

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	66 48
Fri: Rain	51 24
Sat: Sunny	48 29
Sun: Sunny	56 36
Mon: Cloudy	61 43
Tue: Rain	63 46
Wed: Rain	55 35



Upstream Elevation Predicted 02/22/12	
Lake Chatuge	1917.36
Lake Nottely	1760.97
Blue Ridge	1671.27

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## Log onto our Web site

Log onto Towns County Herald.net to keep up with breaking news that impacts Towns County. If schools are closed, major accidents happen, or any late breaking news occurs, you'll find it on Towns County Herald.net

## Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Distribution is scheduled for Tuesday Feb.28 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. All that are in need of food assistance are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to pick up your food, please contact The Pantry at (706) 896-4783 prior to distribution day.. All clients and inquiries are kept confidential.

## State of County

Turn to Page 5 to read about the State of the County by Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall.

Read about the county's finances, Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax projects, an update on I-3, the county's new Emergency Alert System, the Taxpayer Empowerment Act, Taxpayer and Employee Benefit Protection Act.

Also included is an update on Foster Memorial Park, library construction projects and an update on roads and bridges.

## Kindergarten

Registration will be held Feb. 27 through March 2. Items you will need to bring to register your child include immunization Certificate Form 3231, Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, and proof of residency (a water bill or electric bill).

# Back-to-back region titles for Lady Indians

Lady Indians continue to be the team to beat in Region 8-A; host state tourney game on Friday

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
tcherald@windstream.net

The Towns County Lady Indians finished the regular season perfect in Region 8-A North. They finished the Region 8-A tournament perfect as well.

That level of perfection could mean only one thing: a second consecutive Region 8-A title.

It happened with victories over Prince Avenue, Athens Academy and George Walton as the Lady Indians now prepare for the first round of the Class A state playoffs. Their likely opponent: Georgia Military Lady Bulldogs.

The Lady Indians completed a clean sweep of the region tournament as they bested Prince Avenue Christian School by a 57-42 score in first round play on Tuesday at George Walton Academy and Athens Academy

by a 60-35 margin at Lakeview Academy in Gainesville in the semi-finals on Friday. They completed the sweep on Saturday at Lakeview Academy in Gainesville with a 66-54 win over George Walton Academy.

The win over Prince Avenue gave the Lady Indians' their sixth straight 20-win season and eighth overall under Head Coach Jim Melton. They further won 20 or more games six times under Head Coach Dion Eller and two under Head Coach Robbie Stancil for a total of 16 seasons with 20 or more wins in the modern era under rover and full court rules dating back through the 1971 season.

The region championship run improved the Lady Indians' overall record for this season to 22-6, includ-

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The Towns County Lady Indians clinched their second consecutive Region 8-A title on Saturday in Gainesville. It's the third region title in the last four years for the Lady Indians. Photo/James Reese

# Stroud raises the wrestling bar

Zack Stroud brings home Indians' first state wrestling medal

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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Senior Zack Stroud never wastes an ounce of energy.

He leaves six minutes on the mat along with a lot of blood, sweat and tears.

If there were any tears on Saturday, they would have been joyous. No, the Indians' 152-pound senior didn't win a Class A state title. Nevertheless, he did something no other wrestler in the eight-year history of the program has done: he brought home precious metal.

Stroud, 58-8 this season, finished as Class A's No. 3 wrestler at the 152-pound weight class.

Stroud defeated Brent Hornbuckle of Wesleyan and then lost his semi-finals match up with Trent Reddish of Commerce. The loss to Reddish put Stroud into the consoles fighting his way

See Wrestling, page 15



Zack Stroud became the benchmark for future Towns County wrestlers as he earned the first state medal in Indians' Wrestling history at Gwinnett Center on Saturday. Photo/James Reese

# Arencibia named Region 8-A's Player of the Year

Melton top coach; Bleckley, Patton, Cochran and Manus honored

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
tcherald@windstream.net

During a season of record setting performances by both the Towns County Lady Indians and Indians, awards to several performers and a coach have been recently received through the votes of the coaches within Region 8A.

Lady Indians' senior Gabby Arcencibia has received the ultimate region-wide player reward by being named the Girls' Region 8-A Player of the Year. On the coaching front, Lady Indians' Head Coach Jim Melton has been selected as the Girls' Region 8-A Coach of the Year.

Melton's Lady Indians finished a second straight undefeated regular season in the region and then won three straight region tournament games for the second year in a row and third in four years for region championships.



Gabby Arcencibia and Head Coach Jim Melton were honored as the best player and coach in Region 8-A. Photo/James Reese

Joining Arcencibia as First Team All-Region members are Lady Indians' senior Ali Bleckley and freshman Stephanie Patton. Sophomore Eryn Cochran was the first player listed as Honorable Mention All-Region.

Senior Haley Soles of Prince Avenue Christian and Sophomore Ivy Atkism of George Walton Academy

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# Bradley is TCHS STAR Student

Sabrina Garrett named 2011-2012 STAR Teacher

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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Jeanne Bradley has earned a number of accolades in her high school career.

She has been the state's top extemporaneous speaker, the No. 6 extemporaneous speaker in the nation, president of the Towns County Future Farmers of America and now, Towns County High School's STAR Student.

TCHS Principal Roy Perren made the announcement of Bradley as STAR Student last week at the Towns County Board of



Jeanne Bradley

Education meeting in the school's auditorium.

"It was very close this year," Perren said. "Jeanne is an exceptional student, a

tremendous speaker, very bright, FFA president; I just can't say enough good things about her."

Perren said that it didn't surprise him that Bradley was the 2011-2012 STAR Student.

"No, not at all," he said.

Bradley chose FFA Advisor Sabrina Garrett as her STAR Teacher.

On March 1st, Bradley and Garrett will be honored by the Towns County Lions Club during its annual TCHS Honors Program,

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# Chief: 'I love Towns County'

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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It wasn't supposed to take very much time to take control of Iwo Jima. Three days or no more than a week tops.

No one remembers Iwo Jima any better than Towns County's Bud Johnson.

Retired U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Clarence E. "Bud" Johnson was there on Feb. 19th, 1945.

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Commissioner Bill Kendall and the Marine Corps League honored Bud Johnson last week. The Iwo Jima vet turns 90 on March 7th, a day remembered as Bud Johnson Day. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

# Sheriff: 'remains identified'

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton has confirmed that the human remains discovered in southern Towns County on Jan. 15 have been identified as a 62-year-old Asheville, NC man.

The news comes following the investigative efforts of the Towns County Sheriff's Office, Georgia Bureau of Investigation Region 8, and GBI Medical Examiner's Office.

Last week, the Medical Examiner's Office determined through dental records and other means that the identity of the human remains were indeed Herman William Lee, 62, from Asheville, NC.

Mr. Lee's next of kin, who reside in Rhode Island, have been notified, according to the Towns County Sheriff's Office. The Towns County Coroner's Office and the GBI Medical Examiner's Office are currently in the process of returning Lee's remains to his family in another state.

The exact cause of death could not be determined.

Lee was first reported missing and believed to be in Towns County in the spring of 2011, according to Towns County sheriff's reports.



Sheriff Chris Clinton

ports.

When human remains were found earlier this year, Towns County sheriff's investigators were almost certain it was Lee due to the 2011 missing person investigation and details obtained during a search and rescue operation in May 2011.

Lee was first reported missing from Macon County, NC in 2011. The Towns County Sheriff's Office received a missing person inquiry from Macon County and Towns County sheriff's investigators received information on May 14th, 2011 that Herman William Lee, of an Asheville, NC address might be in Towns County

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