

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

www.townscountyherald.net

Publication Number 635540 Volume 84 Number 16

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

### Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	54 38
Fri: Rain	51 43
Sat: Rain	59 36
Sun: Clouds	60 38
Mon: Rain	54 36
Tues: Rain	54 32
Wed: Clouds	58 34

Upstream Elevation Predicted 02/20/13

Lake Chatuge	1919.91
Lake Nottely	1760.52
Blue Ridge	1674.33

### INDEX

2 Sections, 16 Pages

Arrests.....2A  
 Chamber News.....10A  
 Church/Obits.....6A,7A  
 Classifieds.....2B  
 Editorial.....4A  
 Letters.....4A  
 Legals.....3B

### Sports Page 8A

### Rhododendron Festival Returns at Hamilton Gardens

April 19 - May 12



Crafters Village  
 Open Fridays & Saturdays  
 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Sundays 12 - 4 p.m.  
 See page 10A

● ● ●

### Red Cross March Blood Drive

Wed., March 27  
 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

● ● ●

### Head Start/Pre-K Registration

Begins March 1, 2013  
 8 a.m.  
 Towns County Elementary School

● ● ●

ABC

See page 2A

● ● ●

### Towns County Lady Indians Basketball

State Tournament @ Towns Co. T/B/A

### Towns County Baseball

Tuesday, Feb. 26 @ Rabun Co.

### Towns County Soccer

@ Union County Fri., Feb. 22 4:30 p.m.

## Perren takes new leadership role

### Assistant Principal Jonathan Gibson to be new principal

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

Roy Perren is stepping down as Towns County High School Principal, but rest assured, "Elvis" is not leaving the building.

Perren was chosen last week as the School System's director of Student Support Services, Federal Programs and Facilities. His new duties begin July 1st.

His new duties include working with at-risk high school students, heading up the Hospital Homebound Program for the system, coordinating the 504 plans for the system, overseeing federal programs for the system and handling of facility funding, Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams said.

"Roy is close to retirement, and he's been principal here at Towns County High School for nine years," Williams said. "Roy is ready for a new challenge, and this is the



Roy Perren

perfect fit for his skill set."

With Perren changing jobs on July 1, in March the Towns County Board of Education will look to realign present administrators and responsibilities to make more efficient use of system personnel going forward, Williams said.

"With Roy's decision to accept this position, we are making an attempt to use our existing personnel and their



Jonathan Gibson

skill sets in a manner that affords us the opportunity to redistribute duties without expanding personnel."

Williams announced that Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Jonathan Gibson will step into the role of TCHS principal, and continue his duties as athletic director.

As for Perren, the con-

See Perren, page 11A

## Tentative LOST deal achieved between county and cities

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

After several months of negotiations, mediation, and litigation regarding Towns County's Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) distribution, an agreement has been reached between the county and its municipalities. In a special called meeting at the Towns County Courthouse on Monday, Commissioner Bill Kendall adopted a resolution settling the distributions for the LOST Revenue between the county and its municipalities for the next 10 years. A 'Petition for Consent Judgment on Joint County and Municipal Sales and Use Tax' has been signed by legal counsels for Young Harris, Hiawassee and Towns County. At present, the resolution is a



Commissioner Bill Kendall

tentative agreement and must be filed in the Superior Court of Towns County and accepted and signed by Judge Larry Salmon, sitting in by appointment, before it is considered official. In a previously held meeting on Jan. 16th, the Towns County LOST Negotiating Committee and Commissioner Kendall met to consider a counter offer made to LOST Committee Chairman Chris Bradshaw by

See LOST, page 11A

## Lady Indians to host state playoffs

By Jerry Kendall  
 Towns County Herald  
 Staff Writer

Dacula - The exciting year that is athletics at Towns County High School continues as the Lady Indians have captured yet another Region 8-A Championship.

The Lady Indians now attempt to match the feat of a state title in the same season as the Lady Indians' Cross Country team.

The Lady Indians took care of business in fine fashion last week as they swept past Prince Avenue Christian School in a first round game at Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium on Tuesday and Providence Christian Academy and George Walton Academy in the semi-final and championship rounds at Hebron Christian Academy in Dacula on Friday and Saturday to bring home the Region title.

The championship run extends the Lady Indians' record to 24-4 for the season and appears to have set them up to host their first two rounds of state tournament competition if victorious in the Game 1.

The region championship victory was the Lady Indians' third in a row and fourth in the last five years. The significance of the five-year run cannot be over emphasized as evidenced



Eryn Cochran gets a big High Five from her teammates after the Towns County Lady Indians clinched another Region title, this time in Dacula. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

by the fact that the Lady Indians had won just one prior region tournament, a David versus Goliath type 54-51 overtime victory over Buford in 1977.

At least one vital starting member of that 1977 championship team was on hand for the victory over George Walton in the person of Susan Waldroup DeVries, whose son, Will, is a promising Towns County Middle School Eighth Grade basketball player.

Another vital starter on

that championship team was Janine Galloway Gilfilian, the mother of Lady Indian JV player Carly Gilfilian.

The three-game sweep in the Region Tournament takes on added luster when considering the competitive regular season games between the Lady Indians and their semi-final and championship game opponents.

The Lady Indians had

See Lady Indians, page 11A

## Wilkinson gives State Senate update

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

State Senate District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson (R-Toccoa) reports that the Georgia General Assembly is nearing the midway point for the 2013 Legislative Session.

The Senator is feeling pretty good about the progress that has been made thus far, but notes that there are only 22 days left to pass a balanced budget.

Sen. Wilkinson reports that currently, the House has voted to approve the amended FY2013 budget of \$19.3 billion, which ends June 30th.

Also known as the supplemental budget, the plan includes no additional programs, but would add \$245 million in needed Medicaid funding and \$172 million to local school systems to address costs associated with enroll-



Sen. John Wilkinson

ment growth in Georgia's K-12 public schools.

"The Senate has now taken up the budget and will analyze every detail to assure that our money is being spent responsibly," Sen. Wilkinson said.

Sen. Wilkinson, chairman of the Senate's Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee, sponsored a couple of resolutions that are very near and dear to his heart.

"I was very pleased to sponsor Senate Resolution 27 to recognize February 12 as Georgia Farm Bureau Federation Day in the Senate," said Wilkinson.

More than 400 Farm Bureau members from around the state, including a large delegation from Northeast Georgia, were in attendance.

Georgia Farm Bureau was formed in 1937 as a voice for production agriculture focusing on service to its members and the improvement of Georgia's agriculture industry.

Senate Resolution 84 recognized Young Farmer's Day at the State Capitol on

See Wilkinson, page 11A

## Justin Moore ready to hit The Hall

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

Nashville Country music rising star, Justin Moore, will appear in concert at the Anderson Music Hall on Friday, March 1st at 7 p.m.

"I'm looking forward to playing in Hiawassee for the first time," said Moore.

Moore is currently working on his third album and also preparing for his 2013 headlining tour.

"Man, I'm excited to be headlining our first tour. Over the last few years I have been out with some of the best artists in our genre



Justin Moore

and I have learned so much from each of them," said Moore.

Those artists include Trace Adkins, Hank Wil-

liams Jr., Lynyrd Skynyrd, Brad Paisley, Brooks and Dunn, Rascal Flatts, Miranda Lambert, and Darius Rucker.

Moore tells his fans at all of his shows that he's "proud to be from small town USA," and for him these words are heartfelt. The Arkansas native grew up in the small town of Poyen with a population of only 272.

He graduated from high school with only 37 classmates.

In fact, Moore sings about growing up in Poyen

See Moore, page 11A

## Blairsville man charged in domestic shooting

Suspect faces 10 charges, possibly more

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

Young Harris - Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton and his deputies apprehended a man accused of assaulting a friend of his estranged wife with a sawed-off shotgun and defused a potentially life-threatening situation.

According to the Towns County Sheriff's Office accounts, Larry Franklin Thomas, 53, of 144 Fairview Trail in Blairsville, violated a protective order and entered the home of his estranged wife and their three children in Young Harris.

Thomas, who is being held in the Towns County Detention Center, faces 10 charges, Towns County Magistrate Court warrants show.

Thomas is charged with two counts aggravated assault, possession of a 20-gauge sawed



Larry Thomas

off shotgun, with the barrel being shorter than 18 inches, possession of a 20-gauge sawed off shotgun during the commission of a felony, burglary, three counts third-degree cruelty to children, aggravated stalking, possession of a firearm by a felon convicted of aggravated assault, magistrate court warrants show.

See Shooting, page 11A

## City of Young Harris to double its sewer capacity

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

Young Harris - The city of Young Harris is moving forward with plans to double its sewer capacity.

Council members met with Chris Poje of Turnipseed Engineering in Atlanta at the Council's monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 5th.

Poje reported on the proposed upgrades to the Young Harris Water Pollution Control Plant to .48 million gallons per day, which will double the city's sewer capacity from the current 240,000 gallons per day.

The last major upgrade was constructed in 1993.

"The city of Young Harris is excited about the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant," Mayor Andrea Gibby said. "We will double the current capacity of the plant. This will enable our city to service more customers."

"The growth of the college and the new development in the valley has required us to expand," Mayor Gibby said.

The draft permit includes a requirement that the temperature in Brasstown Creek not increase due to the temperature of the plant effluent.

Therefore, the proposed improvements include the design of a system that lowers the temperature of the effluent sufficiently to meet the permit conditions according to Poje.

Poje told the council that the design development had been approved by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

He noted, in a letter to Mayor Gibby dated Jan. 15, that he had included the requested



Mayor Andrea Gibby

language concerning their agreement to "indemnify the city for damages such as fines imposed by the Georgia EPD, if the temperature control system failed to perform as designed in the first three years of operation."

He also indicated that if any improvements to the temperature control system were necessary within the first three years, they would be made at no cost to the City.

Poje was told by the Council, that if he would include this language in his insurance and send it to City Attorney Cary Cox and Councilman John Kelley, that they will give him the "go ahead" on the project.

The City has been approved for a loan in the amount of \$4.7 million from the USDA Rural Development and have received almost \$500,000 in grant money from the General Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) for this project.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

