

# Towns County Herald

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	52 25
Fri: Sunny	57 29
Sat: Clouds	61 36
Sun: Clouds	62 39
Mon: Clouds	61 43
Tue: Clouds	59 40
Wed: Rain	59 37



Upstream Elevation Predicted 03/06/13	
Lake Chatuge	1918.53
Lake Nottely	1762.36
Blue Ridge	1679.30

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## Sports Page 8



## 2013 Co-Ed T-Ball and Farm League

The Towns County Recreation Department will be holding registration for T-Ball and Farm League the week of March 11th thru March 23rd.

Co-Ed T-Ball is for boys and girls ages 4 and 5. Co-Ed Farm League is for boys & girls ages 6, 7 and 8. The age control date will be prior to May 1st for boys and girls. Boys and girls ages 6 may play in either the T-Ball or the Farm League programs.

Cost for these programs will be \$35 per participant. All registration will be held at the Recreation Department. Our hours of operation are: Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. til 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. til 4 p.m. For more information please call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

## 4th Annual Towns County Touchdown Club Lake Chatuge Bass Tournament

March 16, 2013  
At the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hiawassee, GA

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## Towns County Baseball

Tues., March 5 • 5:30 p.m.  
vs. Prince Avenue

## Towns County Soccer

Thurs., March 7 • 5:30 p.m.  
vs. Highlands

## Three Dog Night to play The Hall

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

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 9th at 7 p.m. Three Dog Night comes to Anderson Music Hall in Hiawassee with a special local guest, Blairsville's own, Modern Vinyl.

The ever-popular Modern Vinyl will open for the legend known as Three Dog Night at The Hall. Modern Vinyl bass guitarist Todd Forrest, yes, that Todd Forrest, sports editor for the *North Georgia News*, said the band was excited about the opportunity to open for Three Dog Night.

"We are honored to be opening for these legendary music icons," he said. "It just doesn't get any better than this."

Three Dog Night, a Grammy-nominated band with 21 Top 40 Billboard hits, including three No. 1s, bring their classic hits of the early '70s, along with their latest releases.

Their hits include *Mama*



The iconic sound of Three Dog Night comes to The Hall on Saturday, March 9th at 7 p.m. Modern Vinyl is the opening act.

*Told Me Not to Come, Liar, Old Fashioned Love Song, Eli's Coming, Joy to the World, Never Been to Spain, and One.*

The band has reached out to new audiences via 21st century music technology as fans today are buying their music

on iTunes as well as at music stores. They have sold over a million copies of their music in the past decade.

Tickets are still available. For more details, call the Fairgrounds' office at (706) 896-4191.

## Senate District 50 legislative update

By Libby Shook  
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District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson (R-Toccoa) reports that the General Assembly has been busy preparing for "Crossover Day" during the upcoming week.

Crossover Day is the last day bills can transfer between the Senate and the House.

"If legislation does not travel to the opposite chamber by Legislative Day 30, which will fall on Thursday, March 7th, the bill is effectively dead for this session," said Sen. Wilkinson. "As we prepare for this important day, the committee process becomes even more vital in moving legislation through the General Assembly."

"A Senate Bill must pass before the House for their consideration and a House Bill must pass before the Senate for our consideration," Sen.



State Sen. John Wilkinson Wilkinson said. "The bill must have the approval of both bodies and be signed by the governor before it becomes law."

According to Wilkinson, two very important pieces of legislation passed the Senate on Friday, March 1st.

HB 266 would update the

See Wilkinson, page 11

## Towns County remembers Iwo

By Libby Shook  
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Tuesday, Feb. 19th, was a special day at the Ridges Resort as more than 100 people showed up to recognize and honor a very deserving group of war heroes as they remembered the 68th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The battle was one of the most infamous and bloody battles of World War II. Major General Jere Akin, U.S. Army Retired, was the keynote speaker. Akin and his wife Gwen reside in Morganton.

Akin, a highly decorated veteran, served in command positions from company to brigade level and served in four infantry divisions: the 8th Division in Germany, the 1st Division in Vietnam, the 2nd Division in Korea, and the 101st Air Assault Division at Ft. Campbell.

"Why are we here today? Of course it is to recognize the anniversary of one of the hardest fought, bloodiest, and fiercest battles of World War II. Yes, it is to celebrate a victory, but to me, and I believe to all of you, it is much more than just a celebration," he said.

"It is to recognize the



The tribute to Iwo Jima veterans included this memorable moment never to be forgotten. Photo/Libby Shook

many members of the military that never returned, as well as the wounded. It is to recognize all that participated in the battle and a few of them are here with us today," he said. "They all fought for and protected our great democracy and defended our freedoms and ways of life."

Akin challenged the veterans "to continue to support our current military with vigor and determination."

A very moving part of

this ceremony was the presentation of the 'Missing Man Table' conducted by U.S. Marine Corps League member Walter Scott.

A decorated table sat at the front of the room and had been "reserved to honor our missing comrade-in-arms," said Scott.

"Some in this room were very young when they were sent into combat. However,

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## Federal judge dismisses racial profiling suit against TCSO

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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U.S. District Judge Rick Story has granted the Towns County Sheriff's Office summary judgement in U.S. District Court.

Jason Waymire, of Williams, Morris and Waymire passed the news along to Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton.

The suit claimed Towns County law enforcement had a practice of racial profiling. The suit was brought by an African-American student attending Young Harris College.

The student, Jordan Brannon, alleged that Towns County sheriff's deputies engaged in racial profiling practices when he was pulled over for a traffic violation in March 2010.

The racial profile complaint also alleged that the plaintiff, Jordan Brannon was pulled over because he had a white female in his car.

On Oct. 24, 2011, Judge



Sheriff Chris Clinton

Story dismissed all claims against several Towns County sheriff's deputies. However, he did not grant Sheriff Clinton relief from the plaintiff's request for injunctive relief as requested by the sheriff's office attorneys.

According to Judge Story at the time, "Sheriff Clinton is a state official and is not entitled to Eleventh Amendment immunity from plaintiff's claims for prospective injunctive re-

See Dismissed, page 11

## Justin Moore shakes up The Hall

By Libby Shook  
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Anderson Music Hall was the place to be Friday night, March 1st, Justin Moore wowed the packed out Hall with his high energy performance.

From the moment this young and upcoming country singer/songwriter stepped out on stage all decked out cowboy style, the fans were on their feet applauding, screaming, waving their arms in the air, and snapping pictures.

Moore was surrounded as fans gathered around the stage and this set the tone for the entire concert. The seats were a moot point as they were only used as a step up to get a better glimpse of the 'bigger than life' Moore.

Moore's electrifying performance was created by



The Hart family takes their music very seriously and they cherished this one. Justin Moore brought the house down. Photo/Libby Shook

simulated smoke, bright lights, and the very talented Double Barrel Ace Band performing some amazing instrumentals. Fans were ecstatic to hear some of their favorites including

Moore's three number one hits, *Small Town USA, If Heaven Wasn't So Far Away, and Til My Last Day.*

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## Lions honor best and brightest



The stars aligned at Anderson Music Hall last week as the Towns County Lions Club paid tribute to Towns County STAR Students and Teachers and honor students. Photo/Libby Shook

By Libby Shook  
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The Towns County Lions Club hosted the Honor and STAR Student recognition program on Monday night, Feb. 25th, at the Anderson

Music Hall. Twenty-two students were honored, along with this year's STAR students, Jennifer Chinnici and Dillon Diehl who tied for this honor with identical scores on the Fall 2012 SAT. Also recognized was STAR teacher Shannon Floyd,

chosen by Chinnici, and STAR teacher Alecia Frizzell, chosen by Diehl.

This is the second time Floyd and Frizzell have received this distinguished honor.

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## Veterans wrapped in 'Quilts of Valor'



Tony Wood of Hiawassee accepts his 'Quilt of Valor' with pride during the ceremony last week in Blairsville. Photo/Libby Shook.

By Libby Shook  
Towns County Herald  
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Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris was the guest speaker at a special meeting held at the Union County Public Library on Wednesday, Feb. 27th. The event was jointly sponsored by the Mountain Regional Library System and the Blairsville Veterans' Clinic.

"It's really an honor for me to be here today amidst all of these war heroes," Commissioner Paris said. "I consider anyone who has served, or serves today, a war hero."

"I really want to thank all of those folks here today from the VA Clinic," he said. "We're thankful that the clinic is here in Union County and for the staff that does such a wonderful job. They keep our veterans from having to travel long distances for needed services."

Linda Gorman, Regional Coordinator of the Misty Mountain Quilters Guild, gave a presentation on the history of the Quilts of Valor Foundation and the significance of the donated quilts.

According to Gorman, each quilt has a tracking sheet with registration that has been signed by each person involved in its creation.

"The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover all combat service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor," said Gorman. "Quilts of Valor are stitched with love, prayer, and healing thoughts. No two quilts are alike. Combat troops who have been touched by war are awarded this tangible token of appreciation that unequivocally says 'thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor.'"

Quilts of Valor was started by Catherine Roberts, a nurse whose son was deployed to Iraq in 2001. The organization consisted of volunteer quilters, longarmers, donors, and points of contact who distributed the quilts to the veterans.

The quilts were presented to American service members across the country.

Everyday people are giving their time, talents, and resources so that these hand-crafted quilts can comfort and

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