

# Windstream...from Page 1

ery month thereafter, until the membership was cancelled, the agency charged.

In a resolution of these allegations, Windstream will pay a total of \$600,000, which includes a \$175,000 civil penalty, \$175,000 in administrative fees and expenses, and \$250,000 in cy pres restitution to be used for the purchase of new computer equipment for the Technical College System of Georgia.

Windstream has represented to the Governor's Office of Consumer Protection that it is in the process of investing approximately \$14 million to

upgrade its fiber-supported areas in Georgia.

The company says that 90 percent or more of these upgrades were completed by the end of 2013, with the remaining upgrades slated for completion by mid-2014. The company expects the upgrades to address systemic download speed issues in the areas undergoing the upgrades. It is also seeking federal funding as well as exploring other options for upgrading the Internet service for consumers who are served by network equipment supported by copper-fed wires.

"This is essentially a truth

in advertising case," Sours said. "What consumers thought they were getting from a major company was significantly different from what they allegedly received. People need to be able to make informed choices about buying the services they need to communicate and do business. We are confident that this settlement will ensure that will now occur here."

For more details about the FCC's national broadband plan, visit [www.broadband.gov](http://www.broadband.gov). For more details, contact Shawn Conroy, Governor's Office of Consumer Protection, at (404) 656-3790.

# Faith...from Page 1

sure the school you choose is one that you would be happy going to even if you were red-shirted your first year. And to me, that's what stood out about Liberty."

"I'm looking forward to this season and seeing what she can do," Coach Byrne added. "She has already shown me some things in practice like moving off

the ball and better decision making. I wish her success in the future and I think she will make an excellent college player."

# Lady Indians...from Page 1

matching field goals by Randolph Clay with field goals of her own for a second and third 9 points Towns deficit by the 2:20 mark. It required a late Cowart field goal following a 6-0 Lady Red Devil run for a 49-36 score entering the fourth quarter.

Randolph Clay opened the fourth quarter with a free throw for a 50-36 lead but Moss and Albach sandwiched treys around a Randolph Clay deuce and Moss added two free throws, pulling the Lady Indians to within 52-44 with 6:18 on the clock.

The Lady Indians were knocking on the door with the Lady Devils head coach showing much alarm at the ensuing threat.

The Lady Indians had chances to reduce the lead further during a period of more than a minute and a half, but the shots wouldn't fall and a 5-0 run gave the Lady Red Devils a 57-44 lead at 3:17.

A 3-point play by Cochran at the 2 minute mark got the Lady Indians within 58-48 but that would be the last Lady Indian points and Randolph Clay sank 4 of 10 free throw attempts the rest of the way to increase their final margin of victory to 62-48.

While disappointed to have their season end at Randolph Clay, the Lady Indians and their fans are able to look back with pride at their playing so well on the road in facing what must be considered among the two toughest opening round



Lady Indians' Eryn Cochran fights for two points. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

assignments of the year. Most teams certainly did not have to face a defending state champion as did the Lady Indians in Gordon Lee and a state finalist this year and last in Randolph Clay who will play for this year's state title at 3 p.m. on Georgia Public TV this Thursday in Macon.

And there will be comfort in enjoying the overall 95-25 record, including 19-11 this year, compiled by the Lady Indians during their four years on the team.

Perhaps the most difficult moment for any athlete at the high school or any level of play is the realization that their career has come to an end.

The Randolph-Clay game

marked the final basketball appearances for Lady Indians' seniors Eryn Cochran, Kelsie Cowart, McKenzi Moss, and Bailey Sutton.

Much appreciation is extended to these young ladies who have provided countless hours of hard work in serving their team and school on the basketball court.

Many thanks are extended from the *Towns County Herald* and this reporter to Eryn, Kelsie, McKenzi, and Bailey for their many hours of dedicated and highly regarded service to their school and teams and best wishes are extended to each of them for the future.

# Food Drive...from Page 1

activities; the organization stays focused for the most part on the community.

"In the college we're just a bubble, but we wanted to expand out and help the community," Benson said. "We think community's very important."

Since the food drive was such a success, the group is considering doing it more often.

"We may be doing this monthly," he said.

Although this is one of the biggest successes Dorcas has enjoyed recently, it is far from the first.

Last semester, Dorcas was able to join in the efforts of programs like Shop With A Cop to provide Christmas gifts to underprivileged children.

"We did Operation Christmas Child," Googer said. "We had these shoeboxes, and people could bring the boxes and fill them with toys for a boy or girl of a certain age group, and then



Epsilon Delta Sigma's Tyler Benson. Photo/Mason Mitcham

we donated them. I believe we had 87 boxes."

Hopefully, the college and the community can continue to come together often in

order to provide for the less fortunate.

The Towns County Food Pantry was surely appreciative.

# Qualifying...from Page 1

more years representing the Ninth because we've been able to accomplish so much together over the last 14 months, and I am looking forward to continuing that work," Collins said. "I am honored to have the opportunity to continue providing my constituents with effective, conservative representation in Congress."

Also qualifying were Gov. Nathan Deal, a Hall County Republican. The governor is seeking his second term as the state's chief executive officer. Also, Georgia House Speaker, David Ralston, a Blue Ridge Republican, who represents Georgia's House District 7, also is seeking reelection.

Union County's District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch, a Dahlonega Republican, also qualified for reelection on Monday.

Qualifying for local, state and federal offices ends on Friday, March 7.

# Lake Foam...from Page 1

to produce the long-lasting foam found in lakes and rivers.

Lake foam is most often the result of the natural die-off of aquatic plants.

Plants are made up of organic material, including the oils (i.e., corn and vegetable oil).

When the plants die and decompose, the oils contained

in the plant cells are released and float to the surface.

The concentration of the oil changes the physical nature of the water, making foam formation easier.

The turbulence and wave action produced from high winds introduces air into the organically enriched water, which forms bubbles or

foam.

The foam will appear in parallel streaks in the open water or along the shoreline.

Natural foam has a somewhat earthy or fishy aroma and may have an off white color.

Detergent foam in contrast will have a noticeable perfume smell, and is usually whiter in color.

# Union authorities, GBI seek answers in Saturday murder in rural Union County

By Charles Duncan  
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A 54-year-old Blairsville man is dead and local and state authorities are searching for his killer, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

Jeff Fox, who has family members in Towns County, was found dead shortly before noon on Saturday at his home at 131 Brown Ridge Road, off Fairview Church Road, in rural Union County.

Sheriff Mason said that while an exact cause of death has yet to be determined, foul play is suspected.

"We're investigating the first homicide of 2014," Sheriff Mason said. "Yes, we definitely suspect foul play as the cause of death."

Union County Coroner Benny Erwin said that Fox's body was sent to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Laboratory for an autopsy by state medical examiners.

"Everything is under investigation at this point in time," Erwin said.

An autopsy was completed Monday morning, Union County Detective Sgt. Andrew Hammond said.

Details of that autopsy were unavailable at press time.

"It has been ruled a homicide, I can share that much," Sgt. Hammond said. "Everything is still under investigation at this time. We can't share anymore information than that."

Hammond spent several hours on Monday at the crime scene with GBI agents, and the medical examiner that conducted the autopsy on Fox.

Sheriff Mason said that Fox's sister and brother-in-law discovered his body as they stopped by his home on Saturday to give him a ride to the grocery store.

"Right now, everything is under investigation," Sheriff Mason said. "There's not a whole lot that we can share without damaging the integrity of our investigation."

Sheriff's investigators, aided by GBI Crime Scene investigators secured the scene shortly after noon on Saturday.

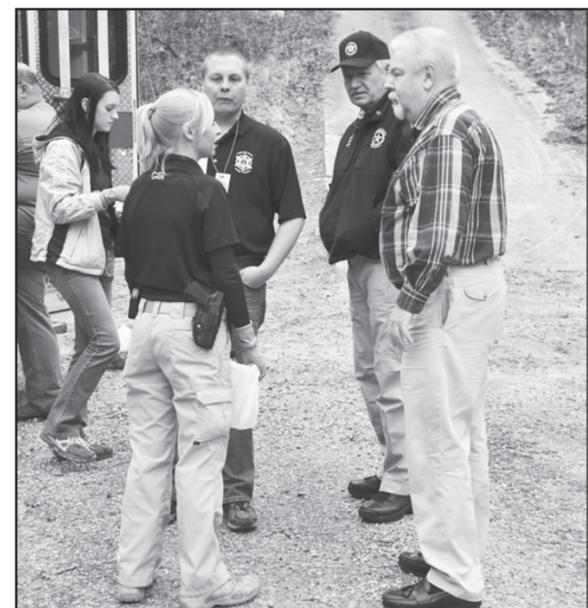
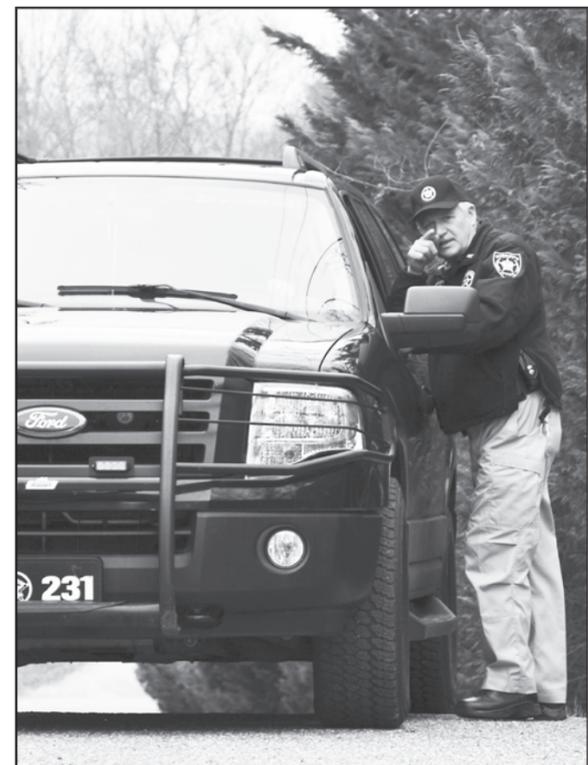
A team of investigators went door-to-door in the neighborhood, talking with neighbors.

Investigators continue to explore all avenues in bringing a killer, or killers to justice.

Fox grew up in the Union County community and attended Union County Schools. He had a checkered past, suffering from substance abuse issues. He had spent brief periods in the early 80s in state prison.

He returned to state prison again in 1983 and spent three years behind bars.

Fox spent minor stretches in state prison in 1994, 1999,



Above, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason talks with Detective Sgt. Andrew Hammond on Saturday at the murder scene where 54-year-old Jeff Fox's body was discovered by Towns County relatives. Below, a GBI Crime Scene investigator discusses the scene with Hammond, Sheriff Mason and Union County Coroner Benny Erwin. Photos/Charles Duncan

and in 2003. His stints in state prison were primarily substance abuse issues.

He was released from state prison in 2004 and has had no run-ins with law enforcement over the past 10 years. Fox had health issues as well.

"He had a checkered past, but, nobody deserves this," Sheriff Mason said.

Sheriff Mason said that anyone with information about the violent crime committed against Fox, call (706) 439-6066.

All information will be kept confidential.

Meanwhile, there were four murders in Union County in 2013. All four crimes were do-

mestic related. One murder suspect, Anthony Payne, accused of killing his father and stepmother on April 2, 2013, claimed his own life the next morning.

Frank Miller, 80, of Miller Cove Road, who allegedly murdered his 59-year-old daughter Colleen Grant on Sept. 1, 2013, has been indicted by a Union County Grand Jury and remains in custody.

Robert Taylor, who allegedly beat his wife Fran Taylor to death in late November, is behind bars awaiting justice in the Union County Jail.

Visit the Towns County Herald website at [townscounty-herald.net](http://townscounty-herald.net) for more details as they become available.

# Woodmen of the World donate to Food Pantry



For two years in a row Woodmen of the World Chapter 1180 has donated money to the Towns County Food Pantry. Chapter 1180 also donated to Union, Fannin, and Gilmer County food banks. All donations are accepted, but the pantries prefer money donations, the reason being they can buy food cheaper than we can. They are able to make \$1 buy \$5 worth of food. Pictured are Brad Hutson and Jesse Jorgensen, Woodmen Field Reps, and Richard Botting, center, of the Towns County Food Pantry volunteers.



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