

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Sunny 75 48  
Fri: Cloudy 75 52  
Sat: Showers 69 44  
Sun: Showers 56 37  
Mon: CLOUDY 56 41  
Tue: Cloudy 68 43  
Wed: Cloudy 73 47



Upstream Elevation Predicted 04/18/12  
Lake Chatuge 1921.86  
Lake Nottely 1768.25  
Blue Ridge 1672.12

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## Log onto our Web site

Log onto townscountyherald.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.

## MercyMe

MercyMe, the Christian music band from Greenville, Texas plays Anderson Music Hall Saturday at 7 p.m. Don't remember MercyMe? Well, do you remember the crossover Christian single *I Can Only Imagine*? Of course you do. It was the No. 1 song in America in 2003. Tickets are on sale starting at \$25. Call (706) 896-4191 for details.

## Colt Ford

On Friday, April 20, Colt Ford comes to town to play Anderson Music Hall. Tickets start at \$25. Also, the voice of Brooks and Dunn is coming to Anderson Music Hall on May 11th, at 7 p.m. Ronnie Dunn, who has won more than 20 Broadcast Music Incorporated Awards, brings his solo act to Hiwassee. Tickets for the event cost \$47, including handling. Dunn has twice won Country Songwriter of the Year, in 1996 and 2001. He has won 27 AMA awards for top Vocal Duo. He and Kix Brooks formed Brooks and Dunn in 1990, a duo that lasted 20 years. Together, the duo has won more Country Music Awards and Academy of Country Music Awards than any act in the history of Country Music. Tickets are on sale now. Call (706) 896-4191 for details.

## Arencibia signs with North Georgia College

State record-holder for career 3-pointers and 3-pointers in a single game is officially a Saint

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
tcherald@windstream.net

Towns County Lady Indians' basketball star Gabby Arencibia is a Saint, literally. The 3-point shooting artist signed last week to take her game to the collegiate level in Dahlonega and play for North Georgia College and State University.

Arencibia, the state record holder for 3-pointers in a career and another mark for 3-pointers in a single game, said she is ecstatic to have the opportunity to play for Lady Saints' Head Coach Buffie Burson at North Georgia.

"I'm extremely excited to become a Lady Saint," she said. "I have always wanted to play there since a young age when I

attended summer camp there. I'm excited to have the opportunity to play under Coach Burson.

"She is a great coach that will add diversity to my game," Arencibia said. "I'm also excited to play with Jamie Carnes, the National Division II Player of the Year. In addition, the other girls on the team are nice and I can't wait to play with them. It's just a perfect fit for me."

Lady Indians' Head Coach Jim Melton was proud to have yet another Lady Indian take her game to the college level.

"I think Gabby has probably got some of her best years ahead of her," Coach Melton said. "Being a great shooter like she is,

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Towns County Lady Indians' shooting star Gabby Arencibia makes it official: she's a Saint. She's joined at the signing table by her parents. Photo/James Reese

## Ladies' playoff hopes still alive

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

The Towns County Lady Indians' soccer team kept their state playoff hopes alive on Monday at Frank McClure Stadium with a 4-0 victory over Conference rival Lakeview Academy.

The Lady Indians improved to 7-6 overall on the season and 3-3 in Conference play.

Prior to Monday's showdown with Lakeview, the Lady Indians found



Ali Bleckley's leadership will be the key to whether the Lady Indians head back to the state playoffs. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

See Soccer, page 12A

## Tennis season is officially over

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

Prince Avenue Christian completed a repeat performance on Monday as they defeated the Towns County Lady Indians' tennis team in the first round of the Region 8 playoffs.

The Lady Indians were eliminated from state playoff contention during



Coach Floyd talks doubles with Courtney Farmer and Gabby Arencibia during the region tournament on Monday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

See Tennis, page 12A

## Bankers' Hour scores 18th hit

United Community Bank's annual show benefits its communities

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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For the 18th consecutive year, United Community Bank and its family turned out to put on a show for all to see.

And as far as Buford and Beatrice Banks were concerned, the Annual Bankers' Family Reunion always proved to be a grand affair with immediate and extended relatives coming to town to take part in the festivities.

Family Reunion tells

See Bankers', page 12A



Buford and Beatrice Banks reflect on family and reunions as they share the comfort of family on the front porch. Photo/James Reese

## Bipartisan effort grows to defeat TSPLOST

Regional sales tax vote draws ire of Towns County residents

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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The contingent of anti-tax warriors in Towns County continues to grow.

The Towns County Fire Board, Mountain Seniors and the Towns County Democratic Party have signed resolutions opposing the proposed Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax referendum scheduled for July 31st.

Early voting for the

See Opposed, page 12A



More than 80 residents gathered at the Towns County Senior Center last week to oppose the upcoming Transportation sales tax referendum scheduled for vote on July 31st. Photo/Charles Duncan

## Duncan named editor of North Georgia News

Will oversee editorial operations in Towns and Union counties

Kenneth West, publisher of the Towns County Herald and North Georgia News, announced on Monday that Towns County Herald Editor Charles Duncan has been named editor of the North Georgia News in Blairsville.

Duncan, 51, has been editor of the Towns County Herald since October 2008. He will continue in that capacity in addition to his new duties with the North Georgia News.

Duncan replaces Norman Cooper who is now pursuing other professional opportunities, West said on Monday afternoon.

"I'm excited to have Charles Duncan at the North Georgia News," West said. "He's done a good job at the Towns County Herald. He's professional, he's experienced and he's trustworthy. He's done this job in other places and I feel he'll do right by Union County. He was raised here and understands the people who live here."



Charles Duncan

Duncan said he was honored to lead the Blairsville paper and humbled by West's confidence in him.

"I was born in Young Harris, I was raised in Blairsville," Duncan said. "I am a member of Union County High School's Class of 1978. I was Mr. School Spirit 1978 at Union County High.

"Of course I look forward to the opportunity to make the North Georgia News a progressive newspaper," Duncan said. "I also want to continue to keep it

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## Kendall asks GOP, Democrats to vote 'no'

Independents, Tea Party also asked to fight TSPLOST

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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There were no party lines on Thursday in Towns County.

In a unified effort to defeat a tax that takes food out of the mouths of families statewide, especially in Towns County, Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall spoke to Democrats, Republicans and Tea Party members.

He sought their support to defeat the 1-cent transportation tax that threatens to add a penny tax to food items, beverages, clothing items, home heating oil, electricity, all house-hold goods and over-the-counter medicines over the next decade.

"Every time you go to the grocery store with a couple of hundred dollars worth of groceries in your buggy, you would pay an extra \$2 in taxes," Commissioner Kendall said. "Every time you fill up your 500-gallon propane tank to heat your home, you will pay an additional \$10-\$15 in sales tax."

The vote on the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax comes July 31st, and exempts jet fuel, off-road diesel, motor fuel, locomotive fuel, mass transit fuel, the



Commissioner Bill Kendall

sale or use of energy used in manufacturing. The tax also is levied on the first \$5,000 of any transaction involving the sale or lease of a motor vehicle.

If approved, it would take the local sales tax rate to 8 cents on the dollar.

Also, it would be the largest single-year tax increase in the history of the state of Georgia, coming in at an anticipated \$1.6 billion annually if approved statewide.

If approved, TSPLOST

See Vote No, page 12A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

