

# Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, March 12, 2014

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	43 23
Fri: Clouds	59 33
Sat: Clouds	60 33
Sun: Rain	63 37
Mon: Rain	58 32
Tue: Rain	61 33
Wed: Rain	55 32



Upstream Elevation Predicted 03/12/14	
Lake Chatuge	1,918.36
Lake Nottely	1,762.62
Blue Ridge	1,675.19

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## SPORTS

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## Who left the tag at Watson Lake?

see page 5A



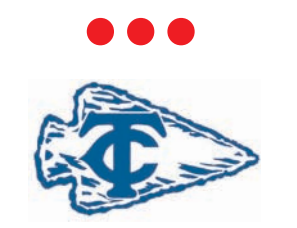
## Food Distribution

Tues. March 18th  
2 pm - 5 pm  
Towns County Food Pantry  
see page 2A

North Mt. Zion  
Thurs. Mar 20th  
10 AM - Noon  
See Page 6A

## Tourism Board Meeting

March 13th



## BASEBALL:

Wed. Mar 12 vs Union Co 5 PM  
Fri Mar 14 W Commerce 6:30 PM

## SOCCER:

Tues Mar 11 vs. Union Co  
4:30 & 6 PM  
Wed Mar 12 @ Rabun Co  
5 & 6:30 PM  
Fri Mar 14 @ Providence  
4 & 6 PM

## TENNIS:

Thurs Mar 13 vs. Woody Gap  
4 PM

# BOE shakeup; Wilkinson, Langley unopposed; Allison faces GOP challenge

### Collins faces 9th Congressional District challenge from Suches Republican Fontaine

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

Towns County Board of Education Chairman Mike Anderson and Post 2 BOE member Emily Phillips will bid adieu to the Board of Education in December.

The two long-time BOE members did not seek reelection during qualifying last week.

Post 3 BOE member Jerry Taylor will have opposition on May 20 as Penny Norton Ledford seeks to unseat him from the BOE post.

Seeking Anderson's Post 1 seat is Stephen Green, Dodie Ledford Thomas and Robert Williams.

Running unopposed for Phillips' Post 2 seat is Clifford Bradshaw.

The BOE seats aren't the only contested races in May.

The District 8 House seat occupied by State Rep. Stephen Allison and the 9th District Congressional seat of U.S. Rep. Doug Collins also have challengers.

All the races will be settled during the May 20 Primary as no Democrats tossed a hat into the ring to qualify for that party's Primary.

In the District 8 House race, Allison, a Blairsville Republican, faces a challenge



Sen. John Wilkinson

from political newcomer John Crumpton, a dentist, who resides in Sautee-Nacoochee in White County.

In the 9th Congressional District, Collins, a Gainesville Republican and a freshman representative, faces opposition from Suches Republican Brig. Gen. Bernard A. "Bernie" Fontaine, a retired military man. The winner of the Republican nomination faces Democrat David Vogel of Hull.

"Why am I running?" Fontaine asked during an interview with the *Towns County Herald* on Monday. "Like so many of us in the 9th District, I'm disgusted by the lack of leadership. The federal government is an out-of-control freight train. The president is taking over and



State Rep. Stephen Allison

Congress is inert."

Fontaine, a volunteer firefighter with Union County Fire & Rescue, is a retired Brigadier General and Airborne Ranger. He served in Vietnam as a Second Lieutenant. He lives and farms in Suches with his wife. He has four grown children and 12 grandchildren.

"Things have to change in America, and it starts with Congress," he said. "Washington Bureaucrats will never learn to think outside the box and do what's best for the people they represent."

Fontaine, who presently serves as senior advisor to the Commanding General for Search and Rescue Operations with the Georgia State Defense Force, said he had a long record



U.S. Rep. Doug Collins

of thinking outside the box and getting things done.

"Those who know me can assure you of that," he said. "I'm not your typical political operator. My presence will be felt here and in Washington."

"I prefer straight answers and rock solid logic," he said.

Meanwhile, District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson (R-Toccoa) faces no opposition, Democrat, or Republican in 2014.

In the Enotah Judicial Circuit, Superior Court Judges Stan Gunter and Raymond George will run unopposed in those nonpartisan races.

As for the District Attorney's race, no one opposed Incumbent Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley as



Bernard Fontaine

he completes his first term of office.

In Union County, Senate District 51 Incumbent, State Sen. Steve Gooch, (R-Dahlonega) faces no opposition, Democrat or Republican in that senate race.

The state race drawing the most interest is state school superintendent. Nine Republicans and six Democrats have qualified to succeed Dr. John Barge, who will face Gov. Nathan Deal in the GOP Primary on May 20.

Deal also faces a GOP challenge from Dalton Mayor David Pennington.

District 42 State Sen. Jason Carter challenges Deal or the GOP nominee in the November General Election.

Carter is unopposed on the Democratic ticket.

# Clinton to launch Citizens Academy

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton told the Mountain Movers & Shakers that his department will soon offer a Citizens Law Enforcement Academy.

The Academy will begin in mid-May. The in depth course will provide participants with insight into what the Towns County Sheriff's Office does on a daily basis and why, Sheriff Clinton said.

Sheriff Clinton and former Towns County Sole Commissioner Truman Barrett were the guest speakers at the weekly Movers & Shakers meeting at Mary's Southern Grill.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about the history of the Office of Sheriff, what patrol, detention, detectives and courtroom officers experience daily, the goals and challenges that face law enforcement officers and the Office of Sheriff each day, Clinton said.

Participants will have an



Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton talks with the Mountain Movers & Shakers on Friday about the Citizens Law Enforcement Academy.

opportunity to shadow a deputy and see first-hand what their deputies do to protect our community, Clinton said.

At the end of the course of study, all participants who meet the minimum requirements of attendance and participation

will receive a certificate from the Towns County Sheriff's Office at the graduation ceremony.

The Citizens Law Enforcement Academy will be limited to 20 Participants.

See Academy, Page 10A

# Wilkinson updates from the Gold Dome

By State Sen. John Wilkinson  
Towns County Herald  
News Special

On Monday, March 3, the Georgia General Assembly reached an important milestone in the legislative process known as Crossover Day.

Crossover Day is a significant deadline to the legislative process because it is the last day for legislation to pass the chamber in which it originated in order to move to the opposite chamber for consideration.

Any bill that did not receive a passing vote in its original chamber will not move forward and must be re-introduced next year.

This year, 27 bills received favorable passage on Crossover Day, and although the day was long, we adjourned in the Senate before 7 p.m.

On Thursday, the Senate approved its version of the FY



Sen. John Wilkinson

2015 General Budget, appropriating \$20.8 billion in funding to critical areas of our state.

Any differences between the House and Senate versions of the FY2015 General Budget will now be worked out in conference committee before receiving final approval.

The Senate version of the budget provides \$314.3 million for additional funds

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# Touchdown Club Bass Tourney on Saturday

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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The Fifth Annual Lake Chatuge Bass Tournament sponsored by the Towns County Touchdown Club is set for Saturday at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

The tournament is slated for 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday at the Fairgrounds boat ramp.

Towns County Indians Head Football Coach Blair Harrison said the cost to enter the tournament is \$80.

"Everyone is invited to come out and fish in the tournament with us, or come and watch the weigh-in," Harrison said.

First prize nets \$500 for the lucky team with the highest weight of their five bass.

Second prize is \$300.

See Bass, Page 10A



The Towns County Touchdown Club's annual Bass Tournament is expected to draw a crowd of anglers on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

# Busy session for Hiwassee Council

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Hiwassee City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday.

On the agenda were a couple of important topics, including the City Manager's Report.

A special presentation was scheduled for Hamilton Gardens' curator Paul Hanson to discuss the renovation project on Hamilton Gardens, but he was unable to attend and the presentation was rescheduled for the next meeting.

The City Manager Rick Stancil's report contained updates on matters that have been at issue for a while.

The 2013 USDA project is nearly done, and the city is still waiting USDA written approvals to close the account.

The water tank and water lines at Towns County Schools are nearing completion.

The water line has been fully installed. Depending on demand for water, the city hopes to begin filling the tank within the month, but there will be water quality testing.

On a related note, it's hard to say when the Cedar Cliff water line will be completed, as the project has experienced some setbacks.

2014 has brought about a new schedule of projects funded with Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax dollars.

Some of these projects include implementing projects to improve the Hiwassee sidewalks and the Hiwassee wastewater treatment plant.

A project carried over from 2013 is developing the downtown area of Hiwassee, including City Hall and the Hiwassee Police Station.

These projects, with oth-



Mayor Barbara Mathis

ers, are expected to cost about \$855,000.

Furthermore, the Hiwassee City Council adopted the Towns County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to help prepare for and prevent damage from the natural and human-caused disasters like the snowstorms that recently swept North Georgia.

The last item of business was a motion to approve the expenditure of \$5,000 from the Hiwassee Hotel Motel Tax Fund to the Towns County Chamber of Commerce for the Young Harris College Bass Tournament. A brief debate ensued, but the motion passed.

"We felt like it was a good cause," said Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis.

All in all, the spring of 2014 is shaping up to be one of improvement and development for the City of Hiwassee.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

# Master Gardener Appreciation Day

Towns County Herald  
News Special

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall has declared Saturday, March 15 as Master Gardener Appreciation Day in Towns County.

The day also has been identified by the state of Georgia as the official day of recognition for Master Gardener Extension Volunteers, a program now in its 35th year.

In 1914, 100 years ago, a significant piece of legislation, the Smith-Lever Act was passed.

U.S. Sen. Hoke Smith of Georgia was a co-author of the bill which created the Cooperative Extension Service as a link between the United States Department of Agriculture



Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall makes it official, Saturday is Master Gardener Appreciation Day in Towns County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

