

# Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, January 30, 2013

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Sunny	42 27
Fri: Clouds	47 25
Sat: Sunny	54 30
Sun: Sunny	51 29
Mon: Clouds	53 33
Tues: Clouds	52 31
Wed: Sunny	54 33



Upstream Elevation Predicted 01/30/13	
Lake Chatuge	1921.02
Lake Nottely	1765.02
Blue Ridge	1672.03

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## Sports Page 10A

### Spaghetti Dinner



The VFW, Post 7807 is hosting a FREE Appreciation Spaghetti Dinner for Towns County Employees & Veterans



Friday, Feb. 15 5-7 p.m.

See page 3A

### Centennial Video to be shown at Historical Society meeting

Monday, February 11 Business Meeting 4 p.m. Video 5:30 p.m. At the New Senior Center in Hiwassee

See page 2A

### Free Food Distribution



Tuesday, February 5 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Towns County Food Pantry



## Towns County Basketball

Tues., Jan. 29 vs. Tallulah Falls  
Fri., Feb. 1 @ Lakeview  
Sat., Feb. 2 vs. Pinecrest

## Towns County Wrestling

February 1 & 2 Area Tournament @ Commerce

## It's okay to eat other Chatuge fish

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

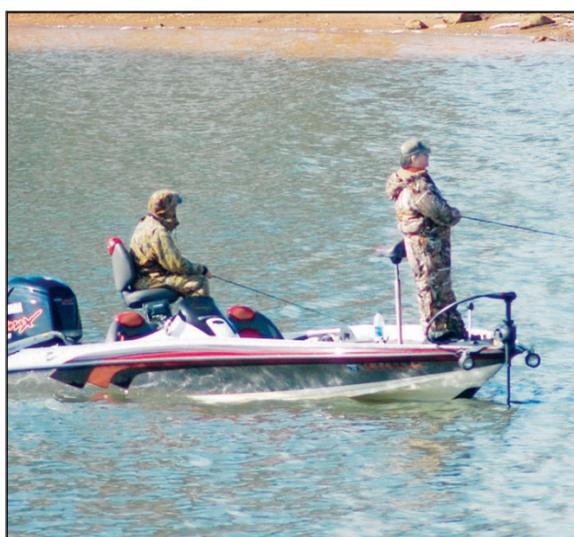
The fish consumption advisory Dec. 14 for Lake Chatuge by the North Carolina Division of Public Health is for white and large mouth bass only.

All other fish in Lake Chatuge are considered safe and low in contaminants, public health officials said.

The ever popular species of crappie and all other game fish such as bream and spotted bass in Lake Chatuge are considered as low contaminant fish and are safe for consumption by all age groups.

However, children under the age of 15 years and women of child bearing age should always use common sense when eating any game fish because of the risk involved of contaminants.

These demographic groups should limit their consumption of low contaminant fish to a maximum of two meals per week consisting of no more than 2 ounces of uncooked fish



Two anglers try their luck at crappie fishing on Lake Chatuge on Sunday. Crappie fishing is about to get hot on the lake. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

per meal. The advisory for the large mouth bass species is state wide and should be considered when eating large mouth bass caught in any part of Lake Chatuge.

"We want people to know that these are advisory recommendations and should be considered as such," said North Carolina State Toxicologist Dr. Ken Rudo.

See *Gone Fishing*, page 6A

## Don Williams bids adieu to The Hall

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

It's rare in people's daily lives when they encounter greatness, but for the Don Williams fans that packed Anderson Music Hall at the Georgia Mountain Fair Grounds, that was the case Saturday night.

Williams did not disappoint his audience and they let him know just how much they appreciated his talent all throughout the evening.

Williams took the stage for the last time in Hiwassee as it has been announced that this is his Farewell Tour.

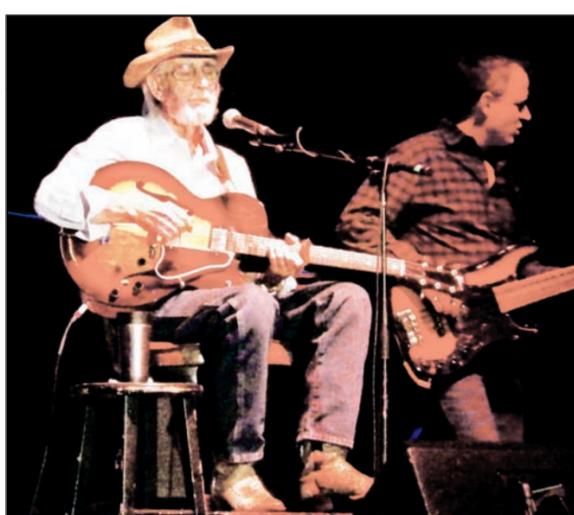
Fans were lined up for more than 100 yards at the Will Call and Ticket purchase booths with only minutes left before the opening act got underway.

There were many fans asking concertgoers for tickets out in the parking lot.

His following had turned out to see his final concert and from the opening chords to the final note he was flawless.

It really sounded as though it was a recording and not a live performance it was so well done.

Such is the way with the "old veterans" of the Country Music circuit as opposed to the three-chord beer drinking songs



Country Music legend Don Williams gives his fans a treat with *I Believe In You* at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/Joe Collins

of many new Country Music stars of today.

Williams was born in Floydada, Fla. in 1939 and learned to play the guitar from his mother while growing up just outside of Corpus Christi, Texas.

He traveled to Nashville in 1971 to primarily become a songwriter and pursue a solo career. Williams knew that his laid back style might not fit the popular Nashville set, but he committed himself to perform-

See *Williams*, page 6A

## Flu season has been an epic one

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

The Georgia Department of Public Health has determined that influenza (flu) has hit Georgia harder this season than it has in the past 10 years.

The Public Health officials say that the illness should not be taken lightly because of the seriousness of the symptoms and the possible side affects that could include death.

To date, only two deaths have been reported in Georgia as a result of flu symptoms although several deaths have been recorded nationwide.

In the Metro Atlanta area alone, there have been over 555 people hospitalized with confirmed flu cases with many more hospital admissions statewide.



Flu shots are still available at the Towns County Health Department. This flu season has been rather cruel on Georgians. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Public Health officials say the peak season for the flu bug is near the end of January and on thru the month of February and into March, but reports indicate the season started early

See *Flu*, page 6A

## City Hall has moved to 50 River Street

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

The residents of Hiwassee now own a new facility that houses the affiliated offices of City Hall.

The new physical address is 50 River Street, Hiwassee and will be known by many as the "Historic Bank of Hiwassee" building, which is up on the Square in the center of town.

The new location is a long time coming and has been completely paid for through the general fund.

"We have had our eye on this building for a long time and it has finally become a reality," Hiwassee Mayor Barbara



Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis and staff are excited about the city's new digs in the Historic Bank of Hiwassee building. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Ice, sleet cause major problems for Towns County residents

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

The National Weather Service and the local law Emergency Management Agency issued possible ice warnings last week for Friday in Towns County and all of North Georgia.

Towns County's Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall recognized the possible icing as Friday got underway and sent the county employees home as they arrived for work because it became apparent that the icing situation would become worse.

Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams heeded the warnings and closed all Towns County schools on Thursday night with some folks thinking this to be a rush to judgement.

The skeptics found the early morning hours to be evidence of their thinking, but as the morning progressed, it became evident that icing would occur.

The roads became worse as the day went on with moisture freezing on the road ways causing driving conditions to become quite hazardous.

The Mountain Movers and Shakers had to cut their weekly Friday morning ritual short, at Mary's Southern Grill, to avoid having its attendees traveling on dangerous roads.

The quick thinking decisions made by those in charge of the county and other private organizations was correct and the actions they took probably saved lives because of how bad the roads became.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton and his whole department had their hands full early in the day on Friday as calls of accidents started arriving at a little after 8 a.m.



"Dispatch began receiving calls around 8 a.m. on Friday and many of the calls were simultaneous," Sheriff Clinton said. "We were forced to switch to our four-wheel drive vehicles to better answer the numerous calls and we had to call in officers who were off duty just to answer all the accidents resulting from the freezing rain and ice.

"We began issuing warnings on Jan. 24th through social media outlets and again at 9:30 a.m. on Friday advising people to stay at home and not travel," the sheriff said.

"We advised that if people had to travel, they should let someone know their route and E.T.A.," he said. "We also worked with area news outlets and radio stations to warn drivers of pending dangers."

By 11:30 a.m. Chief Deputy Jeff Edge had requested 911 Mapping Director Marty Roberts to contact Commissioner Kendall and issue a warning on the County's 911 emergency alert and notification system and by 11:30 a.m. more than 8,000 calls had been

See *Ice*, page 6A

## Three WWII vets stay close in Towns County



William Buice, Leon West, and Paul Wilson are still together after all these years. Photo/Libby Shook

By Libby Shook  
Towns County Herald libby.tcherald@windstream.net

Fate brings people together at the right time and place or so says Towns County resident and local artist Jackie Su West.

Who would have guessed that three World War II veterans from different backgrounds would find themselves in a lifelong friendship that started in grade school in East Point many years ago.

"This is how the story began. Leon West was 3 years old and was being raised by his grandparents on Linwood Avenue. The Buice family moved into town and lived across the street from him. Bill Buice was too young to cross the street and Leon, who was one year older, broke the rule and happily crossed the street to meet his new playmate," said Jackie West.

These two toddlers became best friends for life, attending school together, serving in the U.S. Navy, fighting in and surviving World War II.

Unfortunately, as often happens with childhood buddies, they went their separate ways as Leon West moved to New York and Buice moved to Pensacola, Fla.

They did, however, always try to stay in contact and visit with each other whenever possible.

They have not broken that tradition and still remain

best friends to this day. Leon West is now 87 years young and his companion and best friend is 86 years young.

Another friend Paul Wilson was also from East Point.

Wilson, West, and Buice found themselves connected as they all attended Russell High School together.

Leon West graduated in 1942, Buice in 1943, and Wilson in 1945.

As it turned out, the old adage "it's a small world" held true as they all knew each other from the same small town when they were youngsters.

Another connection brought about by fate and another friendship in the making.

According to Jackie West, when her husband was a young boy, his uncle often brought him fishing in Hiwassee and he fell in love with Towns County and the lake.

They later decided to make Towns County their home.

They enjoyed the mountain views and the beauty of Lake Chatuge and it was what inspired Jackie to begin painting mountain and lake scenes making her a much sought after artist.

See *Veterans*, page 6A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

