

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Sun 55 36
Fri: Sun 58 34
Sat: Sun 54 33
Sun: Sun 59 39
Mon: Rain 48 41
Tue: Cloudy 57 41
Wed: Cloudy 57 42



Upstream Elevation Predicted 12/02/2015
Lake Chatuge 1,920.00
Lake Nottely 1,764.74
Blue Ridge 1,676.77

INDEX 14 Pages

Arrests.....2
Chamber.....8
Church.....6
Classifieds.....12
Editorial.....4
Legals.....13
Obituaries.....7

Sports Page 11



Annual Love Light Tree

See Page 3



The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

See page 9



Breakfast with Santa

See Page 9



SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Fri. Dec. 4th
@ Union County
7 & 8:30
AT THE PIT

WRESTLING

Dec 4th & 5th
KING OF THE MOUNTAIN
@ HOME

King of Mountain second biggest tourney in state

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

When it comes to wrestling, it doesn't get much bigger than King of the Mountain, where 25 teams will be bringing their A game this weekend in pursuit of the title.

"This is to be the 10th anniversary edition of the Varsity King of the Mountain, and it's going to be the biggest one we've ever had," said Indians Head Coach Jeff Stowers. "The most teams we've ever had before was 21, and we've got 25 coming in for the varsity tournament this year, and then another four that are coming for the JV part on Saturday."

"So, we've got 29 teams total from four different states –



Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. We should have a lot of good, solid wrestling going on, a lot of good people coming in from out of town to spend the weekend up here in the mountains, and hopefully they'll spend some money at some local businesses and restaurants, places like that. I know several teams are staying in hotels, so that's a good thing for the community. It's just a really, really good event."

See Wrestling, Page 10

Meals on Wheels feeds seniors in need around the county



Meals on Wheels volunteer Greg Langevin

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Senior Center is growing its Meals on Wheels program,

and for this holiday season, it is starting a Holiday Gift Certificate program for people to purchase meals for someone in need.

"We are adding people

rapidly to our Meals on Wheels program. We're kind of growing faster than we had anticipated. Basically, we're asking for donations to provide meals on wheels for additional people as they come up and get approved for our services," said Senior Center Director Bobbie Parker.

Currently, Meals on Wheels runs every day and serves 37-40 meals a day.

"We run every week," said Greg Langevin, Meals on Wheels delivery truck driver. "We also have clients that are too far outside of the city, and

See Meals, Page 10

Voting precincts back in order ahead of 2016 election cycle

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Board of Elections met on Tuesday, Nov. 24, to sign into law some much-needed adjustments to the Towns County election maps.

Board Chair Janet Oliva explained that the maps had been re-drawn incorrectly several years ago, which effected voting precincts in Towns County for the 2014 congressional elections.

"At the time, we had lost our board chair, so the chair and the co-chair, which were myself and Mark Dehler, were fairly new to the positions. And during the election the voters came out and went to what was normally their assigned precincts. And when they got there they realized that their seating locations had been changed and they had not received any notification," she said.

Since neither the Towns



Faith Bryan and Janet Oliva study Towns Co. Precinct Map

County Commissioner's Office nor the board of elections had any knowledge of the changes, the first thing the board did was to contact the Georgia Secretary of State's office to try to fix the problem.

"In essence, the problem was that back in 2012 the state changed our mapping system, and from what we

understand, there was some kind of database loss, where when they dumped data into their system, their computers lost the data. So they began to try to re-map or restructure our precincts," Oliva said.

"The state then asked some staff from the Towns County Board of Elections to

See Voting, Page 10

Chesnutt and Diffie fill Anderson Music Hall with classic Country Music



By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Anderson Music Hall was packed on Saturday, Nov. 28, as fans from all over the Southern United States came to see Mark Chesnutt and Joe Diffie perform their legendary Country Music act.

When Chesnutt and Diffie took the stage together, it was obvious the two artists liked and respected one another. Further, it was obvious that they appreciated their time spent with fans.

Between songs, they would often pause and give brief anecdotes about their

Thanksgiving, their personal lives, or the inspiration behind certain lyrics.

"I'm not kidding when I say that Mark's my favorite person in the music industry. One of my favorite singers, too, I'll tell you that. Every single night we do these kinds of things, Mark is on all the time," said Diffie at one point.

"It's really difficult working with Diffie because we laugh. We make each other laugh so much. It's really hard, man, because all we want to do is laugh the whole time," added Chesnutt.

Before the show, fans could purchase "Meet and Greet" passes to go backstage

and meet the singers. For some, this opportunity was a dream come true.

"I listen to Mark Chesnutt on a daily basis. I do like him a good bit. I've been listening to him since I was a teenager. This is a big deal, the first time I've seen them. So this is a big deal for me," said Eddie Appleby, 27.

Appleby, wearing one of the "Meet and Greet" badges around his neck, said that he preferred Mark Chesnutt's music to almost anything else.

"I like Mark Chesnutt because it's true Country Music. He's keeping the tradition alive,

See Music, Page 10

Sheriff Clinton: 'county children won't do without'



By Todd Forrest
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

December is upon us, and the Towns County Sheriff's annual Empty Stocking Fund is gearing up for another successful holiday season by allowing the less fortunate children in the county the opportunity to enjoy Christmas to the fullest.

During his eight years in office, Towns County Sheriff

Chris Clinton has been on the frontlines, encouraging the community to contribute cash or toys to the TCSO's Empty Stocking Fund.

While the majority of the donations are made between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Sheriff Clinton pointed out that donations are accepted year-round.

"We actually take donations throughout the year,

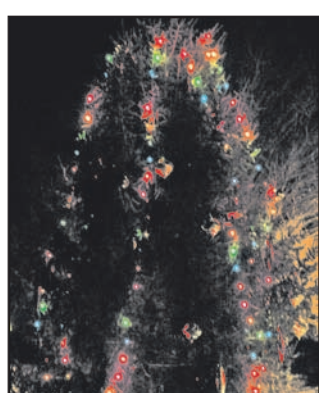
See Clinton, Page 10

City of Hiawassee to light Christmas tree

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Hiawassee Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the Square will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, and if Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis has anything to say about it, the event will be a night to remember for the entire family.

"It's going to be great. It has grown. We've had contributions. Councilmember Janet Allen is responsible for



See Hiawassee, Page 10

Young Harris continues decades-long tradition

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Young Harris Christmas Tree Lighting tradition has been going on for almost 50 years, and it isn't going to stop anytime soon.

On Friday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m., Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, City Hall and residents will come together to light the Christmas tree at Mayor's Park in a celebration of community and holiday cheer.

One big attraction, of course, will be the appearance of Santa Claus.

"The mayor speaks and then they turn the tree on, and then they have Santa Claus," said City Clerk Nicolette Wade. "He comes inside and talks to all the kids and gives them



some gifts."

Santa Claus has been attending the lighting ceremony for as long as Wade can remember. He typically brings candy canes to give to the kids.

See Young Harris, Page 10

TCSO to accept donations at Christmas parade



By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Mark your calendars, as on Saturday, Dec. 5, the Towns County Sheriff's Christmas Parade will be rolling through town.

The parade signifies the start of the annual Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund, a fundraiser to provide county children in need with Christmas

gifts.

"The Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund is to benefit local Towns County Children who otherwise wouldn't be receiving

See Parade, Page 10

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

