

# Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, March 20, 2013

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	49 32
Fri: Clouds	45 36
Sat: Rain	48 36
Sun: Rain	46 35
Mon: Snow	41 32
Tues: Clouds	52 31
Wed: Clouds	54 31



Upstream Elevation Predicted 03/20/13	
Lake Chatuge	1919.67
Lake Nottely	1764.46
Blue Ridge	1679.96

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## Sports

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**Benefit Concert**  
Featuring  
**Notariety and**  
**Fuzion Dance**  
**Company**  
Sat., March 23  
7 p.m.  
Towns County  
School Auditorium  
Tickets: \$10 adults,  
\$5 students & children  
Proceeds to benefit the  
non-profit organizations of  
McConnell Memorial Baptist  
Church Peru Mission Trip,  
Fuzion Dance Company and  
Towns County School Music  
Program.

● ● ●  
**Hunter Education**  
April 9 • May 16,  
August 22 • Sept. 19  
Oct. 17 • Nov. 12  
Dec. 19 • Jan. 9, 2014  
Towns County Senior  
Center in Hiwassee

● ● ●  
**Kindergarten**  
**Registration**  
March 18 - 22  
Orientation:  
March 21 • 6:30 p.m.

● ● ●  
**Towns Co. Soccer**  
Tues., March 19 • 4:30 p.m.  
vs. Union Co.  
Fri., March 22 • 5 p.m.  
vs. Hebron

● ● ●  
**Towns Co. Golf**  
Thurs., March 21 • 2:30 p.m.  
@ Brasstown Valley

● ● ●  
**Towns Co. Middle**  
**School Baseball**  
Thursday, March 21  
vs. White County

## Bass Championship here in August

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

Young Harris - Lake Chatuge's largemouth bass will be in the national spotlight Aug. 1-3.

Young Harris College has been chosen to host the 2013 Carhart Bassmaster College Series National Championship.

Of course, YHC's homefield advantage is Lake Chatuge, site of the ESPN nationally televised championship collegiate bass tournament.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall expressed his appreciation to Young Harris College and President Cathy Cox as he presented a check to her for \$1,000 last week, for their role in bringing what Kendall describes as "the biggest event ever to come to Towns County."

Commissioner Kendall definitely hit the nail on the head with that comment.

The event is expected to have a regional economic impact benefiting surrounding



Young Harris College President Cathy Cox accepts a \$1,000 check from Towns Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall in support of the National Bass Championships. Photo/Libby Shook

counties that include neighboring Union County.

President Cox described the announcement with great enthusiasm.

"This is huge. It's really a big deal," she said.

Cox was referring to an announcement made by Hank Weldon, College Series Manager, that the site for the 2013 National Champion-

See *Chatuge*, page 11A

## TCHS will abandon block scheduling in '14

By Libby Shook  
Towns County Herald  
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Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams was the guest speaker at the March 7th as she addressed the Mountain Movers and Shakers gathering at Mary's Southern Grill.

She was there primarily for one reason, to talk about her pride and joy, the Towns County School System.

"First, I want to tell you that I absolutely love my job, this community, and our school system," Williams said. "This community has made my adventure as school superintendent a wonderful experience."

"I view the position of superintendent as one of a servant," she said. "I believe in giving back to the community."

Williams told the group about some upcoming changes to the school system for the 2013-14 school year. She said



Melissa Williams that the high school scheduling system will be revamped.

They will be moving away from the current 4 x 4 block scheduling and will return to a traditional 7-period day.

"There are several reasons we are making this change, primarily due to a smaller staff which limits scheduling options and this schedule provides additional instructional time, up

See *Schools*, page 11A

## Iwo Jima vet celebrates 91st birthday

By Libby Shook  
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C.E. "Bud" Johnson celebrated his 91st birthday with close friends and loved ones on March 7th at the home of friend and fellow Iwo Jima War Veteran Leon West and his wife Jackie Su West.

The Wests provided a delicious meal fit for a king and a beautiful birthday appropriately decorated with American flags.

Jackie Su said, "When we were at the celebration of the 68th Anniversary of Iwo Jima, I was told that Bud would be 91 on March 7th and I just felt that he deserved to be honored and recognized on his birthday."

"Bud has been a very good friend to Leon and was Leon's first friend when we moved to Hiwassee," she said. "Leon loves Bud. He is the reason that Leon joined the VFW. I knew that we needed to recognize him on this special day, so I started inviting friends to celebrate with us."

"Plus, he has sacrificed so much and done so much for our country," she said. "That is another reason we felt that we wanted to help him celebrate his birthday."

Jackie Su hit the nail



Iwo Jima vet Bud Johnson celebrates his 91st birthday with friends in Hiwassee recently. Photo/Libby Shook

on the head. Johnson, a retired U.S. Chief Petty Officer with the United States Navy, dedicated 36 years of his life fighting for the preservation of freedoms that are afforded to us today.

He is one of the remaining Iwo Jima Veterans honored at the Ridges Resort on Feb. 19th for his service to this great country.

Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall, Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis, Marine

Corps League members, and many other well-wishers were there to help him celebrate this very special day.

It is not often that you have the opportunity to sit in the presence of one of the nation's greatest war heroes.

Johnson is a credit to his country and to Towns County as well. He remains very active in the community, VFW Post 7807, and the Marine

See *Bud*, page 11A

## Diehl takes third place in 'Voice of Democracy' contest

By Libby Shook  
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Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren was grinning from ear-to-ear as he announced that sophomore Danielle Diehl earned third place in the Georgia VFW District 2 Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest.

Voice of Democracy is a yearly program sponsored by local VFWs.

"I am honored that my essay was given state recognition," Diehl said. "It has shown me that hard work does pay off."

Perren said that Towns County High School has participated in the program sponsored by the local VFW Post 7807 since 2006.

"And we are very proud that Danielle did so well at the state level," Perren said. "This is just another great example of the quality of students and the leadership potential we have at



Roy Perren and Danielle Diehl Towns County High School."

Since 1947, Voice of Democracy has been the VFW's premier scholarship program.

Each year more than 50,000 high school students, grades 9-12, compete for more than \$2.3 million in scholarships and incentives.

Students compete by writing and recording a broad-

See *Contest*, page 11A

## Towns is feeling just a little bit safer

By Libby Shook  
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall has sworn in eight more firefighters.

The eight took Towns County Fire Rescue Department's Oath of Office as members of the recent graduating class who had spent four months in training and completed the core requirements for National Firefighter I Certification.

The ceremony was held at the Mountain Senior Center as fellow firefighters, family, friends, and members of the community watched with great pride as the following recruits stepped up to take the firefighter's oath: Trey Moore, Justin Ledford, Robert Bishop, Dakota Shook, Casey Dover, Judith Moss, Marty Roberts, and Mark Wright.

Prior to Commissioner



Commissioner Bill Kendall has added eight new firefighters to the local work force. Photo/Libby Shook

Kendall administering the oath, Towns County Fire Chief Mitch Floyd said the members taking the oath will continue the proud tradition of citizens stepping up to the plate to protect their

community from the perils of fire, disaster, and medical emergencies.

Each of the new recruits

See *Firefighters*, page 11A

## City approves sewer upgrades; could be complete in two years

By Libby Shook  
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Young Harris - The Young Harris City Council has selected Turnipseed Engineering to complete the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion.

The council met in regular session Tuesday, March 5th with Chris Poje of G. Ben Turnipseed Engineering once again present to provide the requested amended Engineering Agreement regarding the proposed upgrades to the Young Harris Water Pollution Control Plant.

The upgrades will double the city's wastewater treatment capacity from the current 240,000 gallons per day to 480,000 gallons per day allowing them to service a greater area in Young Harris.

The last major upgrade was completed in 1993.

The upgrades are expected to take two years to complete.

At their Feb. 5th City Council meeting, discussion ensued regarding some of the language in the proposed agreement.

The city wanted the contract language to include indemnification of the city for any damages should the temperature control system fail to perform as designed within the first three years of operation as the draft permit includes a requirement that the temperature in Brasstown Creek not increase due to the temperature of the plant effluent.

Poje was told by the Council at the February meeting that if he would include this language in his insurance and send it to City Attorney Cary Cox and Councilman John Kelley, that they would give him the "go ahead" on the project.



Chris Poje

Poje told the council at the March meeting that, "we have included a three-year guarantee that the design will work unless there is something that occurs beyond our control."

A motion was made by Council Member Matt Miller and seconded by Council Member Stuart Miller to ratify the Engineering Agreement, Amendment 2, with Turnipseed Engineers for the Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion with a stipulation for Mayor Andrea Gibby to have authority to sign the agreement documents.

With a quorum of the council present, the council voted to accept the amended agreement and to award the contract for the proposed upgrades to G. Ben Turnipseed Engineering. Poje indicated to the council that the upgrades, from start to finish, would take approximately two years to complete.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

## The beat goes on at Gold Dome

By Libby Shook  
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Georgia's District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson (R-Toccoa) reports that in the week after Crossover Day, the Georgia Senate passed several House bills that will be sent to Gov. Nathan Deal's desk for final approval.

"There are still many House bills waiting to be reviewed in committee and the Senate is doing all it can to ensure that each one is given fair consideration," Sen. Wilkinson said on Friday evening, March 15th, following another busy week in session.

Sen. Wilkinson reports that the Senate is currently in the process of reviewing the House version of the Fiscal



State Sen. John Wilkinson

2014 general budget. He anticipates that it will be presented to the full Senate for a vote later this week.

Sen. Wilkinson explained the way this process works.

Each member of the Appropriations Committee is assigned to smaller sub-committees to study the budget and make recommendations.

Gov. Deal initiates the budget process by presenting his recommendations early in the session.

The House then takes Gov. Deal's recommendations and makes their recommendations.

The Senate Appropriations Committee then acts on it.

"This session, I have chaired the Senate Appropriations Sub Committee on agriculture and served as a member of

See *Senate* page 11A

