

# Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, December 4, 2013

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Showers	65 62
Fri: Showers	63 45
Sat: Clouds	54 41
Sun: Showers	41 40
Mon: Showers	47 37
Tues: Showers	44 33
Wed: Sunny	42 34



Upstream Elevation Predicted 12/04/13	
Lake Chatuge	1,917.45
Lake Nottely	1,760.77
Blue Ridge	1,668.84

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## SPORTS

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## Christmas Village Open House

Saturday, Dec. 7th  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
High River Country Subdivision

See page 5



## Mountain Country Christmas Tour of Homes

Sat. Dec 7th  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
See Page 3



## WRESTLING

Fri., & Sat. Dec 6 & 7

King of the Mountain Tournament @ Home

## BASKETBALL:

Tues. Dec. 3rd

@ Tallulah Falls 6 PM

Fri. Dec. 6th

@ Lakeview 7 PM

Sat. Dec. 7th

vs. Union Co. 6 PM

# Stephanie Patton reaches 1,000 career points

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

**Winder** - Towns County Lady Indians' junior basketball player Stephanie Patton reached a momentous milestone at Apalachee High School in Barrow County last Tuesday, Nov. 26, when she scored the 1,000th point of her high school career.

She became the 20th Lady Indian known to have reached this total but only the seventh to do so as a junior.

Of added and noteworthy significance is the fact that Patton reached the magic number earlier in her career than any prior Lady Indian, or Indian for that matter.

She set the known freshman scoring record with 326 points two seasons ago and then the known record as a sophomore last year with 605 points, not missing by much reaching the 1,000-point total during her sophomore season.

With 931 points totaled during her first two years at TCHS, Patton needed just 69 points during this, her junior

season, and it required less than two and a half games to reach the milestone.

She accumulated nearly half of the needed points in her first game when she poured in 34 points while playing in just over half of the season opener against Blue Ridge on Nov. 19 and added 19 while sitting out several minutes against Winder-Barrow in the opening game of a Tip Off tournament at Apalachee High School on Nov. 23.

With 16 points needed for the magic number, Patton poured in 10 points in the first quarter against Apalachee on drives to the basket and then sank back to back treys by the 5:25 mark of the second quarter, with the second coming on a pass from Madison Johnson and giving her an even 1,000 points.

The clock was stopped and the Apalachee athletics director quickly made the announcement which surprised Patton who did not realize she was approaching the coveted points total.

She was given a sponta-

neous congratulatory hug from teammate Bailey Sutton and an appreciative ovation from a quite large Towns County crowd.

The other Lady Indian juniors known to reach the total at various times during their junior seasons were Carol Ina Peebles (Ramsack) during the 1975 season, Martha Moss (Hufstetler) in 1978, Amy Allen (Silvey) in 1985, Keisha Taylor (O'Hearn) in 1996, Blair Barrett (Burch) in 2004, and Nikki Winn (Kendall) in 2008.

Peebles reached the total under rover rules in effect during her career while the others have reached the total while playing under full court rules.

Of a near certainty, Bob Bryson reached 1,000 points for the Indians during his junior season of 1955, but the score book for his sophomore season and the score sheets for the last few games of his junior season are missing, leaving his point totals for those years unknown.

Bryson scored 199 points as a freshman plus 527 and the additional missing points



Stephanie Patton joins the ranks of 1,000-point scorers at Towns County High School with this 3-point shot. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

as a junior and is known to have been a prolific scorer as a sophomore so he likely reached the 1,000 points total sometime during his junior year.

Patton moved to Towns County with her family from Oneonta, Ala., during the summer prior to second grade as a

result of her grandfather, Dr. Rudy Patton, being pastor at that time of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church.

She has attended Towns County Elementary, Towns County Middle, and Towns County High School. **See Patton, Page 10**

## Hundreds flock to Sheriff's Parade

By Azure Welch  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Saturday evening, Nov. 30, was a blustery and cold evening.

Not to worry, the Annual Towns County Sheriff's Empty Stocking Parade was fully prepared.

The annual event is the major fundraiser for the Sheriff's Empty Stocking Christmas Program which helps provide Christmas to deserving children in Towns County ages birth to 12, who would otherwise not have any gifts under the tree come Christmas morning.

Children young and old lined Main Street in Hiawassee, braving the chilly winds, to join in this annual festivity that marks the official beginning of the Christmas Season in Towns County.

Last year, the Empty Stocking Christmas program delivered Christmas to almost 250 children, and according to Vicki Ellis of the Towns County Sheriff's Office, "the annual parade is a great time for the local community to come together and help this program."

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton asks that the parade goers bring a new unwrapped toy to the parade to donate and the community did not disappoint.

These donations make up a large bulk of the gifts to



Saturday was an exciting time in Hiawassee. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

be delivered, in addition to corporate and private donations the Sheriff is grateful to receive between now and Christmas Eve, but the department also receives many of its donations throughout the year leading up to this fantastic parade every year.

Making Christmas merry for all of the county's needy children is the number one goal of the Sheriff's Office.

The parade route began

**See Parade, Page 10**

## Reece Center Open House attracts a crowd of locals

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

**Choestoe** - They came from near and far to learn more about the Mountain Poet.

The Second Reece Farm and Heritage Center Christmas Open House brought newcomers, passersby and lots of locals out on Saturday and Sunday.

More than 300 people attended the event intent on showcasing one of North Georgia's historic attractions, the works and way of life of Byron Herbert Reece.

The curious came to learn the origins of the words, so eloquent and prolific, that defined the poetry of the Farmer Poet, "Hub" Reece.

Reece, who attended school in rural Union County, was a farmer first, and a self-made poet second. He read books that would seem strange to locals in those days. The books of choice in Reece's day included manuals on farming and learning how to operate a tractor.

At an early age, Reece had read the Bible and John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, penned in 1678, books that would often influence his writing. By the age of 15, he was publishing poems in the *North Georgia News*. After high school he attended Young Harris Col-



Byron Herbert Reece

lege where he found a close group of friends who encouraged him to continue to write his poetic prose.

Reece didn't disappoint. The *Prairie Schooner* journal published *Lest the Lonesome Bird* in 1943. *Ballad of the Bones and Other Poems*, a collection of Reece's poetry, soon followed, in 1945.

Reece was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for *Bow Down in Jericho*, his 1950 follow-up to his first, critically acclaimed publication. That same year, Reece published *Better a Dinner of Herbs*, his first novel. In 1952, he received a Guggenheim Fellowship for fiction, and he also

**See Reece, Page 10**

## Little Free Library finds a home

By Azure Welch  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

**Young Harris** - Saturday morning, Mayor's Park in Young Harris became the beneficiary of a wonderful donation, the Little Free Library.

More than 30 people attended this gracious gift event donated by Doug Strain in memory of his wife Mary Burkett Strain.

The Strain family was on hand to help dedicate the Little Free Library with a reading of "Marigold Hill."

Doug Strain's grandchildren, Sam Mockert, Julia Mockert, Elizabeth Strain, Mollie Mockert, and Thomas Strain, all did a marvelous job reading "Marigold Hill" to the crowd; this is also the first official book donated to the library by Doug



Doug Strain and his grandchildren stock the Little Free Library.

Strain. Upon completion of the reading, the children had the pleasure of stocking the rest of the library with their selection of books, and officially opening

the library to the community.

The Little Free Library was created in memory of Mary Burkett Strain who was a prop-

**See Library, Page 10**

## City, school, dedicate new water tower

By Azure Welch  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Monday marked a special day with a ground breaking ceremony that commenced with the Hiawassee City Council and the Towns County Board of Education on the grounds of Towns County Comprehensive Schools.

The City of Hiawassee is constructing a 250,000 gallon water tank on the Towns County Comprehensive School campus, up behind Lowell Nicholson Field.

The water tank, as Mayor Barbara Mathis said, is "for the



Local leaders break new ground in Hiawassee. Photo/Lowell Nicholson



Patrons flocked to the Reece Farm and Heritage Center in Blairsville during the holiday weekend. The Center hosted its last event of the 2013 season as they opened the Center's doors to young and old alike. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



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