

# Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, October 8, 2014

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: T-Storms	78 57
Fri: T-Storms	76 59
Sat: T-Storms	77 58
Sun: Clouds	75 57
Mon: Showers	73 59
Tue: Rain	68 55
Wed: Sunny	71 54



Upstream Elevation Predicted 10/08/2014	
Lake Chatuge	1,917.71
Lake Nottely	1,765.34
Blue Ridge	1,673.79

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## SPORTS

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**Free Food Distribution**  
**North Mt. Zion Church of God**  
**10AM-Noon**  
**Thur, Oct. 16**

See Page 6



**American Red Cross**

**YARD SALE**  
**Donations Needed!**

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**Youth Basketball Registration**  
**Oct 6th-25th**  
**@ New Rec Center**



**Football**

**Fri 10/10 vs. Athens Christian 7:30PM**

**YOUTH Football**  
**OFF Saturday 10/11**  
**NEXT GAME**  
**Saturday 10/18**  
**vs. Franklin**  
**11:00 AM**

## Towns deputy stabbed during early morning traffic stop

By Shawn Jarrard  
 Towns County Herald  
 Staff Writer

Towns County Sheriff's Deputy Aaron Deyton, who was stabbed and airlifted to Northeast Georgia Medical Center for treatment Wednesday, Oct. 1, appears to be out of immediate danger, Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton said.

"He came through his surgery good, he's just in the process of trying to get better now," said Sheriff Clinton. "From what I understand, the doctors feel like he's going to make a comeback."

Deputy Deyton, who lives in Union County, was stabbed in the neck following a brief foot chase and physical confrontation with Daniel Lee Bower, 28, of Hayesville, NC, Sheriff Clinton said.

A city of Hiwassee police officer allegedly pulled Bower over on a traffic stop in the parking lot of Hiwassee's Mull Motel. The officer had assistance from two sheriff's deputies, one of which was Deputy Deyton.

The incident where Dep-



Deputy Aaron Deyton



Daniel Lee Bower



Crime scene tape borders Hardee's Restaurant following Wednesday's early morning incident that left a Towns Sheriff's deputy stabbed. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Deputy Deyton was stabbed in the neck, ended in the Hardee's parking lot in Downtown Hiwassee, Sheriff Clinton said.

Bower, who faces charges of aggravated assault on an officer during the performance of his duty, driving under the influence, seatbelt violation, and tag light requirements, was taken into custody at the scene.

"We're not finished with the investigation yet, but he is currently in jail, and he has had some charges made. There are other charges that are pending," said Sheriff Clinton. "I think right now he's in on aggravated assault, I believe, but I would expect additional charges once the investigation is completed."

Bower is being held in the Towns County Detention Center without bail, jail records show.

Sheriff Clinton offered nothing but praise for Deputy Deyton in the wake of his life-threatening ordeal.

"Aaron Deyton's a perfect example of everything a deputy should be - I mean, he's a real hero in my book," said Sheriff Clinton. "He goes out every shift willing to risk his life to keep people safe, and that's basically what he was doing that night, and he did everything right - nothing he could have changed, in my book. It's just, we don't get to pick when these events happen."

And Sheriff Clinton knows how hard it is to expect the unexpected.

"You can't do that, and that's why we call it that," said Sheriff Clinton. "All you can do is adapt and overcome in that situation, and that's exactly what he did. He's just a fine deputy, and it's a very real risk that a lot of times people don't think about, but that's what the guys deal with day in and

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## New Queen and King crowned



2013 Homecoming Queen Ansley Vardeman crowns 2014 Homecoming Queen Kayla Davis at halftime during the Indians' contest with Athens Academy. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Shawn Jarrard  
 Towns County Herald  
 Staff Writer

Last week was Homecoming week at Towns County

High School, and culminated in the crowning of this year's Homecoming King and Queen.

Proving to be the highlight of the game, Kayla Davis

was crowned Homecoming Queen at halftime during Friday night's matchup between the Towns County Indians and

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## BOE sets millage rate at lower than expected rate

By Shawn Jarrard  
 Towns County Herald  
 Staff Writer

The Towns County Board of Education voted unanimously last Thursday to set the school system's millage rate at 7.995 versus the initial proposition of 8.495.

Originally, the board had discussed and held public hearings on an increase of 2 mills for this year's tax bills, but the set rate reflects an increase of only 1 1/2 mills.

According to the notices leading up to setting the millage rate, the school portion of Towns County taxpayers' property taxes was to increase 30.97 percent at the tentative rate increase of 2 mills. Raising the rate only 1.5 mills drops this number to a 23.26 percent increase in solely the school system's portion of property taxes.

Last year, the school system levied \$4,627,248 in taxes. Towns County residents currently pay \$713,377 per mill of taxes collected, and with



Donna Hedden

a rate increase of 1 1/2 mills to 7.995, property taxes collected by the school will now be \$5,703,453.

If the school board had chosen to adopt the tentatively scheduled increase of 2 mills to the rate of 8.495, taxes collected would have been \$6,060,142, or \$356,689 more than the currently adopted rate.

This decision was based on feedback from the community, many of whom turned up for the three public hearings

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## Lowell humbled by dedication

By Shawn Jarrard  
 Towns County Herald  
 Staff Writer

Tuesday, Sept. 30, was a special day for all who attended the Towns County Lady Indians' final regular season game of the year against Providence Christian Academy at Lowell Nicholson Field.

It was Senior Day, Head Coach Brandon Rowland's birthday, the Lady Indians won their game, and last but certainly not least, Lowell Nicholson was treated to a special dedication ceremony before the game.

"It was a special occasion for me, but I didn't deserve all that credit," said Nicholson. "It was an honor, and I give the good Lord credit for it, as he saw fit for me to have it."

That Tuesday was special for many, but it held a particular significance reserved solely for Nicholson.

"Tuesday was my mom's birthday," said Nicholson,



Towns County Herald photographer Lowell Nicholson was honored last week with the naming of the Lady Indians' FastPitch Softball Field as Lowell Nicholson Field. Towns County High School Principal and Athletic Director Jonathan Gibson made the presentation. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

whose mother passed away 24 years ago.

Nicholson took the field just before the game, joining

principal Jonathan Gibson before the enormous crowd of spectators.

"I could not believe the amount of people that turned

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## Jerry Taylor puts historic pen to paper again for Towns

By Shawn Jarrard  
 Towns County Herald  
 Staff Writer

Towns County Historian Jerry Taylor of the Towns County Historical Society is enlisting the help of the community to compile the second volume of *Hearthstones of Home: Foundations of Towns County, Georgia*.

"The book will be a unique collection of family sketches and stories, illustrated with new and old photos," said Taylor. "Best of all, you can help write the new book."

Taylor invites current residents and former residents of Towns County to submit family stories and photos to be included in this second volume. He encourages anyone with roots in Towns County to enter submissions as well.

"These will be combined with church stories, military biographies and photos for the new book," said Taylor. "This is a rare second chance for those who missed out on Volume One."

One of the main challenges, in hindsight, of compiling the first volume of *Hearthstones* was not having the Internet to collate data and connect with individuals far and wide.

"Volume One was family histories as we could do them at that time," said Taylor. "Volume Two is going to be more family histories, including all the original settlers, as much as I can find on them. Plus, other family histories as people will submit them about themselves, their own families, their parents, their grandparents - so, it's going to be more, bigger and better."

*Hearthstones of Home* will be a limited edition book, meaning it has to be ordered ahead of publication. It will



Jerry Taylor

be hardbound at 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches, and "exquisitely gold-stamped to match Volume One."

The deadline for all stories, photos and book reservations is this Nov. 28.

"Each household may submit 750 words of family history and one photograph and one military history," said Taylor. "A household also means that separate ancestral families can be included, such as parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc."

Taylor gives suggestions on what people can write about.

"Write the story, as you know it, of your own family and your ancestral family or families," said Taylor. "Why did they come to Towns County? Give birth, marriage and death dates, share handed-down family stories, tell about childhood, school days, old anecdotes and humorous tales and other events."

People should also include jobs, residences, pastimes and hobbies.

"Anything you can pass down to future generations

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

