

Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 84 Number 8

Wednesday, December 26, 2012

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds 46 26
Fri: Clouds 50 35
Sat: Rain 49 26
Sun: Snow 44 24
Mon: Clouds 48 27
New Year's: Sunny 47 29
Wed: Sunny 46 28



Upstream Elevation Predicted 12/26/12

Lake Chatuge 1917.31
Lake Nottely 1760.79
Blue Ridge 1672.98

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FROM THE TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



Santa just loves Towns County kids

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

National Title Pawn of Hiawassee hosted their 1st Annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday morning, Dec. 15th.

Santa was his usual jolly self as he hugged the kids, handed out goodie bags, and listened intently to their long wish lists telling him what they wanted for Christmas and selling him on how good they had been all year.

Proud parents snapped photos as they stood by and watched the sweet smiles and wide-eyed wonder on the faces of their children.

This was truly an exciting day for the children of Towns and surrounding counties as their parents came out so their children could meet Santa in person.

Kids and parents were lined up in excited anticipation.

It's quite the honor to be invited to have breakfast with Santa. Typically Santa has cookies and mild left out for



Santa gets acquainted with a Towns County infant. Photo/Libby Shook

him, but on this day there were delicious sausage biscuits, hot chocolate, and other treats. The kids chowed down and sipped on a beverage as they waited patiently for their turn to come

around to get to sit on the big guys knee and see the beloved and jolly old elf up close and personal. The expressions on their faces said it all.

See Santa, page 6A

EMC headquarters state of the art facilities

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

Young Harris – Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation held its grand opening of the newly constructed state-of-the-art facility off Georgia 515 in Young Harris.

Cooperative members were given a guided tour which included the main lobby, customer service, payment lobby, office services area, member services area, training rooms, broadband call center, conference rooms, dispatch services, auditorium/crew room, foreman cubicle area, mapping room, and the engineer office area.

Senior Project Architect Mylan Anderson and Robin Millard of the architectural firm of Millard, Inc., were on hand to answer questions during the tour.

The company has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with the BRMEMC for more than 20 years according to Millard.

They were involved with some of the renovation and the garage building at the former site.

“We appreciate the opportunity to work with the



BRMEMC facilities are designed for the future and saving member dollars. Photo/Libby Shook

BRMEMC again on this project,” said Millard.

“It was and still is, our desire to provide the co-op and its members a facility they can be proud of,” said Millard.

“We were inspired by the mountain location and we and the BRMEMC wanted the new facility to express the character of the co-op’s North Georgia roots by creating a working environment that is aestheti-

cally inviting and functional,” said Millard.

Millard said that although the project is nearing completion, “Millard, Inc. looks forward to maintaining the relationship for many years to come.”

Anderson said he was thankful for being assigned to this project.

See Open House, page 6A

Cross Country team honored

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

Towns County High School’s Cross Country Team was recognized and honored by the Towns County School Board on Monday, Dec. 10th, at the school board meeting.

Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren was beaming with pride and school spirit as he presented the Area and State Championship trophies to the Cross Country Team and Coach Jeannie Ledford.

Present for the presentation were Lindy Hollinshead, Miranda Queen, Ansley Vardeman, and Taylor Vardeman.

“Words cannot express how extremely proud I am. I am grateful to have a team-family that believed in me as a coach. This is truly one of the proudest moments of my life,” said Ledford.

“Making it to state has



The State Champion Towns County Cross Country team was recognized by the Towns County Board of Education earlier this month.

been a hard fought achievement over the years. With the split of public and private schools, we never ever want anyone to think it was easier because 3.1 miles is still 3.1 miles,” said

Ledford. Ledford commented that this was a chase that began many years ago when she first

See XCcountry, page 6A

Mountain Seniors enjoy Christmas meal

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

The Mountain Seniors were very excited to be enjoying their first Christmas meal at the new Mountain Senior Center on Thursday, Dec. 13th, as they sat and socialized and waited to taste the delicious covered dishes that had been prepared for their enjoyment.

Mountain Seniors President Shirley Stallings was more than excited as this day had been a long time coming and they finally were going to reap the benefits of this beautiful,



Mountain Seniors President Shirley Stallings presents Betty Pedigo with the top prize at the group’s Christmas Party. Photo/Libby Shook

Kendall advertises 2013 county budget

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

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall will oversee a special called meeting on Dec. 31 at 2 p.m. in the Towns County Courthouse for the purpose of adopting the 2013 Budget.

The public is invited to attend.

Commissioner Kendall will adopt a \$9.38 million county budget for Fiscal 2013 at the meeting.

The largest slices of the pie include \$1.137 million for the Sheriff’s Office, slightly more than \$1 million for Towns County Ambulance Service, \$940,300 for the Road Department, and \$921,700 for the Towns County Jail.

Other large ticket items include \$692,260 for county administration, \$448,650 for Health and Human Services, \$440,900 for Public Safety,



Commissioner Bill Kendall

\$380,000 for the County Transfer Station, \$370,443 for Parks Development, \$370,000 for the Towns County Fire Department, and \$294,000 for the County Recreation Department.

A breakdown of the 2013 Fiscal Budget is advertised inside today’s edition of the Towns County Herald.

Commissioner Kendall urges the public to attend the Dec. 31st meeting at 2 p.m. at the Towns County Courthouse where the 2013 Fiscal Budget will be adopted on that day.

The budget includes a 6.32 percent tax decrease.

Battle of The States set to begin Thursday

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Battle of the States Christmas Tournament tips off Thursday at the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium for the 19th time.

The Towns County Lady Indians (10-0) will enter the tournament unbeaten for the second time in three years.

However, the Lady Indians ultimate goal will be to exit the tournament unblemished for the first time in history, with both Towns County squads chasing their first Battle of the States Championship.

Standing in the way of the seven-time runner-up Lady Indians will be two-time defending champion Gordon Lee, who defeated Towns in the second round last year and in the Championship Game two seasons ago. A clash between these two Class A State Championship hopefuls would again have to wait until the final day of this year’s tournament.

Two undefeated teams will stand in the way of the Towns County boys’ squad. Class AA’s Union County (9-0) and Class AAA’s Dawson County (10-0) are again participating in this year’s edition.

The last two Battle of the States Boys Championships, entered Hiawassee undefeated, and took home the hardware.

Led by MVP Justin Gonyea, Hayesville, NC entered, and left, in 2011 sporting a perfect record. MVP Seth Merritt and Union County took a 10-0 record back to Blairsville in 2010.

That year the Panthers



Jim Melton

claimed another record with their third Battle of the States Championship – the most by any boys squad. Walhalla, SC, Tavares, Fla, and North Forsyth are the only other boys teams with two titles but none are participating this year.

The Hayesville Yellow Jackets enter this year’s tournament with a 9-1 record. Dawson County’s Lady Tigers will also open on Thursday at 9-1.

There’s two other defending champions who’ll be looking to get back on track this weekend.

Most notably, the Polk County, Tenn Lady Wild Kittens. Polk has won the Battle of the States a record five times, most recently in 2008 and 2009.

Piedmont, Ala makes its return to the Battle of the States after winning it all in 2008 and falling in the second round in 2010.

Others seeking their first boys championship this year will be Polk County Tenn, Gordon Lee, and Murphy, NC.

On the girls side, Union County, Hayesville, NC, Mur-

See Battle, page 6A

Elvis breaks bread with the Lions

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

Instead of having their regularly scheduled meeting, the Towns County Lions Club held their annual Christmas dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 11th as they gathered around the Christmas tree for a rockin’ good time.

They came together with family and friends to feast on a delicious meal prepared by Daniel’s Steakhouse. The meal was a festive treat of turkey, ham, and all the trimmings one would expect at a Christmas dinner.

A Christmas meal would not be complete without entertainment and Christmas music.

This was provided by Towns County High School Principal Roy “Elvis” Perren as he performed many Christmas songs and Gospel songs and gave all he had even though he had been sick the previous week and his voice cracked at times.

When Perren pulled out a pair of gold sunglasses and moved right into a song made famous by none other than the King of Rock ‘N Roll as he performed a stellar rendition of Blue Suede Shoes, he sounded suspiciously like the Elvis that has been sited around Towns



Elvis Perren

County in recent months.

This was an evening filled with good fellowship, delicious food, and great entertainment, but it was also an opportunity for Lion members to help out the community as each member brought in two new, unwrapped gifts for their annual Give-A-Christmas held on Saturday, Dec. 15th.

This was a joyous occasion as everyone discussed toys, gift wrapping, and tree trimming as they anticipated a huge turnout for Give-A-Christmas.

This is just one of the

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

