

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Flurries	40 28
Fri: Flurries	44 28
Sat: Flurries	41 24
Sun: Clouds	42 15
Mon: Sunny	45 30
Tues: Snow	44 30
Wed: Clouds	53 30



Upstream Elevation Predicted 02/27/13	
Lake Chatuge	1918.62
Lake Nottely	1762.28
Blue Ridge	1675.33

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Three Dog Night

at Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds

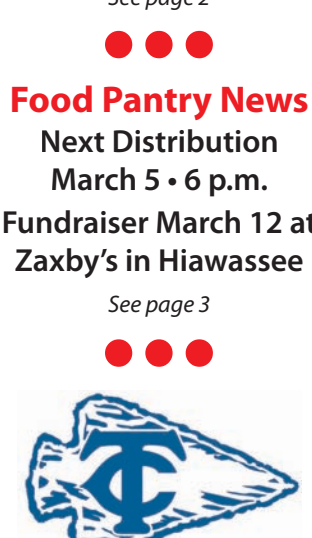


Sat. March 9
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Kindergarten Registration
March 18 - 22
See page 2

Head Start/Pre-K Registration
Begins March 1 • 8 a.m.
Towns County Elementary School
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Food Pantry News
Next Distribution
March 5 • 6 p.m.
Fundraiser March 12 at Zaxby's in Hiawassee
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Towns County Lady Indians Basketball
State Tournament
Claxton @ Towns Co.
Tuesday, Feb. 26
6 p.m.
Towns County Baseball
Wednesday, Feb. 27
5 p.m. vs. Union
Towns County Tennis
Thurs., Feb. 28 • 4 p.m.
@ Rabun County

Lady Indians advance to Elite 8

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The 302nd career victory for Towns County Lady Indians' Head Basketball Coach Jim Melton was sweet, as in Sweet 16 sweet.

The win came in the Sweet 16 round of the Class A state playoffs with a 83-73 win over Calhoun County and sends the Lady Indians once again into the Elite 8 round of the state playoffs.

Next up for the Lady Indians, the Claxton Lady Tigers of Region 3-A, who bring with them a 21-8 overall record on the season.

The game is scheduled for 6 p.m., Tuesday at the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium.

The Lady Indians got their "second season" off to a fine start last week by taking a first round, home court 83-73 victory in the Georgia Class A Public State Tournament over the Calhoun County Lady Cougars from Edison in southwest Georgia near Albany.

The victory improved the



Stephanie Patton (5) puts up a deuce. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Lady Indians' record to 25-4 as the Lady Cougars saw their season come to an end with a fine 19-9 record while facing several top of the line opponents.

Melton quietly reached his 300th varsity coaching win when his Lady Indians took a 55-37 victory over Providence

Christian in the semi finals of the Region 8-A Tournament at Hebron Christian Academy in Dacula on Feb. 15th.

Prior to the Lady Indians' first home court appearance since the region tournament in

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Taylor's county history book to be reprinted

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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Towns County Historian/Genealogist Jerry Taylor of Young Harris has announced that the Towns County family history/heritage book, *Hearthstones of Home, Foundations of Towns County, Volume 1, (1983)*, will be reprinted.

Compiled and edited by Taylor almost 30 years ago, the book highlights Towns County family history, genealogy, and photos.

"The idea for the book *Hearthstones of Home* came from Mountain Regional Librarian, Helen H. Kimsey, due to the fact that she had so many patrons requesting information on local history," said Taylor. "She secured the services of a Special Books Division representative from Taylor Publishing Company out of Dallas, Texas come and outline the process and it just took off from there."



Jerry Taylor

Taylor reports that during the time of preparation for the book, an open invitation was extended to all Towns County families to submit family histories of their families including present and past generations along with pictures.

More than 800 modern and early family histories were submitted and included in the

See Taylor, page 12

Gibby proud to be back on BOE

By Libby Shook
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Bob Gibby has returned to the Towns County Board of Education and is eager to get down to business.

Gibby is no stranger to the board having previously served 12 years as a board member.

"I have no agenda other than the school vision of 'providing an exceptional education for all students in a safe, caring environment that develops lifelong learners who become individuals, independent thinkers, and productive citizens,'" said Gibby.

"Towns County Schools have always had great boards of education that worked together to accomplish that goal, and I am honored that the people of this county consider me worthy to continue that vision," said Gibby who was re-elected to the non-partisan post during the 2012 July Primary.

Gibby used the analogy of an umbrella to describe education.

"Academics is the cover, but underneath are all the activities that help make a well-rounded individual, whether it be some form of athletics, music, band, a school club, or



Bob Gibby, center, is a welcomed addition to the Towns County Board of Education. Photo/Libby Shook

any number of extracurricular activities," he said. "These make for a good student."

Gibby discussed the challenges facing school boards today which includes that of producing adequate funding so that educational opportunities are not compromised.

He also discussed the hope that "as we pay it forward, each young person will also want to pay forward as they remember what was once done for them."

Fellow board member Jerry Taylor said, "Education of our youth has long been a passion for Bob."

"He has a heart for our local kids and schools," Taylor said.

Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams said, "Mr. Bob Gibby's return to the school board will be a complement to the other members on the board. His

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Towns has eight new firefighter recruits

By Libby Shook
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A group of eight dedicated Towns County residents spent Sunday morning, Feb. 10th, at the Station 6 Firehouse on Sunnyside, testing to achieve their National Fire Certification Firefighter I.

These new recruits have completed a four-and one-half month Firefighter I program of instruction.

This class consisted of more than 120 hours of classroom and practical instruction.

The certification is the national standard for firefighters.

The following firefighters tested for their Firefighter I certification: Trey Moore, Justin Ledford, Robert Bishop, Dakota Shook, Casey Dover, Judith Moss, Marty Roberts, and Mark Wright. Also, Adam Gilreath of Union County was testing as well, although he is not affiliated with the Towns



Chief Mitch Floyd

County Fire Department.

There is a 100-question written test that must be passed successfully. In addition, there is a skills-based test, which is made up of the following components: quick dress, operating a self-contained breathing device, ladder testing, car fire, structure fire, self-rescue, roof ventilation, forcible entry,

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Kendall appoints Oliva Elections Superintendent

By Libby Shook
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Towns County native Janet Oliva is the county's new Superintendent of Elections.

She was appointed by Commissioner Bill Kendall to fill the vacant position of Superintendent of Elections at the Towns County Commissioner's meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21st, at the County Courthouse.

The vacancy was created when Jonnie Marie Shook vacated the post to move to Ecuador with husband, Doug Shook.

Jonnie Marie Shook was appointed to the board by the late Commissioner Jack Dayton and later reappointed by Commissioner Kendall, who expressed his appreciation for her dedicated service to Towns County in her capacity as Elections Superintendent.

According to Kendall, Oliva was previously appointed by the Superior Court Judges of the Enotah Judicial Circuit to aid the election board in "evaluating spoiled ballots."

Oliva, a graduate of Towns County High School, holds a bachelor of science degree in Criminal Justice from Brenau University (1995), as well as a master's degree in Education in 1998, and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in 2003.

"She comes to us well qualified with her previous experience with the G.B.I. and the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DeFACS, 1987-2003) where she was appointed by Gov. Sonny Purdue to the Review Board for the Georgia Sex Offender Registry," said Kendall.

Oliva was considered the state's leading child abuse expert and developed and delivered numerous training programs for law enforcement relating to sexually motivated



Janet Oliva

crimes and crisis intervention.

Oliva also is a current member of the Advisory Board of the Crisis Intervention Team, the Georgia Branch of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and the International Criminal Investigative Analysis Fellowship.

"I am honored to be able to serve my community in this new capacity," Oliva said. "As a Towns County native, my career began with my very first job at the Towns County School Superintendent's Office where I learned the importance of education and leadership. I look forward to this diplomatic opportunity of leadership, and will continue to ensure trust and fairness within the electoral process."

The election board is made up of five members, two members appointed by the Executive Committee of the Republican Party and two members appointed by the Democratic Executive Committee.

See Appointments, page 12

"Year of Our Youth" raises \$4,000

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley just wanted to come out and help support Towns County's youth.

He took time out of his busy schedule to appear as the keynote speaker for the Future Farmers of America fundraiser held in the Towns County High School Cafeteria on Saturday, Feb. 16th.

The event, sponsored by Towns County Family Connection, Mountain Movers and Shakers, the Gold Academy, and the Towns County Chamber of Commerce, attracted a crowd, including Langley.

"I just wanted to come out and support our youth today," said Langley. Langley said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but



Enotah Circuit DA Jeff Langley speaks at a recent fundraiser for Towns County FFA. Photo/Libby Shook

ask what you can do for your country" was a very popular and widely used quote by President John F. Kennedy.

"But most people haven't read or heard another important and widely overlooked part of

that famous quote," Langley said. "It also reads 'we are all called to do God's work,'" said Langley.

"You and I are called to

See Fundraiser, page 12

Video shows Towns' storied history

By Libby Shook
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The February meeting of the Towns County Historical Society was a bit different from past meetings.

There were no guest speakers, but instead, the gathering took a walk back in time as they presented a video of the July 7, 1956 Centennial Float Parade.

The video was narrated by local historian Jerry Taylor, Steve Holmes, and Fiddler Howard Cunningham, who served as the Centennial manager (1956) as well as the Grand Marshal of the 2006 Sesquicentennial Parade. It was a time of fond



Towns County history enthusiasts enjoy a blast from the past at the recent Historical Society gathering. Photo/Libby Shook

remembrance for many as some had been present during this bit of preserved Towns County history and others were enthralled by the decorated floats of that era and

the opportunity to have that glimpse back in time when life was simpler in Towns County. The original version of the film

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

