

# Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 84 Number 15

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Sunny	54 29
Fri: Sunny	50 23
Sat: Snow	33 18
Sun: Clouds	35 22
Mon: Clouds	51 31
Tues: Rain	51 31
Wed: Clouds	53 32



Upstream Elevation Predicted 02/13/13	
Lake Chatuge	1921.68
Lake Nottely	1763.87
Blue Ridge	1672.56

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## Sports Page 6A

**Towns County FFA Fundraiser**  
**Saturday, February 16**  
**Towns County High School Cafeteria**  
**1p.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Door Prizes**  
**Jeff Langley**  
**Keynote Speaker**

**Free Food Distribution**

**Tuesday, February 19**  
**Towns County Food Pantry**

**Spaghetti Dinner**

The VFW, Post 7807 is hosting a **FREE Appreciation Spaghetti Dinner** for Towns County Employees & Veterans

**Friday, Feb. 15 5-7 p.m.**

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## Towns County Basketball

**Region 8-A Tournament**  
**Tues., Feb. 12**  
**@ Towns Co. • Time TBA**  
**Fri., Feb. 15**  
**@ Hebron Time TBA**

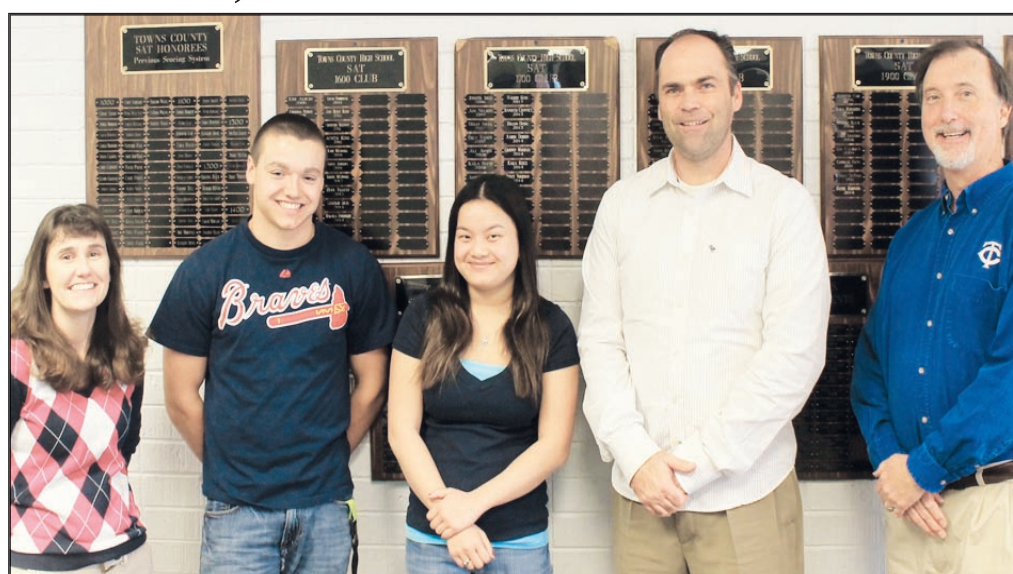
## Towns County Baseball

**Monday, Feb. 18**  
**@ Union Co.**

## Towns County Wrestling

**State Tournament**  
**@ Macon Centerplex**  
**Feb. 14-16**

## Chinnici, Diehl named STAR Students



Towns County Schools have two STAR Students and two STAR Teachers. Left to right, Alecia Frizzell and Dillon Diehl, Jennifer Chinnici and Shannon Floyd. A smiling Principal Roy Perren looks on with delight. Photo/Libby Shook

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

Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren beamed as he announced that TCHS had two STAR Students this year.

Seniors Jennifer Chinnici and Dillon Diehl tied for this top honor by having the highest identical scores on the SAT for the first semester of the 2012-13 school year.

It goes without saying that TCHS is honored to have two STAR teachers as well. Chinnici chose Shannon

Floyd as her STAR teacher and Diehl's selection was Alecia Frizzell.

"We are extremely proud of these students and their achievements. We know that great things will happen for them as they graduate and go on

See STARS, page 10A

## Bloodworth, Westberry crowned King and Queen

**By Joe Collins**  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Wesley Bloodworth was obviously pleased to be crowned the 2013 Homecoming King at Towns County High School last week.

He wasted little time honoring the 2013 Queen, Erin Westberry with a peck on the cheek.

Yes, it was Homecoming time at Towns County High School in the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium.

It was a glamorous night dedicated to the student body of all four high school classes.

The ceremony took place during halftime of the boy's Varsity game with High School Principal Roy Perren doing the honors of introducing the candidates from each class and their escorts.

The young ladies were beautiful in their formal wear and the young men were proud to be by their sides.

It was a very special night in the lives of these students and one they will always remember.

The ceremony was very dignified as friends and families gathered to pay tribute to the chosen few among many at TCHS.

Perren kicked off the



Erin Westberry gets a big smooch from Wesley Bloodworth after the pair were named Homecoming Queen and King. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

evening by introducing the underclassmen representatives.

First there was Savannah Dyer escorted by Sterling Hedden. Perren told the crowd that Dyer had participated in basketball and FBLA, while Hedden is active in football, golf, FBLA, SADD, Leo Club and HOSA.

Next for the freshman class was Taylor Underwood who was escorted by Daulton Rogers.

Underwood participates

in cheerleading, soccer and FBLA, while Rogers is active in football, wrestling and FBLA.

Both ladies looked lovely in their dresses while their escorts beamed with pride.

Perren then moved on to the sophomore class and introduced Karlie Albach, who was being escorted by Boone Moss.

Albach participates in

See Homecoming, page 10A

## Hamilton Gardens named All-America

**By Libby Shook**  
Towns County Herald  
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There is a lot of excitement brewing at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Hamilton Gardens this year according to Curator Paul Hansen and Garden Shop Manager Catherine Hansen.

This is a celebratory time for Hamilton Gardens as they announce their selection as an All-America Selections Display Garden as well as the anticipation of the return of the Rhododendron Festival to Hiawassee.

"This is a great honor for the gardens," Paul Hansen said. "It has been a tireless effort over the past two years preparing the gardens for this special program."

"I hope everyone will stop by the gardens to enjoy these wonderful display gar-



Hamilton Gardens was recently chosen as an All-America Selections Display Garden. Photo/Libby Shook

dens," said Paul Hansen.

All-America Gardens, an independent plant trialing and award program, announced in late January that Hamilton Gardens has been selected as one

of a select group of prestigious public gardens.

"This is a great honor for the gardens. It has been a

See Gardens, page 10A

## Emergency preparedness examined

**By Libby Shook**  
Towns County Herald  
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A meeting was held at the 911 Mapping Office on Tuesday, Feb. 5th.

Members of the Towns County Emergency Management Agency, Towns County Fire Department, American Red Cross, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Hiawassee Water Department, Hiawassee Police Department, and many other key agencies came together with Commissioner Bill Kendall. The purpose of the gathering, to review and assess the preparedness and emergency response time to the hazardous conditions created

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A recent series of emergencies has Towns County looking at ways to improve the county's emergency preparedness efforts. Photo/Libby Shook

## Towns County deputies make burglary arrest

Sheriff: one charged, other arrests a possibility

**By Charles Duncan**  
Towns County Herald  
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A Jan. 8th arrest of a 23-year-old Hiawassee woman could lead to additional arrests pending the completion of an ongoing investigation, Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton said.

Monique Elizabeth Adams was arrested and charged with attempted burglary of a residence off Highway 75 in Towns County, sheriff's reports show.

The attempted burglary was reported Jan. 8th, sheriff's reports show.

Neighbors witnessed a suspicious vehicle and identified the suspect as Adams, sheriff's reports show.

An investigation of the incident is ongoing and Adams remains in the Towns County



Monique Adams

Detention Center, jail records show.

More arrests are possible pending the results of the ongoing investigation, sheriff's reports show.

No additional details were available at press time regarding the investigation or any pending arrests.

## Funding for septic repair or replacement available for Chatuge Watershed residents

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

Do you need a septic tank repair or replacement?

Call Scarlett Fuller. The Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition is excited to announce that the Lake Chatuge Watershed Action Plan is funded and well under way according to Fuller, Lake Chatuge Watershed coordinator.

"Thanks to funding from Georgia's Environmental Protection Division, Non-Point Source Pollution, and Section 319 Program, funds are currently available to Towns County residents whose property lies within the Lake Chatuge Watershed," said Fuller.

In an effort to address nutrient loading from three main sources, septic, agriculture, and waste water, into Lake Chatuge, the Coalition is implementing a septic repair and replacement



Scarlett Fuller

cost-share program.

Fuller said, "This program is completely voluntary, however, once the process has been started, any septic problems that arise must be appropriately addressed."

"Some Lake Chatuge watershed residents can expect to see door hanger packets with information on program re-

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## EMC's new operations center gets high marks

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

Recent floods and snow and ice have tested Blue Ridge Mountain EMC's new operations center.

Matthew Akins, BRMEMC General Manager, said crewman were out in full force battling the elements as they worked to restore power to area residents as straight-line winds, torrential rains, and flash flooding swept through Towns and surrounding counties on Wednesday, Jan. 30th.

He was quick to point out that he was very impressed with their hard work, dedication, and sacrifice during these adverse weather conditions.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the EMC employees for a job well done in responding to and managing the recent power outages.

"As usual, the team pulled together and worked efficiently to get power restored to our members as safely and quickly as possible," said Akins.

"We had a total of 171 outages affecting almost 15,000 members," he said. "Our office personnel did an excellent job answering more than 2,000 phone calls."

Akins said that crews worked throughout the night in the cold, rain, and wind to restore power to everyone, including replacing 20 broken power poles, in a little over 27 hours.

"The BRMEMC team came together, developed a game plan, and worked through the night until we had everyone's power back on," said Akins.

Approximately 12 engineering and metering employees were grouped into six "bird dog" crews.

There were also six employees assigned to deliver



Matthew Akins

materials and six mechanics to work on vehicles and equipment.

Akins reported that they had approximately 30 office employees answering phones and five employees in dispatching.

Due to the fact that so many power poles were down, Akins offered the following safety warnings: stay away from any downed lines including power, telephone, or cable; do not touch any object that is in contact with downed power lines and can transmit electricity such as water and metal; and never drive your car over power lines.

"If a power line falls across your vehicle while you are driving, stay inside your car until you receive appropriate assistance," said Akins.

BRMEMC serves Towns, Union, and Fannin counties in Georgia and Clay and Cherokee counties in North Carolina.

The EMC is in its first year in its new operations center in Young Harris.

The recent weather tests prove the new operations center battle tested.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

