milsap, has earned six Grammys, eight Country Music Association Awards, is responsible for 40 No. 1 hits, has been inducted into both the Grand



Due to the flu, Ronnie Milsap had to reschedule his Jan. 20 show to Feb. 3, 2018. Photo/Facebook

Ole Opry and the Country Music Hall of Fame, and sold more than 35 million albums, ensuring his status as a Country Music Crossover legend.

And when he heads to town on Feb. 3, he and his

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Sons of Confederate Veterans celebrate Lee, Jackson

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – In honor of Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, the Sons of Confederate Veterans David W. Payne Camp 1633 gathered at Brother's Restaurant for their Second Annual Lee/Jackson Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 20.

Dozens of SCV Camp members and several area leaders, including Union County State Commissioner Lamar Paris and District 8 State Rep. Matt Gurtler, gathered to enjoy a delicious meal and pay tribute to the lives of past brave soldiers of the Confederacy.

Customarily, the camp welcomes a guest speaker to highlight various aspects of



SCV David W. Payne Camp 1633 Cmdr. David Junghans presenting a certificate of appreciation to Army of Tennessee Councilman Jason Boshers. Photo/Lily Avery

the war, the history behind it and, of course, the two generals who paved the way for the Confederacy all those years ago.

This year, Army of

Tennessee Councilman Jason Boshers was that speaker.

"I could stand here and talk about the usual stuff of Lee and Jackson, but y'all

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Towns County Firewise meets to solidify plans for 2018

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Gathering for the first time in the New Year, members of the Towns County Firewise Citizens Coalition met at Towns County Fire Station No. 6 on Jan. 16 to discuss their 2018 plans.

Coalition President Marsha Elliott began the meeting by going over the coalition's 2017 successes.

"One of the things that you always need to do when you end a year and begin another one is to look back and look forward," said Elliott. "Certainly, 2017 is in the history books, and I think we did some significant things to raise awareness levels of the mission of our coalition."

"Over the last year, we've had a presence at the two



Marsha Elliott, president of the Towns County Firewise Citizens Coalition. Photo/Lily Avery

Towns County Homeowners Association meetings. We participated in a Chamber of Commerce Business Showcase. We did a Firewise Day in May. So, I think we did

a lot of things last year to put our program out there.

"I still feel like our No. 1 is to educate and to do whatever we can to put

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Historical society welcomes Botting of Hamilton Gardens

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Members of the Towns County Historical Society welcomed Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge volunteer Maddie Botting to their monthly meeting on Monday, Jan. 15.

Botting has volunteered in the gardens since they became incorporated in 2016, and she spoke to the historical group about the history of the gardens, ongoing revitalization efforts and upcoming events.

The Hamilton Gardens came about in the early 1980s, when Fred and Hazel Hamilton donated their collection of more than a thousand rhododendrons and azaleas.

Since then, it has become widely beloved for its natural beauty and uniqueness, with more than 30 acres of native



Maddie Botting of Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge. Photo/Lily Avery

blooms nestled along the shores of Lake Chatuge.

The Chatuge Mountain Fairgrounds maintained the gardens prior to incorporation, but when the Board of the

Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge was formed, the group struck an agreement with the fairgrounds to take over maintenance and operations of

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Habitat for Humanity gearing up to build another home

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Each year, Habitat for Humanity Towns/Union Counties has provided an amazing gift to a deserving family in the community – a new home. And it's time to do it again.

Volunteers with the nonprofit organization met on Saturday, Jan. 20, to hold an interest meeting at the Mountain Regional Public Library for those wishing to be considered for the 2018 spring build.

Habitat for Humanity has been around for decades, originating in 1976 out of Americus, Georgia.

The Georgia-based organization operates in all 50 states and in countries around the world to build simple, af-



Towns/Union Habitat for Humanity is headquartered near the Towns and Union County line in Young Harris. Photo/Lily Avery

fordable homes for those in need.

Towns/Union Habitat was founded in 1995, and Habitat volunteers have built one

home each year for the past 17 years, generally switching build locations between Towns and Union counties.

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Lake Levels
Blue Ridge 1,668.67
Chatuge 1,917.72
Nottely 1,760.99



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Basketball

Jan 23 vs. Commerce 6 PM
Jan 26 @ George Walton 6 PM
Jan 27 vs. Prince Avenue 6 PM

Free Food Distribution
N. Mt. Zion Rescheduled
Jan 25th
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Dollar Sale to benefit Towns County Library
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Homeowners Association Annual Meeting
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