

# Towns County Herald

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

**Thur:** Sunny 57 26  
**Fri:** Sunny 58 30  
**Sat:** Clouds 55 30  
**Sun:** Clouds 55 41  
**Mon:** Showers 54 32  
**Tue:** Showers 48 25  
**Wed:** Clouds 45 26



Upstream Elevation Predicted 11/30/11  
 Lake Chatuge 1918.46  
 Lake Nottely 1762.26  
 Blue Ridge 1670.10

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## Sports Page 8A

### Parade

The Annual Empty Stocking Fund Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 3. The parade, scheduled for 5 p.m., leaves the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and travels through Downtown. Santa Claus is expected to take part in the Parade. See Page 2A for more details about the Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund Toy Drive.

### Love Light Tree

The Annual Love Light Tree Celebration at Chatuge Regional Hospital and Nursing Home is scheduled for Dec. 8. A short program of Christmas songs is scheduled. See Page 2A for more details.

### Election Results

The results of the Dec. 6th runoff for District 50 State Senate will be made available on the Web site of the Towns County Herald on Election Night.

Voters must choose between Dr. Rick Austin of Demorest and John Wilkinson of Toccoa. Visit us on the Web at www.townscountyherald.net for election results.

### Tour of Homes

The 2011 Annual Tour of Homes is scheduled for Dec. 3 and Dec. 4th.

The event is once again sponsored by the Towns County Chamber of Commerce. Six beautiful homes are on the 2011 tour.

A portion of the proceeds from the Tour of Homes goes to the Towns County Food Pantry.

## Patton signs with Skyhawks

Lady Indians' senior will continue playing days with Point University

By Charles Duncan  
 Towns County Herald  
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The first of the Towns County Lady Indians' seniors has signed to play college basketball.

Lindsay Patton, who overcame a torn ACL her junior year, has signed to play at the next level with Point University, Lady Indians' Head Coach Jim Melton said on Monday.

Point University, formerly Atlanta Christian College, is a member of the Appalachian Athletic Conference division of the NAIA. Point University will relocate their campus in the fall of 2012 from East Point to West Point. Point will renovate a gym in downtown West Point where the Lady Skyhawks will play their home games. The off campus apartments will be located in Lanett, Ala. and the academic classes will be held in downtown West Point.



Surrounded by family, Lindsay Patton signs with Point University on Monday. She plans to coach after her college days.

Patton had several college opportunities to choose from, but she is excited to be a part of the Point University transition and is looking forward to being one of the first students to attend college at the new location.

"I enjoy change and meeting new people," Patton said. "The opportunity to go to a Christian school in Georgia, but actually live in Alabama, which

See Patton, page 10A

## Willie tickets go on sale

Hot-item tickets go on sale Friday morning

By Charles Duncan  
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Tickets go on sale Friday morning at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds for the Feb. 11, 2012 Willie Nelson Concert.

Ticket prices are \$45 plus \$2 handling for the concert scheduled for 7 p.m. on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Anderson Music Hall.

On Halloween 2009, Nelson rocked a packed Anderson Music Hall at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and sent the capacity crowd home smiling with autographs in hand.

Tickets for the 2009 concert sold out in six days. A similar affection for these tickets is expected, Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said.

"I don't know many people who don't enjoy Willie Nelson," she said. "He's a Country Music icon, right up there with Johnny



Willie Nelson

Cash, Waylon Jennings, Merle Haggard and George Jones."

At the 2009 concert at Anderson Music Hall, Willie's fans ignored the rain clouds looming overhead and flocked to see the legendary singer/songwriter perform such hits as *On the Road Again*, *Georgia*, and *Blue Eyes Cryin' In the Rain*.

Willie took the stage at The Hall around 7:20 p.m. that night and ended his

See 'Willie', page 10A

## Beloved Dick Paris dies at 97

By Charles Duncan  
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A community icon has passed away.

Dick Paris was born in Paulding County, but make no mistake about it, he was Towns County through and through.

H.D. "Dick" Paris, 97, died Tuesday, Nov. 22 at his home. Mr. Paris loved sports, especially, the Georgia Bulldogs' football team. At the time of his passing, Mr. Paris was the oldest living alumni of the University of Georgia in Athens.

Mr. Paris was a cornerstone of the Towns County community. A year after having served three years in the European Theater of World War II, Mr. Paris moved to Hiawassee and started a business that still lasts today, Hiawassee Hardware Company.

Mr. Paris rolled up his sleeves once he arrived here in Hiawassee in 1947.

A tireless worker, Mr. Paris focused his efforts on Hiawassee Hardware, the Bank of Hiawassee, and later the Georgia Mountain Fair.

"Dick Paris was a part of the cornerstones of growth for Hiawassee and Towns County for decades," Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said.

Born Aug. 7, 1914, the next to the youngest of six children, Mr. Paris grew up on a farm which produced vegetables and produce for truck farming. He attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, and later the University of Georgia in Athens. He graduated from the latter in 1941 with a degree in agriculture economics.

Upon his arrival in



Dick Paris loved Hiawassee and Towns County. The feeling was mutual. Anderson-Park will forever be a legacy link to Paris and his beloved Georgia Mountain Fair. Photos/Lowell Nicholson.

Hiawassee, Mr. Paris became a vivid, energetic and integral force in the community.

See Dick Paris, page 10A

## KOM attracts a crowd



The wrestling gym will be full for two days. Photo/James Reese

By Charles Duncan  
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The Towns County Indians' wrestling team hopes for another historic moment when they line up to take on 18 other teams in the Eighth Annual King of the Mountain Wrestling Tournament.

On Friday, 266 wrestlers and more than 70 coaches converge on Towns County Schools to compete in two days of the King of the Mountain tournament.

The Indians claimed their best finish ever in 2009

with a fifth place spot in one of the toughest wrestling challenges in the state. Last season, the Indians finished seventh, winning two silvers and two fourth-place finishes. The team title went to North Hall, followed by Lumpkin and Dawson counties respectively.

Tim Collier and Josh Barnes took home the silver medals for the Indians in 2010.

Collier is back again

See KOM, page 10A

## Young Harris Tree Lighting on Friday

By Charles Duncan  
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Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby was in the fourth grade and playing in the student band when the city's annual Christmas Tree Lighting became a tradition.

"When I was young, I got to play in the band," Mayor Gibby said. "We were playing those little plastic flutes and it sounded horrible. All the parents were just as proud.

"This tradition is always a fond memory," she said. "We all become children again and it's just fun."

That ritual will continue Friday night at Mayor's Park as the city, its residents, the Towns County Indians' Raider Marching Band brass section and Santa Claus come together to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas Season.

The Young Harris Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held at 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at Young Harris Mayor's Park.

The band will play a medley of Christmas favorites that are sure to include Jingle Bells, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Let it Snow and Silent Night.

For years, the City of Young Harris has sponsored



Mayor Andrea Gibby

this Christmas celebration, with free refreshments provided by the ladies of the Enotah Garden Club of Young Harris.

Santa always arrives shortly after the lighting of the Christmas Tree and leads the little ones into City Hall to listen to their wishes.

Residents and visitors of all ages are welcome. Remember, the celebration begins at 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at Young Harris Mayor's Park.

Don't forget to bring the kids, they'll love you for it forever and a day.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

