

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Sunny 53 31
 Fri: Cloudy 57 36
 Sat: Sunny 59 35
 Sun: Cloudy 59 35
 Mon: Rain 50 29
 Tue: Cloudy 47 36
 Wed: Sunny 51 28



Upstream Elevation Predicted 12/28/11
 Lake Chatuge 1918.02
 Lake Nottely 1762.21
 Blue Ridge 1669.61

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Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Distribution is scheduled for Tuesday Jan. 3 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 distribution day.. All clients and inquiries are kept confidential.

Battle of the States

The 18th Annual Battle of the States Christmas Tournament is scheduled for Tuesday-Thursday at the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium in Hiawassee.

Eight ladies' teams and eight boys' teams will compete for interstate bragging rights. Tournament action begins each day at 10 a.m.

The Classic

The Towns County Indians' wrestling team heads to Dawsonville on Thursday to compete in the 32nd Annual Amicalola Classic Wrestling Tournament.

The two-day tournament is one of the most prestigious prep wrestling events in the state.

More than 30 teams are expected to compete for the Duals and individual titles to be had this weekend. The Indians expect to top their King of the Mountain performance.

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.

Hiawassee mourns loss of Everett Arrowood

Retired Police Chief remembered as a humanitarian who believed in people

By Charles Duncan
 Towns County Herald
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Flags flew at half mast in Hiawassee on Monday. Everett Arrowood, retired police chief of the city of Hiawassee, died Monday morning. He is being remembered today as a man sworn to serve and protect his community and look after its youth.

The 73-year-old community icon began his law enforcement career in 1976 and retired in August 2003 as Chief of Police of the city of Hiawassee.

His successor, Chief Jimmy Wright, said Arrowood taught him a lot of lessons, mostly about people and how to treat them.

"Everett was just Everett," Chief Wright said. "He was the same person regardless of which day it



Everett Arrowood

was. He believed in helping people; he believed in the underdog.

"You couldn't beat him, he was good to everybody," Chief Wright said. "Even after he retired, he was always out trying to help somebody.

"He had been with the city about 27 years," Chief Wright said. "He served the

city well."

Richard Botting said Arrowood became his friend as soon as he moved to Towns County more than a decade ago.

"He was a very good man," Botting said. "If we needed a friend, we knew that we could count on Everett."

Arrowood made a difference in the lives of the people of Towns County, Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said.

"Everett was a dear friend and neighbor that will be sorely missed," said Commissioner Kendall. "He will be remembered most for his friendly personality and character of wanting to help his fellow man.

"His character and common sense approach to law enforcement made him an effective Chief of Police

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Flags on the Courthouse square flew at half mast for retired Hiawassee Police Chief Everett Arrowood. Photo/James Reese

SPLOST is top story of 2011

90 percent voter backing was community inspired effort

By Charles Duncan
 Towns County Herald
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The Towns County Herald takes a look back at the top news story of 2011 in Towns County.

Nancy Broshears face was glowing on May 20th as she looked around at what used to be the Foster Farm.

It was groundbreaking day for the soon-to-be constructed Johnnie and Ralph Foster Memorial Park on Mining Gap Road.

"As far as I know, nothing has been planted on this property since 1947," she said. "It used to be a farm. Today, we're planting a permanent recreation park for the people of Towns County for generations to come."

Broshears looked around, she remembered the days when she and her sister Johnnie, both who



Commissioner Bill Kendall

loved to fish, would go searching for spring lizards in the small branch on the property to use as fish bait.

"One day, Johnnie strayed away and started looking for spring lizards under the leaves underneath the bank," Broshears said. "I warned her that she better not do that. When she dug out a big snake, which brought an end to our days of catching spring lizards."

The new park is part of the community-inspired Special Purpose Local Option Sales tax that passed by

a 90 percent vote in March.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall didn't expect a 90 percent vote of confidence, but he was well pleased that it happened.

"We had a 20 percent turnout and only one item on the ballot. We had good projects and people believed in them," Commissioner Kendall said. "We had a good team of folks who got out, worked hard and spread the word. The voters spoke tonight and the message was 'we care about Towns County.'"

The approved SPLOST will last no longer than six years. It is estimated to raise \$12.7 million to fund capital outlay projects in the county and the cities of Hiawassee and Young Harris. Once the projects are paid for, anything

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Williams provides new leadership at Towns County Schools

By Charles Duncan
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The Towns County Herald takes a look back at the changes in the school system in 2011.

To say that the Towns County School System experienced change in 2011 would be an understatement.

In April, Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens announced his retirement. By June, the Board of Education had selected his replacement. The choice was history in the making.

Melissa Williams became the first female school superintendent in Towns County history. Williams was one of 34 candidates for the job, and one of eight candidates to make it through to final interviews in front of the BOE.

Williams, the former



Melissa Williams

superintendent at Jenkins County Schools, came from a school system about the same size as Towns County.

She began her teaching career in 1984 as a reading and math teacher at Reidsville High School. Later, she taught business education and served as Vocational Director at Metter High

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Economy: Tourism to the rescue

The Herald takes a look back at the 2011 economy

By Charles Duncan
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Tourism was the biggest financial attraction in Towns County in 2011.

From the Green Egg Fest in May, to the Shriners' Convention and Christian Motorcycle Association gathering in June to the Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruise-In in August to the Georgia State H.O.G. Rally in September, local cash registers were ringing often in Towns County.

Top that off with concerts, rodeos, the Georgia Mountain Fair, the Fall Festival and other significant



The Shriners' Convention will be back in 2012. Hiawassee was an incredible experience, they said. Photo/James Reese

rallies held in Towns County and the uncertainty of a lagging economy wasn't as hard to swallow in 2011.

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It's hard to believe they're gone

By Charles Duncan
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The Towns County Herald can't say good-bye to 2011 without saying good-bye to its close friends who won't see the New Year.

Leonard McConnell, Dick Paris, Jimmy Brown, Henry Hedden and Everett Arrowood served Towns County dutifully through the years.

We've had to say good-bye to all of them since late October.

We call them community icons, for these individuals led efforts to achieve betterment in our community.

Leonard McConnell



Dick Paris was honored last year at Anderson Music Hall.

was an active member of the Towns County Lions Club for many years, serving two terms as president and also director of Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds for a term. Each year, Leonard would

come by the Towns County Herald and collect 50 gift subscriptions to auction off to support the Lions Club community Christmas efforts.

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New leadership at state, local levels in 2011

By Charles Duncan
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The General Election of 2011 took different routes for Stuart Miller and John Wilkinson.

Miller was the Election Night leader for the Post 3 Seat on the Young Harris City Council. He outdistanced Incumbent Jennifer Mulkey and fellow challenger Debbie Edwards.

Miller, director of Residence Life at Young Harris College and a political newcomer, was poised for victory and a seat on the Young Harris City Council. Miller had exactly 50 percent of the vote on Nov. 8th, garnering 63 votes to Deborah Edwards' 33 and Incumbent Jennifer Mulkey's 30.

There was one problem, there were five provisional ballots to be determined. Days later, two ballots were tossed, while three ballots were recorded by the Towns County Registrar.

Miller took two of those ballots, Edwards one. Miller's lead stretched to 50.39 percent, enough to declare him the victor based on majority vote.

As for Wilkinson, his Election Night was a little



State Sen. John Wilkinson



Stuart Miller

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



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