

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Sunny	49 25
Fri: Clouds	52 32
Sat: Rain	50 31
Sun: Clouds	54 38
Mon: Rain	51 33
Tue: Rain	57 31
Wed: Clouds	55 31



Upstream Elevation Predicted 02/26/14	
Lake Chatuge	1,918.27
Lake Nottely	1,762.50
Blue Ridge	1,672.70

INDEX

14 Pages

Arrests	2
Church/Obits.....	6,7
Classifieds.....	13
Editorial.....	4
Letters.....	4
Legals	13

SPORTS

Page 10

2014 Baseball and Softball Sign Up

Now through March 1st

Towns County Recreation Department

See Page 11

Food Distribution

Tues. March 4th
2 pm - 5 pm

Towns County Food Pantry

see page 5

MASTER GARDENER Class Sign Up GA Extension Service

see page 9

BASEBALL:

WED. FEB 26
VS. ANDREWS
5 PM

SAT. MAR 1 @ FANNIN CO
5 PM

SOCCER:

SAT. MAR 1
@ GEORGE WALTON
1 PM

Towns County community icon Elois Anderson dies at 87

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

Elois Anderson has always been at the top of the class.

She graduated as valedictorian of both Towns County High School and Young Harris College.

She began her career in banking with the Bank of Hiwassee in 1947, advancing to serve as president and chairman of the board. Ultimately, she retired after 64 years in 2011.

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, Anderson, 87, of Warne, NC passed away peacefully at her residence.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, in the Hayesville First United Methodist Church with the Revs. Kirk Hatherly and Mike Duncan officiating. Interment was in Ogden Cemetery in Warne.

Elois was married on June 1, 1947 to Robert L. Anderson Jr. of Warne, NC.

She served on the board, and in multiple capacities, for the Georgia Bankers Association. Elois Anderson was a true pioneer as one of the first female bank presidents in the state.

After the loss of her be-



Elois Anderson, left, was Towns County born and bred. She became one of the first female bank presidents in the state. Here, she shares a moment with another icon, Dick Paris and Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

loved husband in 1983, Elois Anderson succeeded him as a director of Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation. She served for more than 30 years.

Retired Blue Ridge Mountain EMC General Manager Joe Satterfield paid tribute to Elois Anderson on Nov. 7, 2010, a day proclaimed in her honor in Towns County and the City of Hiwassee.

"I've always described

Elois Anderson as a classy lady," Satterfield said. "That's the way I've always described her to a lot of people. I've always been proud to be in her presence.

"I've eaten hamburgers with her, I've eaten five-course meals with her, she's dined in my home," he said. "You may not know it, but she's partial to cheesecake and peanut brittle.

"Those of you here today may know Elois Ander-

son in many different ways," Satterfield said. "You may have grown up with her here in Towns County. You may have graduated from Towns County High School with her. You may have attended Young Harris College with her.

"You may know her as a local banker, or as a member of the Georgia Bankers Association," he said. "You may know her as a Chamber President or you may know her as a

huge part of the dramatization of the *Reach of Song* drama.

"You may have been in attendance when she was named Citizen of the Year by the Northeast Georgia Board of Realtors or at Young Harris College when she was given the President's Medallion. Maybe a Towns County Lions Club member told you that she was their Citizen of the Year," Satterfield said.

"I know her as a superb board member for the EMC. I know her as a good friend, a proud mother and a bragging proud grandmother," he said. "It's been my pleasure to live and work in this community for a little over 26 years. I've met a lot of good folks along the way; I've met a few special people. Without reservation, I can say that Elois Anderson is one of those very special people.

"Speaking for this community, it will always appreciate all that you've done for the people of this region," Satterfield said. "Thank you Elois Anderson."

Elois Anderson received the prestigious President's Medallion Award in 1996 from Young Harris College.

She was selected as a Gracious Lady of Georgia, a

See Elois, Page 12

Bud: 'It breaks your heart to see your friends go down'

By Charles Duncan
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Bud Johnson, Phil Gamache and Todd Kimsey are a dying breed - literally.

The three are survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima, a battle that began Feb. 19, 1945 and ended 35 days later, on March 26, 1945.

Johnson, Gamache and Kimsey were honored last week at Bear Meadows Grill during observance of the 69th anniversary of the battle.

Gamache, a U.S. Marine corporal, is one of the rare few Marines from that battle still alive.

Iwo Jima was of strategic importance to the Allied Forces. The island was located midway between Japan and American bomber bases in the Marianas.

Since the summer of 1944, the Japanese home islands had been reeling from strikes by the new, long-range U.S. B-29 bombers.



Iwo Jima Vet Bud Johnson gives the background for the Battle of Iwo Jima at last week's observance luncheon in Hiwassee. Photo/Charles Duncan

The U.S., however, had no protective fighters with enough range to escort the big

Super Fortresses. Countless bombers were easy prey of Japanese interceptor air at-

tacks. Iwo Jima, with its three airfields, was ideally located as a fighter escort station. It was also an ideal safe haven for crippled bombers returning from raids on Tokyo.

"It wasn't supposed to take very much time to take control of Iwo Jima," Johnson said. "Three days or no more than a week tops."

Three days turned into 35 before U.S. forces could claim control of the tiny island on March 26, 1945, Johnson said.

"We bombed Iwo Jima for 72 hours before attempting to go ashore," Johnson said. "It didn't do any good. All it did was make potholes in the airfields. The Japanese were in the hills.

"The Japanese had turned the island into an anthill," he said. "They had miles and miles of tunnels underground and in the hillside. All that bombing and we didn't touch a single Japanese soldier."

Johnson, who served in both the Pacific and Atlantic

during World War II, said the Japanese were among the most disciplined military forces of all time.

"They fought to the death," Johnson said. "Before you even encountered the Japanese, you knew you were in for a fight."

The first three days after the Allied bombings on Iwo Jima were torture as well, said Johnson, who was aboard a Destroyer Escort.

Johnson stood helplessly as one U.S. Marine after the other dropped dead or wounded on the beach during the first three days of fighting ashore took place.

"It was horrible, they just couldn't get a foothold," Johnson, now, 92, remembered. "It breaks your heart to see your friends go down."

Gamache said that he lost his best friend in the battle. He still gets emotional when recalling the experience.

See Iwo Jima, Page 12

Lady Indians advance to Elite 8

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Chickamauga - The underdog Towns County Lady Indians exacted revenge for a Battle of the States loss on Monday night.

The difference, this wasn't a Christmas Tournament. Rather, it was the first round of the Class A Public Schools Tournament.

The Lady Indians behind 20 points from senior Eryn Cochran defeated Gordon Lee 64-56 to advance to the Elite 8.

The Lady Indians led nearly the entire game as senior Kelsie Cowart played an incredible game of defense in the post.

The win by Towns County avenged a Dec. 26 Christmas Tournament loss to the Lady Trojans by a score of 57-44 in



Senior Eryn Cochran led the Lady Indians with 20 points.

Hiwassee. By far, this win was of much more importance as the Lady Indians keep their state championship hopes alive.

The Lady Trojans pulled

within 3 points late in the game, but, the Lady Indians hit their free throws down the stretch to

See Lady Indians, Page 12

Lack of notice for controlled burn upsets Kendall

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall was visibly upset on Monday after learning of a controlled burn by the U.S. Forest Service.

Kendall wasn't upset about the burn, he was angered that there was no notice of the burn by the U.S. Forest Service.

The prescribed burn, designated for an area off Georgia 288 (Sunnyside) is part of the Fire Adaptive Community project.

Kendall was upset that residents would see the burn, be overwhelmed by smoke and tie up phone lines for Emergency Services.

"One phone call to the Homeowners Association president (Bald Mountain Park) and you could have notified 600 people," Kendall told a USFS representative on Monday.

Controlled burns are specifically weather-dependent, the USFS representative said.

The exact perfect weather is necessary before a controlled burn can be performed, the representative said.

"The conditions must be right to meet the objectives for both burning, and also for public safety," the representative said.

Kendall understood that, but, he was concerned that no message was given of a potential controlled burn.

"My question is why wasn't this made public so we could get it in the newspaper



Commissioner Bill Kendall so folks would know what was going on," Kendall said.

"We just got the forecast last night for today," the representative said. "The North wind will blow the smoke back toward the Trey Mountain area."

"One of the challenges we have with controlled burns, with them being weather dependent, is being able to get a weather forecast for more than a day ahead of time when we're trying to burn," the USFS representative said.

"Everyone knows that it's challenging for the weatherman to give you an accurate weather forecast, one to two days out," he said.

See Burn, Page 12

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Rep. Kingston speaks to Shakers

By Charles Duncan
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Young Harris - Congressman Jack Kingston, 1st District U.S. Representative, (R-GA), came to town last week and met with the Mountain Movers and Shakers at Mary's Southern Grill in Young Harris.

Kingston, a candidate for the soon to be vacant U.S. Senate seat held by retiring U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, (R-GA), told the crowd the tax system is broken and Obamacare will break the country.

"The reality is that government is getting so big, and so out of control it's really ridiculous," Kingston said.

See Kingston, Page 12



U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston, (R-GA), made a tour of the mountain counties, including Towns on Friday. Photo/Charles Duncan

