

# Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, February 5, 2014

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	47 29
Fri: Clouds	50 32
Sat: Rain	51 35
Sun: Snow	45 18
Mon: Clouds	37 20
Tue: Clouds	44 26
Wed: Rain	47 35



Upstream Elevation Predicted 02/05/14	
Lake Chatuge	1,917.88
Lake Nottely	1,762.07
Blue Ridge	1,669.93

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## Snowstorm blankets Towns; students miss three days of classes

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Between three and five inches of snow causing hardships for locals and prompting Towns County Schools to close for three days.

Actually, schools closed Tuesday morning as administrators recalled bus drivers back to get students home before significant accumulation occurred.

Make up days for the missed school days will be decided soon.

There was at least one serious accident during the snowstorm.

On Tuesday, Jan. 28, Towns County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to Fodder Creek Road to a single-vehicle accident involving an overturned vehicle in the creek.

Upon arrival, deputies were directed to a 1998 Chevy Blazer which was in fact overturned in the creek. The driver and passenger were already out of the vehicles being attended to by Towns County Fire & Rescue and EMS.

The vehicle was driven by Kyle Garret Waitkus, 18 of Hiawassee.

Micci Dockery of Hiawassee was a passenger in the vehicle. Deputies reportedly

determined that the Blazer was north bound on Fodder Creek Road when the driver lost control of the vehicle due to weather conditions at the time.

Both accident victims were transported to Chatuge Regional Hospital in Hiawassee. Dockery was treated and released. Waitkus was transferred to Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville. As of Monday morning, Feb. 3rd, Waitkus was listed in critical condition.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton asks residents to please be in continued prayer for the Waitkus and Dockery and their families.

As state and county road crews got state routes and mountainous roadways cleared on Tuesday, secondary roads suffered.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall praised local road crews and state road crews for a laborious task of keeping main roads clear.

"The Road Department did well," Kendall said. "They got out early on it, and treated the roads before it came. They also focused on the steep parts of the mountains.

"We got a good head start on the storm," he said. "They worked real hard and got several roads back open fairly quick."

Parking lots and secondary roads were the biggest



A blanket of snow covered Towns County for the better part of four days. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

concerns. Vehicles pulling into and out of parking lots proved dangerous for most as residents were urged to use caution to avoid sliding out into roadways.

"Our road crews got to each road just as soon as possible," Commissioner Kendall

said. "We appreciate folks' patience. Most people are very understanding of the situation we were faced with during the snowstorm."

Emergency workers went to retrieve some who had need of medical help, Kendall said. "We had some folks who

needed to go to the doctor," he said. "We got to them and everything worked out well on that end."

"In situations like last week, if anyone has emergency needs, if you need food, we'll come to you even if we have to go in on foot," Commissioner Kendall said.

The biggest plus in Towns County was getting started on roadways before the snow came, Commissioner Kendall said.

"You can't wait too long to treat these steep mountain roads," he said. "If you put chains on, you go five or six miles on the highways to get to the secondary roads and you've worn your chains out."

Towns County finally exhausted its salt supply with no more salt to be had, Commissioner Kendall said.

"It was going to be seven to 10 days before we could get any more delivered," Kendall said. "So we sent some trucks to Kentucky to get 50 more tons of salt just in case we get hit again with snow."

"The weather folks are calling for snow again on Sunday and we didn't want to be caught without salt," he said. "It cost a little more money to send the trucks to get the salt, but,

See Storm, Page 9

## Eryn Cochran hits 1,000 career points plateau



Towns County Lady Indian Eryn Cochran (10) waits to see if her 3-pointer will fall. It did, and she entered the Towns County record books as a 1,000-point scorer. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County High School Lady Indians Basketball senior standout Eryn Cochran

achieved her second most noteworthy accomplishment of this season on Saturday at Pinecrest Academy in Cumming when she entered the 1,000 career points club at TCHS.

Her prior noteworthy

accomplishment was signing a basketball scholarship with Columbus State University in Columbus for next season immediately following the Lady Indians scrimmage against Gilmer High School of Ellijay

back on Nov. 16.

Extensive coverage of Cochran's individual success and that of her Lady Indian teams during her first three years of play, a look down memory lane at most noteworthy play by her father for the Indians in the region tournament during his senior year in 1975, and information about the local family connections of Columbus State head coach Jonathan Norton written at the time of her signing can be found by visiting the newspaper website at www.townscountyherald.net, entering the archives, and viewing front page coverage in the Nov. 20, 2013 edition of the *Towns County Herald*.

Cochran's entrance into the 1,000 points club was unfortunately delayed by a severe ankle injury suffered in the scrimmage game with Gilmer as she missed all 13 games of the 2013 portion of the Lady Indians schedule.

It took just nine games upon her return to action against Commerce on Jan. 3, however, to reach the magic total.

Cochran scored 182 points as a freshman, 267 as a

sophomore, and 409 as a junior for the Lady Indians, leaving her 142 points short of 1,000 entering her senior season.

She scored 128 points in her first eight games this year with 14 needed at Pinecrest Academy to reach the desired goal.

With 3:04 left in the second quarter and her points total at 998, Cochran took a pass from fellow senior Bailey Sutton and nailed a 3-point basket from the right baseline with the game immediately stopped by the Pinecrest clock operator and the announcement of the accomplishment made to the crowd.

She received a standing ovation from a large and appreciative Towns County attendees and was graciously presented the game ball by Pinecrest Academy Head Coach Theresa Guard.

She also made the evening more memorable by scoring a career single-game high 33 points during the game.

With Cochran becoming the 21st Lady Indian and with 12

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## Webb is Ranger of the Year

Towns County Herald  
News Special

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Ranger First Class David Webb, received his second nomination for the Law Enforcement Division's Ranger of the Year recently.

Previously named Region II Ranger of the Year in 2004, Webb was named the Law Enforcement Division's State Ranger of the Year for 2013.

With this honor, Webb, a Thomaston native, recently represented Georgia at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting in Oklahoma City, OK.

A 14-year veteran with the Georgia Department of



Ranger David Webb is honored as the state's Ranger of the Year.

Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division, Webb is assigned to Towns County.

On and off duty he is always available to the public

See Webb, Page 9

## Two charged with burglary in pharmacy heist

Towns County Herald  
News Special

Two area men have been charged with burglary in connection with the Nov. 28, 2013 heist at Young Harris Pharmacy, Towns County Sheriff's reports show.

Information from the owner of the pharmacy indicated that 4,100 prescription pills were taken, consisting of mostly Hydrocodone, after an obvious forced entry into the building, sheriff's reports show.

Investigators with the Towns County Sheriff's Office began working the case and within 24 hours at least one suspect was identified, and investigators continued to follow up on leads and interviews, sheriff's reports show. Evidence pointed to at least one look-out and at least



Bruce Webster

one person who actually entered the business, sheriff's reports show.

Bruce David Webster, Hiawassee, was arrested and charged with burglary and false statements, Towns County Jail



Caleb Hart

records show. Jonathan Caleb Hart, Warne, NC, was charged with burglary, jail records show.

Both subjects are free on bail at press time, jail records show.

## Authorities charge one

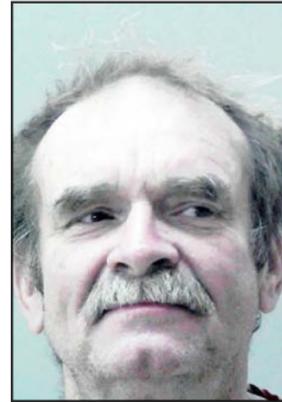
Towns County Herald  
News Special

Appalachian Drug Task Force agents and Towns County Sheriff's Office deputies served a search warrant on Jan. 27 at a residence in the area of Sims Road.

Samuel Dwain Hedden, 59, of Hiawassee, was charged with two counts of possession with intent to distribute marijuana, two counts of distribution of marijuana, possession less than an ounce of marijuana, and two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, Towns County Jail records show. Hedden also faces charges of probation violation.

Hedden has an extensive criminal history dating back to 1974 when he was 19 years old. He has served nine sentences in state prison, Georgia Department of Correction records show.

In 1993, Hedden was con-



Samuel Dwain Hedden

victed of sale and distribution of marijuana in Towns County and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, state DOC records show.

He has been out of state prison since August 2011.

The suspect is being held in the Towns County Detention Center, jail records show.

## Towns man injured in crash

Towns County Herald  
News Special

A Towns County man was seriously injured in a single-vehicle crash last week in White County.

William Canup lost control of his 2002 silver Ford F-150 on Jan. 30 around 5 p.m., White County authorities said.

The accident occurred just north of Helen on Georgia 75, authorities said.

According to authorities, Canup was traveling north on State Route 75 when he lost control and skidded approximately 350 feet off the road-

way, and striking a tree.

Canup was partially ejected from the vehicle during the crash. He was seriously injured and was airlifted from downtown Helen to an Atlanta hospital for treatment, authorities said.

Canup will be cited as a result of the accident when he is released from medical care, authorities said.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



## WRESTLING:

Sat. Feb. 8th  
@ Mt. Vernon  
State Sectionals

## BASKETBALL:

Tues. Feb 4th  
vs. Tallulah Falls  
6 PM Senior Night



Relay for Life  
is asking  
for your  
Help!

see page 2



Peacock  
Playhouse  
holding  
auditions

see page 10



Habitat for  
Humanity  
accepting  
applications

see page 10

