

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Showers	76 51
Fri: Showers	67 50
Sat: Showers	70 49
Sun: Cloudy	74 50
Mon: Showers	71 48
Tue: Cloudy	70 45
Wed: Cloudy	71 43



Upstream Elevation Predicted 03/14/12	
Lake Chatuge	1918.69
Lake Nottely	1763.37
Blue Ridge	1668.20

## INDEX 16 Pages

Arrests.....	2
Chamber News.....	7
Church/Obits.....	8,9
Classifieds.....	13
Editorial.....	4
Community Calendar.....	4
Legals.....	13
Television.....	6

# Crime rate down 30 percent since 2007

Sheriff: 'we could be doing more and we will in the days, weeks and months ahead'

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

This is the first in a four-part series of helping Towns County get to know its law enforcement personnel. Love them or hate them, there is a chance you may need their help some day. Read the March 21st edition of the Towns County Herald and get to know your deputies.

The numbers don't lie; Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton looks at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation crime statistics and he has to smile.

Crime statistics compiled by the GBI show a downward spiral in the major categories of crimes against persons and property. The statistics are proving that neighborhood watches and a revolving

See Neighbors, page 12



Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton and his braintrust, left to right Lt. James Baldwin, Lt. Brian Wilson and Chief Deputy Jeff Edge. The sheriff's no nonsense approach to law enforcement is paying dividends with a decreased crime rate. Photo/James Reese

## Bud Johnson Day recognized

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

Bud Johnson served almost a lifetime in the United States Navy and its Reserves.

To be exact, he served 36 years, four months and four days.

Johnson has served almost that long in Towns County, the place he calls home; the place where his friends reside.

Johnson was born in Canton, Ohio, March 7, 1922. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on June, 14, 1939. He served aboard 11 ships and four duty stations, including the USS Silverstein where he saw action in Iwo Jima. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy on March 1, 1983.

Johnson has been a fixture in Towns County for 30 years.

On March 7, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis both declared that the day of Bud



Commissioner Bill Kendall presents Bud Johnson with a plaque commemorating his years of service in the U.S. Navy and proclaiming March 7th Bud Johnson Day in Towns County. Photo/James Reese

Johnson's birth be declared Bud Johnson Day in Towns County and Hiawassee.

Johnson was greeted by friends and fellow members of the Marine Corp League at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee on his special day. He broke bread with friends and comrades. He had a big 'ole' piece of birthday cake that was specifically designed to

celebrate his 90th birthday. Unicoi Detachment 783 MCL Commander Wayne Roshaven told the group that veterans like Johnson are what our nation is founded upon. Johnson countered that of the Military veterans, the Marine Corps have seen its share of battles and bloodshed.

See Bud Johnson, page 12

## Two announce they will qualify for races

Kuykendall to run for tax commissioner; Eller for coroner

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

The former two-term mayor of Young Harris and a political newcomer have tossed their hats into the political arena to run on the GOP ticket as Towns County tax commissioner and coroner respectively.

Bill Kuykendall, the former two-term mayor of Young Harris has announced he will seek the office of tax commissioner when qualifying begins May 23rd in Towns County.

Likewise, political newcomer Tashina Eller announced that she will seek the Republican nomination for county coroner.

Kuykendall and Eller each made their announcements last week at the Towns County Republican Party meeting at Daniel's Steakhouse.

Bruce Rogers is the



Bill Kuykendall



Tashina Hall Eller incumbent tax commissioner for Towns County.

See GOP, page 12

## Log onto our Web site

Log onto Towns County Herald.net to keep up with breaking news that impacts Towns County. If you haven't noticed, we've got the Legal Advertisements online. Feel free to take a look.

## Love the Lake

Turn to Page 2 to find out more about how you can play a pivotal role in the Love Our Lake campaign.

A community cleanup effort is in the works for March 31 to help make the county's 136 miles of shoreline along Lake Chatuge a bit more pristine.

Call Candace Lee at the Chamber of Commerce for more details. That number is (706) 896-4966.

## Purses needed

Chatuge Regional Nursing Home is having their second annual purses drive.

This year, all the proceeds will be donated to an employee and their family due to an unexpected illness.

Last day for donations is Friday. Please leave any donations at the front office by 4 p.m.

Any gently used or new bag, purse or wallet is accepted.

The sale will be held Friday, March 23rd at 2 p.m. at the nursing home.

## Food Pantry

There will be a free food distribution on Tuesday, March 20th at the Towns County Food Pantry. The distribution will take place 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 food, please call the Pantry at (706) 896-4783 prior to the distribution day so arrangements can be made. All clients and inquiries are kept confidential as usual.

## Travis Tritt here on Saturday

Tickets still available for Travis Tritt, Jeremy Camp and Randy Travis

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

Trouble is coming to Anderson Music Hall on St. Patrick's Day.

Travis Tritt's smash hit T-R-O-U-B-L-E that is.

Tritt brings his legend and his magnificent voice to the Music Hall at 7 p.m.

The show has been one of the most anticipated local events in years.

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said tickets are still available for the Travis Tritt Concert, but they're going fast. Tickets



Travis Tritt

are \$40 plus \$2 handling to see the Grammy Award-winning Country Music performer.

Tritt has charted more



Randy Travis

than 30 singles on the U.S. Billboard charts, including

See The Hall, page 12

## Lovelady heads to Nationals

Special to Towns County Herald  
tcherald@windstream.net

Towns County Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) will be represented at the HOSA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fla. this summer.

Hayle Lovelady, a sophomore at Towns County High School and resident of Hiawassee, won the silver medal in Personal Care. During this event, Hayle walked into a room of judges who randomly assigned her a skill set where she had to demonstrate her knowledge.



Hayle Lovelady

In preparing for the event she was required to memorize a long checklist, typically more than 30, for each

skill set. Hayle was not aware of which skill set she would be presented with until she walked into the room. She was then timed while she completed the task. Hayle won the silver medal in this event and will represent Georgia at the HOSA National Leadership Conference in Orlando this summer, her advisor, Suzanne Crews has conveyed to the Towns County Herald.

Towns County's HOSA chapter competed at

See HOSA, page 12

## Gingrich takes Towns

Former Speaker definitely the local choice

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

If Newt Gingrich were running for President of Georgia, he'd win in a landslide.

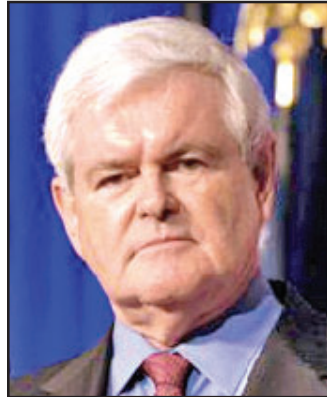
The former U.S. Speaker of the House took 47.2 percent of Georgia's 900,863 votes to win his second primary during his presidential nomination bid for to head the GOP ticket in November.

In Towns County, Gingrich was the choice among Republicans. The former Speaker of the House took 907 of the 1,952 votes cast in Towns County.

Mitt Romney finished a distant second with 541 votes, Rick Santorum finished third with 433 votes and Ron Paul brought up the rear with 62 votes.

On the Democratic ballot, President Barack Obama received 53 votes. He was the only candidate on the Democratic ballot.

Ironically, the statewide Republican ballot fell exactly like Towns County voters had cast their ballots. Gingrich claimed 425,157 votes; Romney collected 233,397 votes; Santorum brought home 176,166 votes and Paul brought up the rear with 59,040 votes.



Newt Gingrich

Super Tuesday was rather less dramatic if you were Romney. The front runner claimed Virginia, Vermont, Massachusetts, Ohio, Idaho and Alaska. Santorum had claimed wins in Tennessee, Oklahoma and North Dakota.

On Saturday, Santorum scored a decisive victory in Kansas and looks to continue gaining ground on Romney in Alabama and Mississippi.

Gingrich's only win on Super Tuesday was in Georgia, where he served in the

See Gingrich, page 12

