

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

www.townscountyherald.net

Publication Number 635540 Volume 84 Number 11

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Snow	40 53
Fri: Sunny	50 27
Sat: Sunny	54 30
Sun: Windy	55 25
Mon: Sunny	49 24
Tues: Clouds	41 21
Wed: Sunny	39 22



Upstream Elevation Predicted 01/16/13	
Lake Chatuge	1919.86
Lake Nottely	1765.29
Blue Ridge	1677.08

INDEX

14 Pages

Arrests.....	2
Chamber News.....	6
Church/Obits.....	8, 9
Classifieds.....	12
Editorial.....	4
Letters.....	4
Legals.....	12
RC&D.....	7

Sports

Page 10

January is National Blood Donor Month



Sun., Jan. 13 • 9:30am-2pm
First United Methodist Church

Tues., Jan. 22 • 12pm-5pm
Haralson Civic Center-Gym

Wed., Jan. 23 • 11:30am-4pm
Young Harris College
Myers Student Center

Tues., Jan. 29 • 1:30pm-6pm
Ramada Inn, Hiwassee, GA

See page 5

Federal Benefit Recipients (SSI)

Sign Up For Electronic Payment Deadline March 1, 2013

See page 9

Free Food Distribution



Tuesday, January 22
2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Towns County Food Pantry



Towns County Basketball

Tues., January 15
vs. George Walton
6:00 p.m.

Fri., January 18
@ Hebron
6:00 p.m.

Towns County Wrestling

Friday, January 18
@ Stephens Co.

Wilkinson: 'budget a challenge'

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

District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson told more than 70 people at Mary's Southern Grill in Hiwassee last week that the 2014 state budget will be a challenge.

Sen. Wilkinson, who represents Towns County in Senate District 50, told the crowd that budget cuts are a way of life in a downsize economy.

"When the economy was strong, Georgia had an economy of \$22 billion; it went to \$19 billion with the economic downturn; and we are right now at about \$16 billion," Sen. Wilkinson said. "We've had to make some cuts. The budget will definitely be a challenge, primarily because of the Medicaid funding beginning July 1st. I always try to look at the bright side when looking at a budget."

Sen. Wilkinson, the keynote speaker at the Mountain Movers and Shakers breakfast meeting at Mary's Southern Grill last week, said that state



District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson is back in Atlanta under the Gold Dome. He says the state budget could get complicated. Photo/Libby Shook

lawmakers have a tough row to hoe under the Gold Dome when they head back to Atlanta on Jan. 14th. "We are going to have to See Wilkinson, page 7

Adam Penland is ready to compete



District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson encouraged Towns County High freshman Adam Penland last week prior to his participation in Area 2 competition in Creed speech. Photo/Libby Shook

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

Towns County High School freshman Adam Penland is the real deal.

Just ask District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson, who heard Penland speak last week at the Mountain Movers and Shakers gathering at Mary's Southern Grill in Tower Place Plaza.

"After hearing him speak and hearing that he's interested in going into politics, I'm real glad he's only in the ninth grade," Sen. Wilkinson said, referring to Penland as a future candidate for the State Legislature.

Penland, who will be competing in the Area 2 Creed Speaking Finals on Tuesday, Jan. 15th, in Oglethorpe County, was one of the guests along with Sen. Wilkinson at the Movers and Shakers' weekly gathering. Penland is the son of Jeff and Angie Penland. Other guests included Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams, TCHS Agriculture teacher Sabrina Garrett, Tyler Osborn (who will be competing in livestock competition at Perry in February), and other school

See Penland, page 7

Sheriff: 'the best Christmas ever'

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

Towns County Sheriff's Office 2012 Empty Stocking Fund was even more of a success than they had anticipated.

Sheriff Chris Clinton was pleased to announce that the Empty Stocking Fund was able to bring Christmas to 197 Towns County children during the 2012 Christmas season.

But he also wants to emphasize that they could not have done it without the generosity of the local community.

"The Christmas drive went very well and the community really stepped up to the plate," Sheriff Clinton said.

"This was made possible by the good folks that cared about kids waking up to a day of hope and joy; kids that might not otherwise have had a Christmas," the sheriff said.

Sheriff Clinton noted that 2012 was the biggest fund-



Here are some key players in helping make 2012 a year to remember for a whole bunch of happy Towns County Children. Photo/Libby Shook

raiser yet with more money and toys than ever before being donated.

"We had more than \$9,000 dollars in donations plus all the toys that were donated by many local residents, businesses, and contributions made

See Christmas, page 7

Four-wheeler accident claims Towns man

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

A 68-year-old retired and decorated DeKalb County fire lieutenant appears to have died from injuries sustained in a four-wheeler accident last week on Fodder Creek Road, local authorities say.

The accident occurred on Jan. 8, around 1 p.m., authorities said.

A passer-by found 68 year old Fred Trimble lying in the road on Fodder Creek Road, approximately a quarter mile past Enotah Baptist Church.

The good Samaritan, name unknown, stopped and called 911.

According to EMS/EMA Director Rickey Mathis, first responders were on the scene quickly.

They started an "oral airway," Mathis said. EMS arrived shortly on scene and found Trimble unresponsive with severe head injuries, authorities said.

After stabilizing Trimble, he was transported to an established landing zone where emergency workers transporting Trimble met Life Force of Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn. and he was life-flighted according to Mathis.

Unfortunately, Trimble died the following morning from injuries sustained in the accident, according to Mathis.

Curtis Walls was the EMS supervisor on call and confirmed that Trimble was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office was on the scene, "It's very tragic, and of course our condolences and prayers go out to the family," Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton said. "It's just very sad anytime something like this happens."

Clinton also reports that the cause of the accident is still under investigation and the TCSO is not prepared to make a statement at this time pending receipt of medical reports.

Trimble reportedly lived on Fodder Creek Road in Towns County.

Don't eat Chatuge white or large mouth bass

Elevated mercury levels prompt consumption advisory

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

The North Carolina portion of Lake Chatuge is under a fish consumption advisory for white bass and large mouth bass due to elevated levels of mercury, the Towns County Herald has learned.

The North Carolina Division of Public Health has issued a fish consumption advisory for Lake Chatuge in Clay County, warning anglers to avoid eating white bass or large mouth bass caught in the lake due to elevated levels of mercury. According to Lake Chatuge Watershed Coordinator Scarlett Fuller, Georgia has yet to do any tests or issue an advisory for the Georgia side of Lake Chatuge.

"This was only tested and released by North Carolina. Georgia has not done any testing or advisory on their own. Lake Chatuge borders both North Carolina and Georgia so folks will have to interpret that for themselves. Fish don't know where state boundaries are," said Fuller.

Fuller is in the process of contacting Georgia state officials to see if they have any plans to do any monitoring for possible mercurial contaminants.

Testing has confirmed that elevated levels of mercury are present in white bass in Lake Chatuge.

Previous studies have already found elevated levels of mercury in large mouth bass in all North Carolina waters.

North Carolina state health officials advise all pregnant, nursing, or women of childbearing age – 15-44 years of age – to not eat any white bass or large mouth bass caught in Lake Chatuge. It also advised



Scarlett Fuller

that children under the age of 15 should not consume these fish caught in the lake.

The general public – men 15 years old or older and women older than 44 years old – should limit their consumption to one meal per week from small mouth bass, walleyes, yellow perch, and large mouth bass caught in Lake Chatuge.

A meal is considered approximately six ounces of uncooked fish.

According to North Carolina state health officials, mercury may adversely affect nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, especially in unborn babies and young children.

Exposure to mercury in the prenatal phase can affect the way children think, learn, and problem solve later in life.

Adverse health effects also can occur in adults when ingested at much higher doses.

North Carolina health officials advise that mercury contamination in the fish in Lake Chatuge does not present a known health risk for people engaging in other recreational activities such as swimming, wading, boating, or handling the fish.

See Fish Advisory, page 7

Towns County Lions Club served in 2012

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

The Towns County Lions Club is a service-based organization who enjoy helping those in need.

They are not one to toot their own horn, but sometimes it's good to reflect on what has been done and to challenge yourself to do more.

That is what the Lions strive to do, to be of greater service to the community, to reach out to those in need, and to live up to their motto, "We Serve."

The year 2012 was a very eventful one for the Towns County Lions Club.

Sadly, however, the club lost three of their active members in 2011, and in January the club decided to honor those men and women who had been an important and instrumental part of their charitable organization.

Through donations to the Lions Club, three benches were donated and placed on the grounds of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in their memory.

Those honored and memorialized were Lion Dick Paris, Lion Gene Mitchell, and Lion Leonard McConnell.

Due to generous donations received, all benches were in place at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds by the time the fair rolled around in July.

February was an exciting month for the Lions as they worked very hard to get the Leo Club started through Towns County High School.

Leo members are a community oriented club serving as an extension of the Lions Club.

These students are dedicated individuals who want to make a difference in their community.

Lion Laurie Main and Lion Deborah Saylor are the sponsors of the Leo Club.

April rolled around and Lions Club members rallied together for White Cane days.

The introduction of the White Cane is attributed to the Lions Club International as early as the 1930s. During that



Myers Banister and Julie Payne will fondly remember 2012. Photo/Libby Shook

period, the White Cane began to make its way into government policy as a symbol for the blind.

The Lions were very excited regarding donations collected locally with \$3,332 raised for the Lions White Cane project in 2012.

According to Lions Club President Julie Payne, more than 45 eye glasses were sponsored by the Lions Club in 2012.

May was a combination of business and pleasure as 17 Lions and their spouses attended the annual Georgia State Lions Convention in Savannah.

"The club received numerous awards for its participation in Lions' charities over the 2011-2012 year," said Payne.

The Lions Club is very kid-friendly and enjoys recognizing academic excellence.

They presented three Towns County High School seniors with scholarships at the end of the 2102 school year.

June was not quite as eventful, but the Lions and their families came together for their annual family picnic

See Lions, page 7

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



0 4879 19315 0