

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Rain	62-46
Fri: T-Storms	56-31
Sat: Clouds	58-32
Sun: Rain	54-29
Mon: Sunny	48-26
Tue: Clouds	44-23
Wed: Sunny	41-20



Upstream Elevation Predicted 02/19/14	
Lake Chatuge	1,918.18
Lake Nottely	1,762.30
Blue Ridge	1,672.02

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Kendall: 'We dodged a serious bullet; we will seek federal aid'

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall was expecting more than a foot of snow based on weather forecasts.

Fortunately, Mother Nature intervened with above freezing temperatures.

The snow, which did arrive, turned to slush as temperatures inched above freezing.

"We were lucky," Commissioner Kendall said. "They forecast the worst, and we got better than was projected."

"I can't tell you how lucky we really were," he said.

Gov. Nathan Deal was concerned about the mountain counties. He called Commissioner Kendall and told him anything Towns County needed, just call him and let him know.

"He gave me the hotline number to call," Kendall said. "He was touching base with all the North Georgia counties."

"He told me if we needed anything to just let him know," Kendall said.

The commissioner said that Towns County would apply for federal aid given that President Barack Obama declared a state of emergency for Georgia in the wake of the snowstorm.

"We'll probably get about



Towns County had its hands full last week as a three-phase snowstorm came to fruition.

\$25,000 reimbursement," Kendall said. "We'll know more a little later in the week."

"We've been hit pretty hard this winter, but, on this go round, we dodged a bullet," Kendall said.

On Tuesday, the snow came, covered the ground and



roads and caused some travel discomfort.

Nevertheless, Mother Nature offered temperatures that ranged from 32 degrees to 35 degrees that day, and the snow turned to freezing rain.

Much more snow was anticipated on Wednesday, and

able, and thanks to Mother Nature, side roads were slushy, but passable.

"Everything went well," Kendall said. "As far as Emergency Management was concerned, everything was coordinated, everyone cooperated, and we thank folks for staying off the roadways."

"Things went smoothly from that vantage point," he said.

Kendall said things could have been a lot worse.

"We were very pleased with Mother Nature this time around," Kendall said. "We went ahead and closed county offices in anticipation of a much worse weather scenario."

"The day before (Monday) from all indications, it looked like we were going to get a foot of snow or more," Kendall said. "I'm glad we didn't, but, some of the counties around us got hit pretty hard."

"I guess we were just lucky this time around," he said.

Towns County Government's Marty Roberts said the county was prepared for the worst, but thankful it didn't happen.

"We really could have been slammed by this storm," he said. "We're just thankful everything turned out like it did. We're thankful Mother Nature gave us a break."

Lady Indians fighting for another trip to state

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Commerce - The Towns County Lady Indians lost a semi-final battle Monday night with George Walton Academy 62-37.

Eryn Cochran scored a game-high 22 points in the defeat as the Lady Indians bowed out of their pursuit of a Region 8-A title.

The Lady Indians state title hopes continue as they live to play the Commerce Lady Tigers in the Region 8-A consolation matchup.

The Region 8-A High School Basketball Tournament experienced weather related delays. The Lady Indians won their opening game on Saturday against Athens Christian.

They were forced to wait until Monday for their semi-final matchup with George Walton because of weather-related delays.

On Monday, George Walton led 14-8 at the close of the first quarter of play. By halftime, that lead had swelled to 33-10.

At the end of three quarters



Left, Misty Lindemuth fights for a rebound against Athens Christian; right, Kelsie Cowart, surrounded by Lady Eagles, goes for a deuce. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

of play, George Walton led 48-20. They closed out the contest with a 62-37 win.

The Lady Indians defeated Athens Christian in Saturday's game, a grinding 51-33 victory over the Lady Eagles in a loosely called and often rough game at Commerce High School.

The win over Athens Christian earned the Lady Indians a confrontation with Class A Top-10 ranked George Walton Academy on Monday.

George Walton will play Lakeview Academy on Tuesday at 7 p.m. to decide the Region 8-A champion. The champion-



ship game is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday in Commerce. A consolation game between the Lady Indians and Commerce to be played at 4 p.m.

The Lady Indians were led by Kelsie Cowart's game-high 15 points in the win over Athens Christian.

Scoring leaders for the Athens Christian game were Cowart with 15 points, Cochran with 11, Misty Lindemuth with 8, and Bailey Sutton with 7.

Visit our newspaper online for tournament results at www.townscountyherald.net.

Martin, Leslie get a Civics lesson

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Work as a public servant can be as rewarding as it is challenging.

For Young Harris City Council member Hilary Martin, there's always room for improvement.

On Feb. 4, the Young Harris City Council held a regularly scheduled meeting.

For the most part, the business went as usual, with a few exceptions. The topic of city water rates has been a pressing one for the Council, who plans to raise the rates, but wants to make sure to do so fairly and carefully.

"It's been a big discussion," said Martin.

She and the other members of the council are work-



Hilary Martin



Sam Leslie

ing to make sure they find a solution that works for everyone. "Any time you're raising rates for people, you want to put a lot of thought into it and you want to come up with the best solution, because we don't want people to be paying just a ridiculous amount for their water," she said. "That's not what we're

about." Martin, who holds degrees from Valdosta State and Reinhardt universities, has been glad to handle the challenges of her job so far. In addition to her regular duties, she's taken on the role of chair of Tree Board.

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Kendall: 'Towns was well prepared for snowstorm'

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Preparing a county for an emergency is no easy feat, but this isn't Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall's first rodeo.

Though this winter is the coldest that Towns County has experienced in four years, Kendall has been prepared for any eventuality.

Georgians, as a rule, don't often experience snowstorms of this magnitude.

Some people had raised concerns about how residents of Towns County would remain out of harm's way among steep hills, winding roads, and bad weather - especially because forecasts predicted that the roads would ice over, making it difficult for people to even leave their driveways.

"There was a lot of anxiety over this storm," Kendall said. "Some people in Towns County are currently very sick. I have one gentleman who had to go in Wednesday morning for Dialysis."

In case of these emergencies, Kendall's office set up an emergency line for people who are disabled, medically or otherwise, because of the ice.

"All they needed to do is call this number here, (706) 896-3276, and then we will get that number on to the road crew, or the EMS or the fire department," Kendall said. "If there's some equipment they need up there we'll get the equipment there, or if the EMS needs to go on foot, they will. We will get them help."



Commissioner Bill Kendall

Although forecasts called for anywhere between 2 and 12 inches of snow and ice, Kendall remained confident in the ability of the county to keep everybody safe and warm.

"We were ready," he said. Before the roads iced, he noticed that people were crowding into the grocery stores to stock up on the essentials, like medicine or flashlights, and said that he hoped that they would exercise their common sense in order to keep accidents to a minimum - and they did.

He also wanted to thank Road Superintendent Clyde Shook, as well as the entire road crew, for the exemplary work they do under dangerous conditions.

But for the most part, he stressed that the county was prepared for anything.

"If it was an emergency, we were going to get there," he emphasized.

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Snow days made for rushed shopping

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

It was a busy week as residents of Towns County prepared for, first, a snow and ice storm that threatened to shut down the roads, and second, Valentine's Day.

Some, who did their shopping early, had nothing to worry about. For others, it was not a good week for last minute shopping, as Tuesday night and all of Wednesday saw the roads snowed over and iced.

Thursday wasn't a great day either.

"Hopefully people just went out, got their groceries and their water and then they'll stay off these steep roads," Towns County Sole Commis-

See Shop, Page 8



An all too familiar scene in Towns County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

SPORTS
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Towns County Tourism Association, Inc

Meeting - Chamber Office
February 20, 2014
8:30 Am
1411 Jack Dayton Circle
Young Harris

Public Invited
706-896-4966

Free Food Distribution

Thurs. Feb 20th
10 am-12 pm

North Mt. Zion Church of God
Scataway Road

see page 6

Kindergarten Registration
Feb 17-21

see page 2

WRESTLING:
State Tournament Rescheduled to
Fri & Sat Feb 21 & 22 @ Macon

BASKETBALL:
Girls Basketball State Tournament
TBA