

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	75 52
Fri: Rain	67 47
Sat: Clouds	69 39
Sun: Clouds	67 41
Mon: Rain	59 43
Tue: Clouds	58 39
Wed: Sunny	59 36



Upstream Elevation Predicted 04/02/14	
Lake Chatuge	1,920.58
Lake Nottely	1,766.88
Blue Ridge	1,678.61

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Kindergarten Registration EXTENDED

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APPALACHIAN HERITAGE DAY ON THE TOWNS COUNTY SQUARE! APRIL 12TH

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Living Well Workshop at Senior Center

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Hiawassee Garden Club Plant Affair April 12th Town Square

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BASEBALL:

Saturday April 5th @ Providence 1 PM

DOUBLEHEADER!!

SOCCER:

Wednesday April 2nd @ Highlands, NC 6 PM

Cochran shines in All-Star Classic

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Gainesville - In her final prep appearance on a basketball court, Eryn Cochran displayed what made her so special to the Towns County Lady Indians for four years.

Cochran, a senior headed to Columbus State to take her game to the next level, scored 10 points and contributed 3 assists, 4 rebounds, and 4 steals while forcing 3 turnovers in her team's 74-53 All-Star victory last week.

She not only completed her high school action in fine style in an all-star game in Gainesville on Saturday, but also received prominent recognition from the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* on Thursday and *The Times* in Gainesville on Saturday as well.

Cochran received Class A Honorable Mention All State status from the *AJC* last Thursday and Second Team All Area honors from *The Times* in Gainesville last Saturday despite missing 13 games at the start of the season due to a severe ankle injury.

In the Northeast Georgia All-Star Classic, Cochran played a prominent role in her team's 74-53 victory on Saturday in the Third Annual All-Star game at Gainesville High School in Gainesville.



Eryn Cochran ranks as one of the best players in Lady Indians' basketball history. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The event is carried out by the North Georgia Elite organization which sponsors top-flight basketball camp and travel teams in the area. Cochran was selected to play for

a Northeast Georgia All Star Team which faced an All-Star team from Hall County after having excelled in the state wide GACA Coaches All Star

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Reece Days at YHC

Towns County Herald
News Special

The Center for Appalachian Studies and Community Engagement at Young Harris College and the Byron Herbert Reece Farm and Heritage Center co-hosted a special "YHC Day" filled with readings, talks, and musical performances on March 22.

"Our goal for the event was for YHC students, faculty and staff to be exposed to and enjoy the Farm," said Director of the CASCE and Bonner Leadership Program Coordinator Rob Campbell, Ed.D. "Though the connection between Reece and YHC is deep and significant, many on campus are not aware of Reece's life and work. The Farm is a unique asset to both the College and the larger community."

During the event, YHC alumnus, Professor Emeritus of Religion and Philosophy, and Byron Herbert Reece Society Chair John Kay, D.Min., '56, provided attendees with a brief presentation on the life and works of noted poet and YHC alumnus and former instructor Byron Herbert Reece, '40.

"The Reece Farm and Heritage Center exists to honor and perpetuate the legacy of Reece as both an Appalachian farmer and a distinguished poet and novelist," said Dr. Kay. "Our exhibits and displays are



Byron Herbert Reece

educational in nature in that they acquaint visitors with Appalachian farm life in the first half of the 20th century, as well as Reece's literary accomplishments."

Following a lunch catered by The Sawmill Place in Blairsville, GA, attendees enjoyed music by folk group Butternut Creek and Friends, featuring Professor of English Steve Harvey, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology Brenda Hull, Ph.D., Jennifer Cordier and Don Cordier.

The Farm serves as a teaching venue for the College's Bonner Leaders program as well as courses for YHC's Appalachian studies and com-

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War stories of World War II recorded

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

For someone with Irish blood on both sides of her family, Carol Gibson comes off as mild-mannered and pleasant.

She's also quietly determined to give voice to the veterans who still have stories to tell.

On Thursday and Friday, the *Witness to War Foundation*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the stories and unique experiences of combat veterans, visited Towns County.

"They want the stories that you don't read in textbooks," Gibson said.

The foundation interviewed not only Bud Johnson, Phil Gamache and Todd Kimsey, local Iwo Jima survivors, but WWII survivors from all over the area, from Towns to Cherokee.

This would not have been possible without Gibson, whose efforts started the whole thing with the support of Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall.

It started unremarkably enough for Gibson. She and her husband were watching a show around New Year's that featured a piece on World War



Towns County's Bud Johnson tells the story of his days spent during the Battle of Iwo Jima to a Witness to War interviewer. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

II veterans being turned away at the WWII memorial in Washington, D.C.

"That 'got my Irish up,' as my mother used to say," Gibson said, smiling. "The show that we watched had interviews that were very interesting to me, and they mentioned that the interviews were courtesy of *Witness to War*."

Driven by a desire to support veterans, Gibson con-

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SPLOST upgrades are saving lives

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Emergency Management Services Director Ricky Mathis is in the business of saving lives.

Sometimes that's a messy job, with plenty of room for human error. Therefore, he's grateful to be able to run the EMS and Ambulance services for Towns County with the most up-to-date equipment available.

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax money has recently made available upgrades for the Towns County Emergency Medical services.

The EMS ambulances are now some of the most technologically updated ambulances among the surrounding counties, which allows Towns County EMS to do its job quickly, efficiently, and with minimal loss of life.

One of these upgrades is the LUCAS device, which, despite mixed reactions from medical staff, has proved its worth in spectacular fashion.

The LUCAS Chest Compression System is a mechanical CPR system that provides safe and effective chest compression.

"We had 12 patients that received defibrillation in Towns County in 2013," Mathis said. "Out of those 12 people that we administered the LUCAS device, defibrillation, and emergency cardiac drugs, 10 out of 12 regained a pulse."

Those statistics are a notable improvement from the past.

"Saving 10 out of 12 people, that's amazing to me," Mathis said. "We have never saw statistics like that before."

However, it took a while for the LUCAS device to gain favor among the medical staff of Towns County.

When the EMS would administer the device, patients would wake up with huge bruises on their chests and ribs from the compression.

The bruises looked so odious that some nurses told the EMS staff not to use it on them; it simply looked too painful.

However, Mathis knows that CPR often demands broken ribs.

"That's just the nature of doing CPR," he said. "But people heal from broken ribs."

He recounted that the doctors were skeptical, too.

"They didn't know what it was," he recalled. "Now they're believers in the Lucas device as well."

One is mounted in the emergency room at the hospital, in addition to those carried by the Towns County ambulances.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall is pleased with the improvements SPLOST has brought.

"One of the ambulances



Ricky Mathis

we bought with the SPLOST money has practically everything," he noted.

Currently, ambulances in neighboring counties, while effective, do not enjoy the technological modifications that Towns County ambulances do.

"About anything that they do in a hospital emergency room can be done in the back of our ambulance," Mathis said.

He wanted to give credit to Paramedic Ray Giles "for the many hours that he spent doing specifications" for improvements, from the new, brighter lighting to hydraulic lifts - everything the modern ambulance needs to be effective.

"Last year we ran 1,911 calls," Mathis said. "But that's not the impressive thing. Thirty percent of those calls that we ran, we didn't transport anybody. Why is that important? Well, 30 percent of the time, we played doctor."

Administering medical support, such as CPR, in the back of a racing ambulance, is no easy feat.

Although EMS teams are trained to do it, reality is often different from training.

"You had to slide around in the back of a vehicle, you learned how to lock your feet into the stretcher and sort of do CPR with one hand and hold onto the rail," Mathis recalled. "There was just no effective means to do CPR."

The improvements will help to alleviate some of that difficulty.

"We're very privileged to live here," Mathis said. "From the support that we get and the teamwork that we distribute, we're just very fortunate to live in Towns County, because what we can achieve in this county never ceases to amaze me. It's a wonderful place to live."

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Lovelady headed to HOSA Nationals

Towns County Herald
News Special

Hayle Lovelady is headed to Orlando, FL June 24-29th.

The Towns County High School student finished second in the Personal Care category at the Health Occupations Students of America Annual State Leadership Conference in Athens.

Lovelady will be representing Towns County at the HOSA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL June 24-29th.

Lovelady is no stranger to the HOSA Nationals. She was the top-ranked HOSA student in the state in 2013.

In 2012, she became the first Towns County Health Occupations student to compete at the national level.

Towns County High School's local HOSA chapter

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Alexis Roach, advisor Sarah Vardo, Hayle Lovelady and Kayla Davis at the State HOSA Competition in Athens.

Two charged in weekend drug bust

Towns County Herald
News Special

A Young Harris couple faces drug charges following a weekend visit to their home by Towns County sheriff's deputies.

During the early morning hours on Saturday March 29, Towns County sheriff's deputies responded to a residence on Georgia 66 in Young Harris in reference to a welfare check.

Deputies determined upon arrival the residence was the location of a previously

reported domestic assault.

As deputies conducted the welfare check at the residence they quickly made one arrest.

Christopher Cothren, 23, of Young Harris, was arrested for violation of bond conditions related to the previously reported assault.

Christopher Cothren also was charged with one count of obstruction of a law enforcement officer, and one count Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act - possession of less than one ounce of

marijuana, Towns County Jail records show.

Towns County sheriff's deputies also arrested Robyn Cothren, 24, also of Young Harris at the residence as well, according to Towns County sheriff's reports.

Robyn Cothren was charged with one count obstruction of a law enforcement officer and one count Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act - possession of less than one ounce of marijuana, Towns County Jail records show.

