

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, November 21, 2012

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Turkey Day: Sun	63 32
Fri: Clouds	62 35
Sat: Sun	52 26
Sun: Sun	54 32
Mon: Clouds	57 35
Tue: Clouds	57 39
Wed: Clouds	58 39



Upstream Elevation Predicted 11/21/12	
Lake Chatuge	1916.95
Lake Nottely	1760.93
Blue Ridge	1672.76

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Snowman Contest!

Let's turn Towns County into a Winter Wonderland this Holiday Season!

Build and display a snowman that reflects your business... shopping snowman, hiking snowman, chef snowman, body shop snowman, artist snowman, gardening snowman, etc.

Two chances to win!
#1 Snowmen will be judges on creativity & originality
#2 People's Choice Award
Instructions, frames & registration can be obtained at the Towns County Chamber of Commerce 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris (across from The Ridges Resort) 706-896-4966

No cost to enter but you must be registered to win! Open to all Towns County businesses.

Shop with a Cop

Shop with a Cop is sponsored by the Hiawassee Police Department.

Shop with a Cop was created to help kids 12-16 years old have a brighter Christmas.

Be a part of making a difference in our community.

If you would like to be a part of helping this forgotten age group have a Merry Christmas please make your check payable to: Hiawassee Police Department, Shop with a Cop, 229 Chatuge Way Hiawassee, GA 30546.

For more information about this charitable outreach group, please contact Hiawassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright at jimmywright@hiawasseeega.gov

You can also drop off donations at the Hiawassee City Hall. During this season filled with the Christmas Spirit of giving, you can make a difference in the life of a child with your donation to this very worthy cause.

Chief Wright thanks you on behalf of the children for your donation and for helping making Shop with a Cop possible.

Recount results: Eller wins Towns Coroner's Race

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

The recount for the offices of Tax Commissioner and Coroner took place on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 15th, with no change in numbers.

Tashina Eller is Towns County's new coroner after she officially defeated Incumbent Rickey Mathis by four votes.

The recount included early voting, precinct voting, absentee ballots, and provisional ballots. The numbers were recertified and made official.

The results have once again been sent to the Secretary of State.

Eller remains the clear winner for the office of Coroner by four votes.

In the race for Tax Commissioner, Incumbent Bruce Rogers held his lead of 50 votes and will remain in office as Tax Commissioner for another four years.

Regarding whether or not he will contest the results of the race for Tax Commissioner,



Tashina Eller

challenger Bill Kuykendall said, "I haven't made any decisions right now."

Rogers was humbled by his return to office.

"I am humbled by the voters' confidence in me and I will continue to serve as your Tax Commissioner to the best of my ability," Rogers said. "I want to thank my family for their support, the voters who supported me, the folks who campaigned for me, and to anyone who played a part in my reelection. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."



Rickey Mathis

Republicans and Democrats alike turned out in large numbers to learn the outcome of the contested races as Mathis and Eller, and Kuykendall, the Republican candidate for the office of Tax Commissioner, waited for a recount.

Prior to the recount, Mathis had stated that he would not contest the outcome of the recount.

On Monday, Mathis issued a statement.

"I would like to thank the many individuals who supported me in my recent race

for the Office of Towns County Coroner," Mathis said. "I sincerely appreciate all voters who turned out in large numbers to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

"I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the many individuals who assisted me during my many years as coroner," he said. "Without your support, a difficult job would have been more difficult.

As many are aware, on Election Day, I received 16 more votes than my opponent," he said. "However, an unusually large number of Provisional Ballots were cast. Based on the limited number of Provisional Ballots counted by the Election Office, Ms. Eller was named the winner by four votes.

"Despite my repeated requests that the Election Board count all legal votes, the Election Office chose otherwise," Mathis said. "In considering all my options, after thoughtful prayer and conversations with family and friends, I have decided that a legal challenge

would be costly and not in the best interest of Towns County.

"Therefore, I wish my opponent well as she takes on the challenge of the office," he said.

Eller said the recount confirmed the election night voice of the voters.

"After the calculation of initial votes and the provisional votes, Towns County voters have spoken," she said. "The recount today only confirmed the voice of the voters."

"It is time to move on and get to work as initial training begins in a few weeks and the formal swearing in takes place in January," she said. "I applaud Rickey Mathis for a spirited campaign and I look forward to serving our county as the first female Coroner in the history of Towns County."

"To everyone who has stood by me, voted for me, supported, and prayed for me, thank you," she said. "It is an honor to have you by my side. I have many plans for the future of this office," said an elated Eller. "Thank you all."

'The Possum' packs the Hall

No Show Jones' last show in Hiawassee a hit; bids community farewell

By Libby Shook
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George "No Show" Jones walked out onto the stage of the Anderson Music Hall Saturday night, Nov. 17th, and was met with a standing ovation from a packed out house as they stood in love, respect, and appreciation for a career that has spanned more than half a century.

This was Jones' last performance at The Hall as he begins his 2013 Farewell Tour in January.

Fans weren't going to miss the last opportunity to see "the Possum" bid Hiawassee adieu.

Jones opened with his classic *Why, Baby, Why* and the fans were on their feet and screaming 'we love you George.'

The Possum quickly followed up with *Same Old Me* and *Choices I've Made*.

Once again the fans showed their love by clapping and screaming.

It made an Elvis concert look calm.

Jones' smoother than smooth music reaches the heartstrings of folks of all ages



George Jones put on quite a show at The Hall on Saturday.

and his fans let him know how much they loved him as they screamed, clapped, snapped pictures, and danced at their seats as he sang his 'oldies but goodies' and few of his new songs from his latest CD, *Live with the Possum*, a collection

of his greatest hits plus a few new ones.

Jones looked a bit frail as he stood on the stage, but he didn't let that slow him down at all.

See *Possum*, page 12A

Guys and Dolls packs the house

By Libby Shook
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What a show. Towns County High School has some very talented students as was demonstrated on Monday night, Nov. 12th, and Thursday night, Nov. 15th, as they performed a stellar reproduction of *Guys and Dolls* under the direction of Drama and Chorus instructor Chris Adams who also had a starring role in the play.

The students put on quite a show and sang and danced their way into the hearts of the audience as evidenced with the loud bouts of applause during the show.

It was obvious that they had put a lot of work into this production and they never missed a line.

The singing performances were spot on and the dance routines spectacular.

Adams said, "This show



Guys and Dolls was a hit at Towns County Schools Auditorium last week. Photo/Libby Shook

was especially difficult due to the large cast and long dialogue. I am thankful that the students cared enough about the show to stay after school and come in on days that we were out of school to practice.

The chorus sounded great, the show looked great, and I'm very proud of my class," Adams said.

Guys and Dolls premiered

See *The Show*, page 12A

Mountain Seniors enjoy Turkey Day

By Libby Shook
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Thursday, Nov. 8th, 50-plus Mountain Seniors were treated to a delicious Thanksgiving meal complete with turkey and dressing and all the trimmings.

Folks showed up with covered dishes to share in this celebration and give thanks for the opportunity to come together and eat, fellowship, share laughs and stories, enjoy old friends, and meet new ones.

This was also a bitter-

See *Seniors* page 12A



Mountain Seniors feasted for the last time at the historic Towns County Senior Center in Hiawassee. Photo/Libby Shook

Towns Christmas parade on Saturday

By Sheriff Chris Clinton
Special to Towns County Herald

As we approach the holiday season, I want to remind everyone about the Sheriff's Empty Stocking Drive.

One thing I have found true in life is that whatever the hardship, it is always the children who seem to suffer the most.

For some families the economy has made it challenging to meet each day's needs. That is why each year, the Sheriff's Office works to provide Christmas toys for Towns County children who otherwise would do without.

Each year we start this campaign with the Sheriff's Christmas Parade.

The Parade this year will be held on Saturday, Nov. 24th, at 5:30 PM.

Participants are asked to bring at least one toy for a boy or girl aged 0-10 years.

Each year local residents and businesses have supported this effort and made it possible to help local children.

The Sheriff's Empty Stocking works as a partner with Towns County Family Connection, and Hiawassee Police Department's Shop with a Cop program.

Each of us addresses specific needs and age groups.

For those who wish to participate, the Sheriff's Office does not require any unnecessary information.

The following information is all that is required: The name and contact information of the parents, so that we can contact them when the toys are ready; The ages of the children, and; whether they are boys or girls. (both for appropriate gift selection).

We do attempt to provide at least one gift from their "wish list."

It is wonderful to witness the spirit of this showing of love and compassion by so many in our community.



Sheriff Chris Clinton

This effort is simply an attempt to provide for the needs of local children at Christmas.

We would like to encourage individuals and groups to join us this year and help make this drive successful.

We have experienced a growing need over the past five years and would anticipate this year to be no exception to that trend.

Already we have been promised help from a number of local groups.

We are thankful for the support. We encourage everyone who can to come for the Christmas parade and either participate in it or bring your children to cheer them on.

Please contact us if you can help out, or if you know of a family that needs our help.

For more information, please contact Heather Whitaker at (706) 896-4444, or Vicki Ellis at the Sheriff's Office at (706) 896-8343.

This past week the Georgia Sheriffs' Association Board of Directors met and discussed and voted on several important issues at hand.

Next week I will offer a report on some of the items discussed and approved by the board.

Thanksgiving is a time for thankfulness. Among other things, I am thankful for the opportunity to live, raise my family, and serve, in Towns County.

I pray that this Thanksgiving is a time of blessing for you and yours and that each of you has a happy and safe holiday season.

BOE holds tax hearing

By Libby Shook
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Wednesday, Nov. 15th, was a very busy day at the Towns County Board of Education as they held their Tax Digest meeting to discuss the increased millage rate.

A large number of interested citizens turned out to voice their concerns and to hear the explanation as to why they were going to be paying higher school taxes.

The general consensus from the public was clear. They do not want to pay higher taxes and they are not satisfied with the way the school budget is being handled.

The main concern expressed by those present was that too many teacher cuts had taken place while no administrative positions were being cut.

They also felt that the school board was not doing



Melissa Williams

all they could do to ensure no additional taxes would be imposed on the citizens of Towns County.

School Superintendent Melissa Williams spoke regarding budget cuts and the millage rate increase saying, "Several factors regarding school funding have created the 'perfect

See *BOE* page 12A
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

