

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	57 44
Fri: Rain	61 50
Sat: Clouds	66 37
Sun: Clouds	70 41
Mon: Clouds	71 46
Tue: Clouds	71 49
Wed: Clouds	71 50



Upstream Elevation Predicted 03/26/14	
Lake Chatuge	1,919.99
Lake Nottely	1,765.71
Blue Ridge	1,678.10

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Robinson named STAR Student

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

Faithe Robinson has added another notch to her Towns County High School resume. The senior is the 2014 STAR Student for Towns County High School.

Robinson earned the award for being the senior achieving the highest SAT score at TCHS.

She selected Lynn Swanson as her STAR Teacher.

"We are so proud to have had Faithe be a part of Towns County Schools," TCHS Principal Jonathan Gibson said. "She truly is a gifted student-athlete and always makes Towns County proud."

Robinson is on her way to Lynchburg, VA in the fall after signing with Liberty University on Feb. 20 to take her soccer game to the next level.

Robinson has started all four years at Towns County High School where she scored 61 goals in three seasons, and entering her senior season, she has led the team in scoring for two of her three years.

"You can say a lot of things about Faithe, but one thing you can not say about her is, 'she does not work hard,'" Lady Indians' Head Coach Peter Byrne said. "She is the hardest worker that we have



Faithe Robinson, left, and Lynn Swanson, pose outside the Towns County Schools' Media Center on Monday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

on our team, and she is a much different player than she was three years ago. She is a much better player this year than she was last year because she has worked each and every year to get better, and you have got to commend her for that."

Robinson said that she narrowed her decision to three schools with nearby Young Harris making it into her final two.

"Young Harris was definitely in the running and that was probably my most prominent option, but other than that, I visited Charleston Southern University and other schools in the Southeast, but those were the three that stood out," she said.

She plans to major in

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Good news at County Commission meeting

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The regular monthly Towns County Commission meeting on Thursday was full of good news, thanks in large part to recent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax efforts.

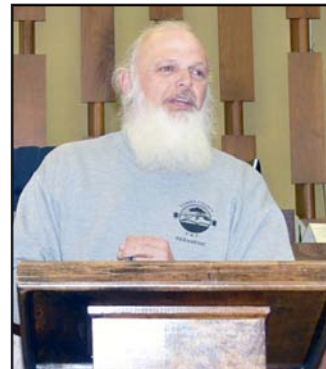
After Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall accepted the new Debris Management Plan and opted to renew the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the county received an update on the growth that recent SPLOST money has achieved.

Towns County EMS Director Ricky Mathis presented two new plans that have been produced in the wake of recent natural disasters.

The first was the Debris Management Plan, which consists of how Towns County will handle its debris in the event of a disaster situation.

Mathis called it a "very conclusive plan," and stressed that it took a lot of work and cooperation to create.

"This was by no means put together by only me," he said. "There were representatives from Towns County Fire & Rescue, 911, law enforcement, county building inspec-



Ricky Mathis

tors, just a different variety of people."

In addition to detailing the means by which Towns County will dispose of debris, the Debris Management Plan comes with federal money attached.

With this plan in place, if the federal government, for any reason, declares Towns County a disaster area, it will reimburse Towns an additional 5 percent for damages.

Commissioner Kendall made a resolution to adopt the plan.

Next up on the agenda was the renewal of the Towns County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation plan.

This plan is to be re-

See Commission, Page 10A

One birthday at a time beats cancer

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Cancer affects millions of Americans each year, often leaving individuals and families with scars both physical and emotional.

At the forefront of the struggle against cancer is the American Cancer Society, which makes it its mission to "celebrate more birthdays."

The American Cancer Society is present in Towns County, which is home to nearly 100 registered cancer survivors.

Thursday, at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church, there was a celebration of survival.

The American Cancer Society hosted the Annual Survivors' Reception as it seeks to be active in communities in order to give survivors and caregivers a sense of community.

Every year, it puts on a dinner to honor the survivors and caregivers.

This year, Sherry Paramore, operations secretary for Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, was able to host the dinner at the McConnell Memorial Baptist Church with food provided by the local Georgia Mountain Restaurant.



McConnell Memorial Baptist Church was packed Thursday evening as the Annual Relay for Life Survivor Celebration took place. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

"We want to put Towns County on the map as far as the American Cancer Society is concerned, because you know what? We are important," Paramore said.

The dinner featured live singing by none other than

Elvis (Roy Perren) and a door prize giveaway.

Everyone received something, since, in a real sense, this was a birthday celebration.

See Survivor, Page 10A

TCES' Walker takes District TOTY award



Lindsey Walker, the VFW Garrett-Owenby Post 7807 Teacher of the Year at Towns County Elementary School, is now the District VFW Teacher of the Year. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Towns County Herald
News Special

School VFW Teacher of the Year.

Congratulations to Towns County Elementary School teacher Lindsey Walker on her recognition as the District VFW Teacher of the Year.

Walker was recognized earlier in the school year as the Towns County Elementary

This honor puts Walker in the running for the State VFW Teacher of the Year.

Her nomination makes her a strong candidate for State VFW Teacher of the Year.

Walker represents Towns County Elementary School well and does an outstanding job in the classroom.

Sen. Wilkinson updates the final days of State Senate

By Sen. John Wilkinson
Towns County Herald
News Special

Atlanta - The 2014 legislative session officially came to an end on Thursday, March 20, as the Senate adjourned Sine Die.

The term "Sine Die" is Latin for "without assigning a day for a further meeting or hearing."

Therefore, when the gavel came down on Thursday night, the General Assembly adjourned until January 2015 and wrapped up the 40-day session.

Legislators and staff remained busy working until the midnight cut-off time to deliberate over 50 pieces of legislation.

On Tuesday, March 18, members of the Senate and the House came to a compromise during a conference committee on the \$20.8 billion Fiscal Year '15 budget.

The budget encompasses state spending from July 1, through June 30, 2015 and is a 4.6 percent increase from last year's budget.

It is a vast responsibility of legislators to construct the budget, a point of pride for our state as we are mandated to pass a balanced budget, unlike the federal level.

After spending countless hours in Appropriations meetings, the General Assembly carefully analyzes each line item to ensure each cent is spent responsibly.

The FY '15 budget allocates \$916 million of the new revenue for education expenses that will help finance enrollment growth, disseminate more funds to local school systems, and increase opportunities for



Sen. John Wilkinson

technical education.

A total of \$314.3 million funds the Quality Basic Education Program to offset the austerity reduction in order to provide local educational authorities the flexibility to eliminate teacher furlough days, increase instructional days, and increase teacher salaries.

The budget allocates a total of \$10 million towards Low Interest Loans for Technical Colleges to assist students with the affordability of a technical college education.

An additional \$7.3 million is established for the Zell Miller Grant to provide full tuition assistance for Technical College System students maintaining a 3.5 or higher grade point average.

The budget also adds \$500,000 to develop pilot programs for College and Career Academies or other dual enrollment high school students that will establish programs which

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Warrior Hike stops in Towns County

By Wayne Roshaven
Towns County Herald
News Special

On Saturday, March 22, local veterans' organizations hosted a group of Appalachian Trail hikers.

The Unicoi Detachment of the Marine Corps League, VFW Garrett-Owenby Post 7807, American Legion Post 23 and Sons of the American Legion Post 23, provided lodging and dinner for 11 veterans who are "walking off the war" by hiking the Trail.

The dinner, held at Daniel's Steakhouse, was well attended.

In 2012, U.S. Marine Captains Sean Gobin and Mark Silvers, who had recently returned from deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan, decided to hike the Appalachian Trail to raise awareness of the plight of veterans who had suffered am-



Veterans "walking off the war" came to Hiawassee last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

putation of limbs as a result of wounds received in combat.

They approached veterans' organizations in locations

along the Trail to raise funds to provide adaptive vehicle for

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Kendall honored with state library award

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

There probably isn't a lot that can take Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall all by surprise anymore.

However, he received some unexpected, and pleasant news at the Towns County Commissioner's meeting on Thursday.

For the final item on the Thursday Commission meeting agenda, Mountain Regional

See Award, Page 10A



Commissioner Kendall gets a surprise at Thursday's meeting. He's now the Friends of Georgia's Libraries "Best Friend" award recipient. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

SPORTS

Page 8A

Family FUN
Airport Awareness Day • March 29

See page 9A

Food Distribution

Towns County Food Party
Tues. April 1st
2-5 PM
See Page 9A

Energy Assistance is STILL AVAILABLE
see page 6A

T-Ball and Farm League Registration at Rec center
see page 8A

BASEBALL:

Tues Mar 25 @ Athens Academy	5 PM
Thurs Mar 27 vs. Athens Academy	5 PM
Fri Mar 28 vs. Pinecrest	5 PM
SOCCER:	
Tues Mar 25 vs. Lakeview	5 & 7 PM
Fri Mar 28 vs. Providence	5 & 7 PM
Sat Mar 29 vs. George Walton	1 & 3 PM



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