

Towns County Herald

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Thursday, March 5, 2009

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy 57 40
Fri: Cloudy 64 51
Sat: Showers 64 32
Sun: Cloudy 51 34
Mon: Cloudy 57 43
Tue: Showers 57 41
Wed: Sunny 57 34



Upstream Elevation Predicted 2/03/09
Lake Chatuge 1918.83
Lake Nottely 1762.82
Blue Ridge 1673.58

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Spring forward

Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John W. Oxendine wants to remind Georgians that they must change their clocks to daylight saving time earlier this year – and they should also change the batteries in their smoke alarms at the same time.

Oxendine also recommended changing batteries in flashlights and weather radios, and having an emergency plan in place in case severe weather threatens.

Daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 8 at 2 a.m., when clocks are set ahead one hour.

Free Food Distribution

The Towns County Food Pantry will have a free food distribution Tuesday, March 10 at the food pantry from 2pm-6pm. The pantry asks that you enter Jack Dayton Circle on the fun world side for a more orderly distribution.

If you are unable to pick up your food, please call the food pantry at 706-896-4783 prior to the food distribution day, so that arrangements can be made for food to be delivered. As always all inquiries are confidential.

CPR Saturday

Free Adult CPR Training class will be held Saturday, March 21 at Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church in Young Harris at 10 a.m. The length of the class is approximately 3 hours. Call 1-800-282-1722 Ext. 29 to reserve a time. The event is hosted by Sharp Memorial UMC and the Towns County Unit of the American Red Cross.

Head Start

The Towns County Head Start and Georgia Pre-K Program will begin taking applications on March 02, 2009 for the 2009-2010 program year.

For more information please call the Towns County Head Start/Pre-K Office at (706) 896-4272, extension # 3.

See in this week's Herald for more details on applying for Head Start

Lady Indians pluck Eagles in playoff game



The Lady Indians defeat Eagles Landing Christian Academy 69-49 in the first round of the State Class A Basketball playoffs. Photo by Jim and Lisa Bryant

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County High School Lady Indians Varsity Basketball Team used a powerful third quarter in snapping a halftime tie and breezing to an opening round victory in the Geor-

gia Class A State Basketball Tournament in the Towns County Gym last Friday night.

After taking their first region championship in thirty two years six nights earlier in Social Circle, the Lady Indians were able to take the measure of the Eagle's Landing Christian

Academy Lady Chargers by a 69-49 score.

The Lady Chargers are from McDonough and were the fourth place team in Region 7A. The Lady Indians extended their record to 24-5 with the victory.

See Indians, sports page

TCWA meets to discuss troubles with "Watergate"

By David Seckinger
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The Towns County Water Authority met with the Towns County Homeowners Association on Feb. 23. They discussed the problems between the TCWA and the City of Hia-

wassee over water usage and a contract dispute.

Attorney Tom Daniel, on behalf of the water authority, said their side only wants what the contract calls for—arbitration between the two engineers and the input of an unbiased third party.

Daniel criticized the

local media for fueling the fire between the two parties. For instance, on Feb. 5 the Herald ran the article, "City accuses water and sewer authority of sabotage" and later referred to the dispute as "watergate."

See water, page 2A



Gene Mitchell, Tom Daniel and Jamie Evans led the TCWA meeting on Feb. 23

Lions honor high school's academic excellence

By David Seckinger
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The Towns County Lions Club honored the Towns County High School honor students and high scorers on the SATs during a ceremony at Young Harris College on Feb. 24.

Master of Ceremonies Frank Morgan told the teenagers: "My only advice to you honor students is to make yourselves heard."

Guest speaker Dr. John Wells spoke of the "educated life," as defined by Henry David Thoreau, author of the well known book, *Walden*. Wells told the students to be aware of three enemies to a life well lived: materialism, conformity, and everyday-

ness. He urged the students to examine their lives, to find a moral voice, and to recognize the awe and wonder around them.

School board members and high school faculty attended the meeting, including Principal Roy Perren, who took to the podium to thank the Lions and Young Harris College. In response to a couple of comments about Perren's Elvis impersonations, he joked, "Every time I get a microphone I want to sing."

Perren also reached into a basket to help pick out two lucky students who each received \$50 cash awards from the Lions. Kayla Osborn and Elizabeth Parsons both went home a little richer that night, and

Chase Ellis was given a \$100 cash award from the Lions for being chosen star student. This year's star teacher was Melissa McConnell.

Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens also took to

See Lions, page 2A



Dr. John Wells



TCHS 2009 honor students were recognized by the Lions Club.

Here Comes the Judge!

By Charles Duncan
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HAYESVILLE, N.C. – The fate of property owned by the Clay-Towns Development Authority for failure to maintain Best Management Practices," Commissioner Kendall said. "If the Industrial Building Authority is allowed to purchase the Colditz judgment, the property will be put to good use and Towns County will benefit.

A visiting judge will hear a Mandamus request filed by Colditz Trucking on Thursday at 10 a.m. in the Towns County Grand Jury room.

The County was served with the Mandamus hearing notice late Friday, Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said.

The best case scenario for Towns County is for the Towns County Industrial Development Authority to be allowed to purchase the judgment and lay claim to the property.

"We've already got

assurances from EPD and DNR to waive the cost of penalties that were levied against the Clay-Towns Development Authority for failure to maintain Best Management Practices," Commissioner Kendall said. "If the Industrial Building Authority is allowed to purchase the Colditz judgment, the property will be put to good use and Towns County will benefit.

"However, I do want to assure our taxpayers that no taxpayer money will be used to complete this transaction," Kendall said.

Clay-Towns Authority members met last week to update on whether property will be transferred from the authority to the Towns County Industrial Development Authority.

The Towns Authority



Clay-Towns Development Authority Chairman Jerry Nichols goes over the problems facing the joint authority during last week's meeting in Hayesville as members David Shook, left and Terry Taylor look on. A March 10 meeting could decide the fate of the authority's property. Photo by David Seckinger

See CTDA, page 2A

Hiwassee Council approves \$100K for water filter repair

The City of Hiwassee held a special called meeting on Feb. 23 to discuss the repair of water filter #2 at the Rowe Cannup Water Treatment Plant. Mayor Barbara Mathis called the meeting in order to get approval on the capital improvements repairs.

City Manager Rick Stancil reported on the results of an inspection regarding the water filter. He advised the council on the need and costs of the required repairs. The council then considered a proposed con-

tract by Rehab Construction Inc. for the repairs. Council approved spending up to but not to exceeding \$100,000 for necessary repairs.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Barbara Mathis, Clerk Wylene White, City Manager Rick Stancil, Water Treatment Plant employee Randy Warne, Engineering Management Inc. (EMI) employee Don Baker, and council members Junior Chastain, Janet Allen, Howard Cunningham, Joan Crothers and Annie Johnson.

Under the Gold Dome

Georgia State Representative Stephen Allison



rently provides more than 20 percent of the state's electricity. Nuclear power is a safe, clean and affordable source of base load electricity that produces zero emissions.

For these reasons, the House passed a bill this week that will address how to finance the construction of two additional nuclear reactors to Plant Vogtle in Burke County. This bill will allow Georgia Power to charge their customers for the construction cost while the plant is being constructed as opposed to waiting until the plant is completed to add costs to their customers. I am a supporter of nuclear energy and any type of energy that will decrease our dependence on foreign oil, but I did not vote for SB 31. I received correspondence from almost 30 constituents that asked me to oppose this bill, while receiving less than 3 in support of this measure and therefore I feel as if I followed the desires of my constituents with my vote.

Due to the declining economy, the state faced a \$2.2 billion shortfall. After months of hard work by the House Appropriations Committee, the House passed a fiscally sound budget that meets our state's critical needs.

The 2009 Amended Budget fully funds the Homeowner Tax Relief Grants, which means an average

See Allison, page 2A