

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	52 35
Fri: Clouds	58 37
Sat: Clouds	57 34
Sun: Clouds	57 34
Mon: Clouds	57 32
Tue: Clouds	58 34
Wed: Rain	57 33



Upstream Elevation Predicted 11/14/12	
Lake Chatuge	1917.31
Lake Nottely	1762.44
Blue Ridge	1672.48

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Snowman Contest!

Let's turn Towns County into a Winter Wonderland this Holiday Season!

Build and display a snowman that reflects your business... shopping snowman, hiking snowman, chef snowman, body shop snowman, artist snowman, gardening snowman, etc.

Two chances to win!
#1 Snowmen will be judges on creativity & originality
#2 People's Choice Award

Instructions, frames & registration can be obtained at the Towns County Chamber of Commerce 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris (across from The Ridges Resort) 706-896-4966

No cost to enter but you must be registered to win! Open to all Towns County businesses.

Shop with a Cop

Shop with a Cop is sponsored by the Hiwassee Police Department.

Shop with a Cop was created to help kids 12-16 years old have a brighter Christmas.

Be a part of making a difference in our community.

If you would like to be a part of helping this forgotten age group have a Merry Christmas please make your check payable to: Hiwassee Police Department, Shop with a Cop 229 Chatuge Way Hiwassee, GA 30546.

For more information about this charitable outreach group, please contact Hiwassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright at jimmywright@hiwasseeega.gov

You can also drop off donations at the Hiwassee City Hall.

During this season filled with the Christmas Spirit of giving, you can make a difference in the life of a child with your donation to this very worthy cause.

Chief Wright thanks you on behalf of the children for your donation and for helping making Shop with a Cop possible.

Human remains found in Young Harris barn

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

Young Harris - Towns County Coroner Ricky Mathis has confirmed that a homemade casket and the skeletal remains of "what appears to be a small adult, sex undetermined" was found in an old dilapidated barn behind the Fire House in Young Harris.

The call came in on Thursday, Nov. 8th, in the late afternoon after a fireman, whose name has not been released, walked up to the old barn and found the casket after the BREMC had been bush hogging and had cleared the property.

The fireman notified the Towns County Sheriff's Office and Mathis. Lt. Brian Wilson with the Towns County Sheriff's Office and Mathis arrived on the scene shortly after the call came in.

"After examination of the remains by Brian Wilson and myself, I notified the State Medical Examiner's Office of

the situation and asked them if they would take the remains in for possible identification and to ensure that no crime had been committed" said Mathis.

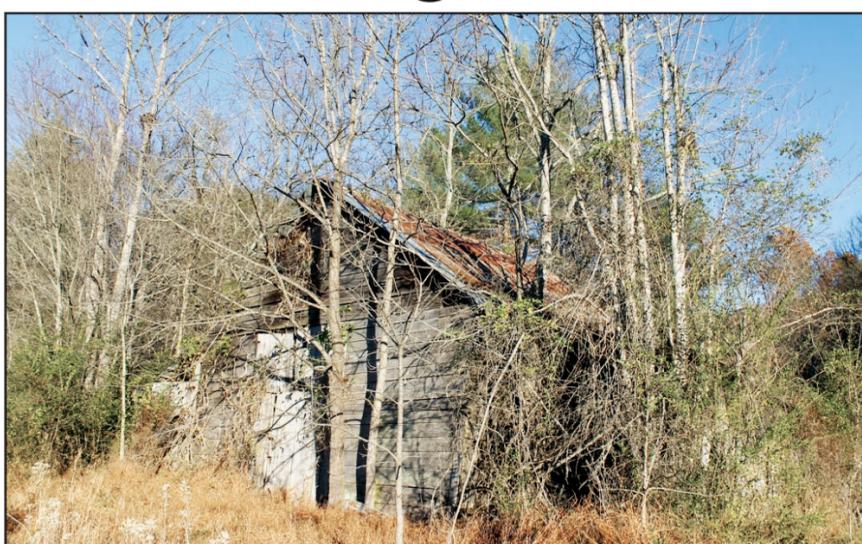
According to Mathis, the skeletal remains had been wired together with springs and screws.

"I don't feel like there was any crime here. I think the body was probably used for educational purposes as it was held together with springs and screws, but that determination needs to be made by the State Medical Examiner," said Mathis.

"The medical examiner that I spoke with, Dr. Sperry, said that they did want to take a look at the remains," said Mathis.

Mathis said that he could release no additional information at this time as it has been turned over to the state and they will make a determination as to whether a crime was committed or not.

Wilson has been assigned as the investigator in charge. "Due to the unknown



This ancient barn is the center of a local and state investigation following the discovery of human remains in a homemade casket last week in Young Harris. Photo Libby Shook

circumstances, I am unable to make a comment or provide any information at this time as the investigation remains ongoing," said Wilson.

"More information will be released pending the out-

come of the medical examiner's report," said Wilson.

The TCSO always handles investigations with the utmost consideration, professionalism, and respect for victims and their families.

They are to be commended for not releasing information while an investigation is ongoing and until all the facts, findings, and determinations have been made by the appropriate officials.

Eller wins Towns Coroner's Race

Incumbent Mathis to file for recount; Tax Commissioner challenger already files

By Libby Shook
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A final count of the provisional ballots from the Nov. 6th General Election have potentially decided one race.

Challenger Tashina Eller defeated Incumbent Coroner Ricky Mathis by four votes.

Fifty-three provisional ballots were certified and counted. After the counting was done, Eller had 2,982 votes, or 50.03 percent to Mathis' 2,978 votes.

In another race that could have been impacted by the provisional ballots, Tax Commissioner Bruce Rogers prevailed, claiming 3,088 votes, or 50.38 percent to Republican Challenger Bill Kuykendall's 3,038 votes, or 49.56 percent.

Mathis declined comment at press time, but said he would be contesting the results and asking for a recount.

According to the Georgia Secretary of State's Elections Division Candidate Guide, "any candidate or candidates receiving a sufficient number of votes so that the difference between his vote and that of the winning candidate is not more than 1 percent shall have



Tashina Eller



Ricky Mathis

the right to a recount, if such request is made in writing by the losing candidate within two business days following the certification of election results."

The provisionals were counted Friday afternoon, Nov. 9th, at the Voter Elections Office at the Old Rock Jail in Hiwassee. More than 50 interested residents, Democrats and Republicans, turned out as the counting of outstanding provisional ballots commenced at 2 p.m.

As many folks as could fit were allowed to be in the office and watch the counting process. The rest stood on the porch eagerly awaiting the official results. Fifty-three provi-

sional ballots were certified and counted.

In the general election on Nov. 6th, Mathis was ahead of Eller by 16 votes.

During the general election, Kuykendall was behind by 66 votes and he gained 16 additional votes during the counting of the provisional ballots.

On Sunday, Kuykendall said "I'm looking at my options." On Monday, Kuykendall filed with the Secretary of State's Office for a recount.

As the old song written and recorded by Lenny Kravitz in 1991 says, *It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over*.

Stay tuned for updates regarding these very close and possibly contested election results.

Mynatt: 'Freedom isn't free'

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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Dark clouds loomed overhead and the sky shed a few tears, almost as though it knew that the masses had gathered at the Towns County Veterans Memorial Park on Monday morning to remember the loss of the brave soldiers who had paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we hold so dear today.

Folks also gathered to celebrate those same lives and pay tribute to them and to all who have fought so bravely for this great nation.

The Towns County High School Indian Marching Raider Band, under the direction of Frank McKinney, were present to show their respect with their patriotic music.

They opened with *America the Beautiful* and *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* as folks stood quietly in reverence to



U.S. Navy Retired Chief Petty Officer Bud Johnson offers a salute during Monday's Veterans Day ceremonies in Hiwassee. Photo/Libby Shook

this great nation and those they hold so dear to their heart.

Following the Posting of Colors and the invocation, the band provided a stellar rendition of our *National Anthem* as

folks stood at attention with either a salute or with their hand over their heart.

You could feel the great

See Veterans, page 16A

Big Sweep impacts Chatuge

By Libby Shook
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On Saturday, Nov. 10th, more than 50 volunteers descended upon Lake Chatuge with one goal in mind.

They came to clean up the beautiful shoreline and make it a more aesthetically appealing place for water sports and recreation and to make it a safer place for the local residents and tourists who visit Towns County.

The Lake Chatuge Big



Volunteers were all excited about the Big Sweep along the shoreline of Lake Chatuge on Saturday. Photo/Libby Shook

The 'Possum' is trotting to Anderson Music Hall

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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On Saturday, Nov. 17th, the legendary country music icon, George Jones will return to the Anderson Music Hall to perform his classic country hits.

Jones was scheduled to appear at The Hall on May 26th and had to cancel due to health related issues.

The concert was rescheduled for the next available date which was Nov. 17th.

'No Show' Jones is alive and well and looking forward to Saturday's performance according to Promoter Mike Blackwell.

This will be his last performance at The Hall as he has announced his Farewell Tour and will be wrapping up his 50 plus years of entertaining his many adoring fans in the spring of 2013.

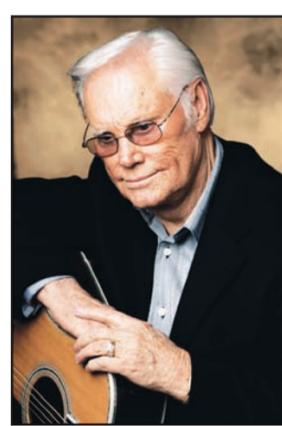
Jones isn't denying that he's been pretty sick. In fact, he wondered if he would bounce back.

Jones' health issues started around September of last year, when all of Nashville came together to celebrate his 80th birthday.

His time on the road was short-lived. Jones was forced to cancel several shows and he was even admitted to the hospital twice due to serious respiratory issues.

Now, at the age of 81, 'The Possum' is back and ready to get back out on the road and perform for his millions of fans.

George Jones is the one of the best-charting country artists of all time, with a staggering list of hit singles in every



George Jones

decade since the 1950s.

The Texas native also has 143 Top 40 hits to his name, has received two Grammy Awards, was a 2008 Kennedy Center Honor recipient, is a Country Music Hall of Fame inductee, was presented with a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award this year, and holds a National Medal of Arts.

Jones continues to be an active country music superstar, headlining dozens of concerts each year.

Jones is expected to perform some of his greatest hits including *He Stopped Loving Her Today*, *The Race is On*, *Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes*, and many other crowd-pleasing hits.

This is definitely a performance you will not want to miss.

As an added treat, Confederate Railroad will be opening for Jones.

For ticket details and available seating, contact the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds at (706) 896-4191 or check out their Website, www.georgiamountainfairgrounds.com.

A new kind of Garden Club

By Libby Shook
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The Towns County Commissioner and Towns County Schools partnered to install raised bed gardens for use on the school campus according to Ben Sutton and Frank Riley.

"This living campus will introduce fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs to Towns County students," said Sutton.

The plan includes building raised garden beds with production scheduled for the Spring of 2013.

The food will be served in the school cafeteria with the Towns County students actually working in the gardens and learning about gardening and production.

"This community commitment to the health and well-being of the youth of Towns County is possible due to the gift of all materials, including topsoil, from Commissioner Bill Kendall," said Sutton.

Towns County school personnel, headed by TCHS Agriculture Teacher Sabrina Garrett, will be instrumental in working with her students to get the plants ready for spring planting.

"I will be organizing the layout and doing the literal



Commissioner Bill Kendall

ground work to get the project started. The agriculture students will be involved in development and implementation of the school garden, such as constructing the raised beds, germination of seeds in our greenhouse for spring planting as well as tending to the raised beds along with elementary, middle, and high school classes," said Garrett.

"I am excited and believe this is a wonderful opportunity for the Towns County students

See Garden page 16A
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