

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Snow	36	21
Fri: Clouds	44	24
Sat: Clouds	48	25
Sun: Clouds	48	26
Mon: Clouds	47	30
Tue: Rain/Snow	48	31
Wed: Snow	47	26



Upstream Elevation Predicted 2/24/10	
Lake Chatuge	1917.80
Lake Nottely	1762.00
Blue Ridge	1671.80

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For a limited time, the Towns County Herald will offer \$8 subscriptions for one year to new subscribers.

The offer extends to residents of Towns and Union counties in Georgia and Clay County, NC.

The newspaper is making a difference during hard times.

For more than two months, the newspaper has offered those currently unemployed, Senior Citizens and U.S. Military veterans \$5 subscriptions for 1 year. That's a savings of \$21 off the newstand price.

This offer also extends to residents of Towns and Union counties in Georgia and Clay County, NC.

Again, we hope to make a difference when folks need it the most.

Prom Expo

The 2010 Prom Expo will be held at Designer Threads March 17-20. Dresses, shoes and accessories will be available at very low prices. Door prizes will include tanning, nail set, manicure, flowers, gift certificates and hair accessories. Register to win just by visiting Prom Expo. Proceeds benefit Towns County Family Connection.

Food Pantry

There will be a free food distribution on Tuesday, Feb. 23. The distribution will be held at the Towns County Food Pantry from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. All that are in need of food assistance are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to pick up your food, please contact the Pantry at (706) 896-4783 prior to food distribution day.

Fund Raiser

The Towns County Booster Club will host a Car/Truck/Motorcycle Show on May 15 in the Towns County High School parking lot. Admission to the event is \$5. Entry fees are \$20 for a car or truck and \$10 for a motorcycle. No awards will be given; this is a fundraiser event. The event benefits athletics in grades six through 12 in Towns County Schools. Deadline for entry is May 1. Call (706) 781-8763 for more details.

Heartbreaker in Hiawasse: PAC 56, Towns 53

By Jim Bryant
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
sports.tcherald@brmemc.net

The Towns County Lady Indians held a 16-point lead heading into the final quarter of Region 8-A Championship play on Monday night.

Unfortunately, they found themselves the No. 2 seed out of Class A's Region 8.

Prince Avenue Christian's Lady Wolverines outscored Towns County 29-10 in the fourth quarter to rally and come from behind to win the Region 8-A championship 56-53 in the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium in Hiawasse.

Sophomore Haley Soles hit a 3-pointer to tie the game at 53 all with 22.8 seconds remaining to lift the Lady Wolverines' championship hopes. The Lady Indians took a time out and brought the ball in. With 15 seconds left, the Lady Indians turned the ball over.

Senior Destiny David then took the inbounds pass, drove the lane and put the ball in the basket to give the Lady Wolverines a 55-53 lead with 2.2 seconds left. The Lady Indians turned the ball over again on the inbounds pass and junior Amber Howell got control of the ball for Prince Avenue and was fouled. She sank one of two at the line to give the Lady Wolverines a 56-53 lead.

With one tick left on the clock, Senior Missy Conrad's long inbounds pass was intercepted by David and the Lady Wolverines began to celebrate.

The Lady Indians lost this one down the stretch by missing four key free throws with under a minute left to play.

The game was a tale of two halves. The Lady Indians hit the locker room with a 29-12 lead. Towns



Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren presents the Region 8-A second place trophy to Lady Indians' Ali Bleckley, Sheena Kendall and Lindsay Patton. Photo/Jim and Lisa Bryant

County was outscored 44-24 in the second half.

The Lady Indians had defeated the Lady Wolverines twice during the regular season, sporting a 59.7 points per game average and a 22-5 record. The

crowd came ready for a ball game. It started well for the Lady Indians as Ali Bleckley iced a 3-pointer from the head of the arc. Two foul line jumpers by Conrad, who scored a game-high 15 points, made it 7-0, Jordan

Moss added two from the charity stripe and the Lady Indians were off and running 9-0. There's an old sports adage that if you let a

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TCHS STAR Student revealed Black named STAR Student; Frizzell STAR Teacher

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

Thomas Black is smart, real smart.

That's what Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren says about the school's 2010 STAR Student who aced the SAT's math segment as a sophomore.

"He's a good, all around kid," Perren said. "He's got the highest SAT score in the history of Towns County. I can tell you it was over 2,000. That much is on the plaque on the wall."

The SAT Reasoning Test consists of three parts: critical reading, mathematics and writing. The scores from each section can range between 200 to 800; the best possible total score is 2,400. The average score for each section is roughly 500; the average total score is about 1,500.

Nationwide, almost 1

million students take the test each year. SAT scores are just one of many criteria used by colleges to make admissions decisions. Nevertheless, their importance shouldn't be underestimated. As much as admissions officers say they take an open-minded approach to their final decisions, SAT scores can make or break a college application.

Black, a senior and member of the Class of 2010, scored above 2,000. Actually, he recorded the highest score in Towns County High School history, according to Perren. His score could have landed him at any Ivy League school. Black, however, chose Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

"It wasn't surprising at all that he was our STAR Student," Perren said. "He's been accepted at Georgia Tech. I mean, this is a very, very bright young man. I



Principal Roy Perren

would put him up against any kid, from anywhere in the country."

As part of the honor of being STAR Student, the student chooses their STAR Teacher. Black chose TCHS science teacher Alecia Frizzell as his STAR Teacher, Perren said.

With science and math as his strong classroom suits, Frizzell was not

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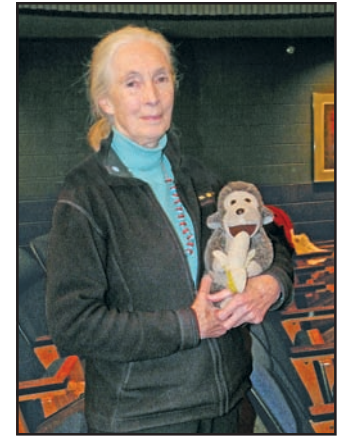
Goodall's life 'amazing'

By Jessica Keaton
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
jessica.tcherald@brmemc.net

"Amazing!" exclaimed the renowned primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall when asked to describe her life in one word. Her answer reflects her biography, a young girl from England coming from humble beginnings to living among the chimpanzees in current-day Tanzania.

Last week, Dr. Goodall spoke to a full Glenn Auditorium at Young Harris College to commemorate the 50th anniversary of her work in Gombe Stream, Tanzania. She requested the house lights be left on during the lecture, so she could see the faces of the audience, instantly connecting to them on a personal level.

During the evening, Dr. Goodall offered visual sketches of her life and experiences with animals. She spoke of her early childhood interest in animals, taking



Dr. Jane Goodall

place on her family farm. Dr. Goodall was born in London, England in 1934. As a child she was given a lifelike chimpanzee toy named Jubilee by her father. Jubilee started her early love of animals.

From these early images to the wild dreams of a 20-something woman, saving up money from wages as a waitress to travel to Af-

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Kendall: 'must let people decide'

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall will let the residents of Towns County decide whether to push a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum.

Commissioner Kendall met last week with representatives of the Hiawasse and Young Harris city councils at the Towns County Courthouse to begin the legal process of calling a referendum for July 20.

A decision must be made before May 3, in order to meet the legal requirements for putting the issue on the ballot. Commissioner



Members of the Young Harris and Hiawasse city councils listen as Commissioner Bill Kendall discusses a proposed SPLOST referendum. The cities and county gathered last week at the Towns County Courthouse. Photo/Charles Duncan

Kendall has promised that a Town Hall-style meeting soon will be called. At that time residents will be given an opportunity to speak in favor or against a referendum to allow Towns County

voters to decide the issue. "We've got 10 weeks to decide whether to move forward," Commissioner Kendall said. "I firmly be-

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Evans tickets on sale

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

Tickets for the March 13th Sara Evans Concert at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds are on sale now.

Ticket prices for the show are \$40 plus an additional \$2 handling fee for first tier seating. Second tier seating is available at \$30 plus an additional \$2 handling fee.

Kings Mountain, NC singing sensation Jimmy Wayne opens for Evans, who has two Female Vocal-



Sara Evans

ists of the year awards to her professional credit.

Evans' hits include *Born to Fly*, *No Place That Far*, and *Suds In The Bucket*.

'Dancing' at YHC

By Jessica Keaton
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
jessica.tcherald@brmemc.net

For four days, Theatre Young Harris took audiences back to 1930s Ireland with Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa*.

The play is about a typical Irish clan, the Evans family living in Donegal County. Throughout Michael Evans' recount of his early childhood memories involving his aunts and parents, he discovers the power of memory and family in his own life.

Cast members included Michael Brown as Michael Evans, Michelle Honaker as Kate Mundy, Hannah Guest as Maggie Mundy, Jackie Hand ad Agnes Mundy, Bekah Medford as Rose Mundy, Tory Gravitt as Christina Mundy, Josiah Bridges as Gerry Evans, and Brandon

Engelskirchen as Jack Mundy.

The production performed before sold audiences throughout the weekend.

In short, the play was a huge hit with theater-goers and made for a night focused on the importance of family and music.

Theatre Young Harris will showcase a full complement of productions throughout 2010. For more details about upcoming productions, please contact the box office at (706) 379-4307. The next show will be Theatre Young Harris's Musical Theater production of *The Pirates of Penzance* April 22-25.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



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Towns' CRCT scores are legit

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
charlesduncan@brmemc.net

You can cross Towns County off that list of schools suspected of cheating on standardized tests.

Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens didn't have a doubt that his school system would emerge without a blemish from a state-wide analysis of the Spring 2009 the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT).

The analysis sanctioned by Governor's Office of Student Achievement indicates that some Georgia classrooms show an unusu-



Dr. Richard Behrens

ally high number of wrong answers changed to right answers on standardized tests in reading, language arts and math. That points a finger toward some teachers changing answers to

improve test scores.

The analysis examined the number of answers on student test sheets that had been changed from wrong to right. A classroom was flagged using the conservative criterion of 3 standard deviations above the state average. That average ranged from 0 percent to 89.5 percent, with a state-wide average of 4 percent.

GOSA placed schools into four categories based on the percentage of classrooms within each school flagged according to analysis results: Clear of concern; Minimal concern; Moderate

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