

# Towns County Herald

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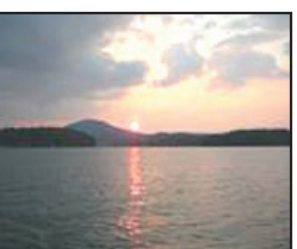
www.townscountyherald.net

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Wednesday, December 14, 2011

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	61 49
Fri: Rain	60 42
Sat: Rain	58 34
Sun: Sunny	56 35
Mon: Clouds	58 39
Tue: Rain	56 38
Wed: Clouds	54 29



Upstream Elevation Predicted 12/14/11	
Lake Chatuge	1917.05
Lake Nottely	1758.97
Blue Ridge	1668.95

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## Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Distribution is scheduled for Tuesday Dec. 20 from 2 p.m. to 6p.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 distribution day.. All clients and inquiries are kept confidential.

## Coat Drive

Towns County Realtors would like your help in donating your new or slightly used coats to Coats for Kids. A collection box is in the front lobby at Ingles in Hiawassee. The box will be there through Dec. 16 and the coats will be distributed in time for Christmas. We appreciate your support.

## Toy Distribution

The Unicoi Detachment will distribute toys at the following locations: Towns County, Towns County Courthouse, Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Union County, old hospital Dec. 18 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Please call toy coordinators for details: (706) 896-6084 in Towns; (706) 379-4128 in Union.

Toys can be dropped off through Dec. 15 at Union 911 Community Center, Kate's, Union County Dialysis and Wendy's.

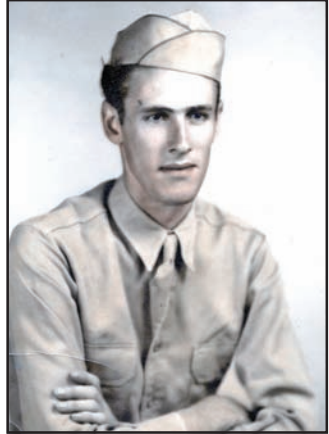
## Free Tutoring

Young Harris Family Development Center at Stephens Lodge Community Center is offering tutoring, games, snacks, meals, counseling, parenting workshops and activities on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Contact Towns County Family Connection at (706) 896-4131 for more details on how to enroll your student.

## Towns' last Pearl Vet passes

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net



Henry Hedden

Henry Hedden was a beloved educator, administrator and long-time Towns County resident.

He was one of seven Towns County men who enlisted in the United States Navy in 1940 and were present during one of the most violent days in our nation's history.

Hedden was a survivor of the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec.



Battleship Row on Dec. 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Towns County's last Pearl Veteran, Henry Hedden died two days before the 70th Anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl. Photo/U.S. Navy Archives

7, 1941.

On Dec. 5, two days before the 70th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hedden died at Chatuge Regional Nursing Home in Hiawassee. His health had

been declining for a while. He was 89 years old.

"Henry Hedden was a good man," Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said. "See Henry Hedden, page 10A"

## Wilkinson to be sworn in on Thursday at Capitol

Former FFA director wins District 50 Senate Seat

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Towns County's newest State Senator will be sworn in at 3 p.m. on Thursday in the Senate Chambers.

John Wilkinson, 56, R-Toccoa, the former executive director of the state Future Farmers of America will succeed Jim Butterworth as the next senator in Georgia Senate District 50, which includes Towns County.

"Thank you for your overwhelming support during our recent campaign," Wilkinson told supporters last week. "I will be sworn in as State Senator from the 50th district this Thursday, Dec. 15th in the Senate Chamber at the State Capitol at 3 p.m.

"Everyone is welcome to attend and I encourage you to be there," Sen. Wilkinson said. "Thank you



State Sen. John Wilkinson

again for your prayers and support. I hope to see you in Atlanta on Thursday."

Wilkinson, who finished as the runner up in the Nov. 8th General Election, reversed those fortunes to claim the Dec. 6th runoff over former District 10 State Rep. Rick Austin, R-

See Wilkinson, page 10A

## Towns loses another icon

Former Mayor was a Founding Father of Volunteer Fire Department

By Charles Duncan  
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Jimmy Brown was a visionary, a historian and a Founding Father of Towns County's Volunteer Fire Department.

He also served 12 years as mayor of Hiawassee and during that time led the effort to bring a viable sewer system to the city.

On Saturday, Jimmy Brown, a Community Icon, lost a courageous battle with cancer at the age of 76.

"We've lost a friend," Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said on Monday, following funeral services for Brown at Osborn Cemetery. "Jimmy Brown's word was his bond, it was etched in stone. He was a good man, a good friend and he will be missed dearly."

Brown was a 1953 graduate of Towns County High School. For many years, he was self-employed as a heavy equipment owner/operator, service station owner and was also employed by the state of Georgia to train others on the use of heavy equipment.

He served 12 years as mayor of the city of Hiawassee and was instrumental in the implementation of the first sewer system in the city.

As an over-the-road truck driver, Brown logged more than 1 million miles, accident free. He also was

See Jimmy Brown, page 10A



Former Hiawassee Mayor Jimmy Brown (Top Photo) was a visionary. Brown was a Founding Father of Towns County's Volunteer Fire Department and a progressive thinker when it came to advancement of the city of Hiawassee and sewer.

## Willie tickets going fast

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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The chance of getting a ticket to the Feb. 11, 2012 Willie Nelson concert is growing slim.

Almost 2,000 tickets have been sold to see the *Red-Headed Stranger* at Anderson Music Hall.

Tickets went on sale Dec. 2nd at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds for the Nelson concert and sales have been brisk. Only a few hundred tickets remain on hand for the Feb. 11, 2012 concert.

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

On Halloween 2009, Nelson rocked a sold out 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 quickly. A similar affection for these tick-



Willie Nelson

ets continues, 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 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*.

See Willie, page 10A

## Commissioner Kendall approves extra court venue

By Charles Duncan  
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Towns County Sole Commissioner approved additional Courthouse space on an emergency basis last week at the Towns County Courthouse.

Commissioner Kendall approved the use of the Towns County Senior Center Building for Superior Court this week.

An overcrowded court docket prompted two Superior Court judges to request Courtrooms for the week of Dec. 12-16.

When it became obvious that the one Courtroom would not adequately meet the needs of both judges, Commissioner Kendall was asked to provide a resolution granting additional Courtroom space to accommodate the case load.

Commissioner Kendall was asked to approve additional Courtroom space for Towns County Superior Court because a little used Georgia Statute requires a resolution by the County Commissioner before a portion of Superior Court can be moved to another venue in counties with populations less than 50,000.

Towns County's population is well under the



Commissioner Bill Kendall

50,000 population requirement.

The little known statute led to the July Georgia Court of Appeals ruling that overturned the September 2008 drive-by shooting conviction of former Towns County Chief Deputy Eddie Osborn.

The basis of the reversal: the judge overseeing the case moved the jury selection from the Towns County Courthouse to McConnell Baptist Church following a bomb threat. That decision violated state law by moving Superior Court without the approval of the county's sole commissioner and without Osborn's consent, according to Kendall.

See Court, page 10A

## Operation Christmas a success

Robinson's Lions go yard again for Christmas Child project



Special to Towns County Herald tcherald@windstream.net

Young Harris College recently contributed 108 shoe boxes filled with Christmas presents and a check for \$250 to Operation Christmas Child, an interna-

tional outreach project facilitated by Samaritan's Purse, a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization that aims to provide worldwide spiritual and physical aid.

YHC's participation is

organized each year by the Young Harris College Dorcas Society and Inter-Religious Council.

YHC's involvement in Operation Christmas Child

See Christmas, page 10A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

