

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Rain	49 32
Fri: Clouds	54 41
Sat: Rain	55 40
Sun: Clouds	56 39
Mon: Rain	52 33
Tue: Rain	52 29
Wed: Sunny	52 29



Upstream Elevation Predicted	01/08/14
Lake Chatuge	1,917.73
Lake Nottely	1,760.09
Blue Ridge	1,669.00

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Sock Hops in Concert at Peacock Playhouse

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Conrad Book Signing

God's Insight for Your Life Through Dreams and Visions

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Cold Weather Safety Tips

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WRESTLING:

Thursday, Jan 9th @ Hart County 5 PM

BASKETBALL:

Friday, Jan 10th @ Athens Christian 6 PM

Saturday, Jan 11th vs. Athens Academy 6 PM

Deep Freeze reaches Towns County



It's been cold everywhere, especially in Towns County. Temperatures were expected to be at zero or below on Tuesday. Towns County Schools were closed again on Tuesday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

The coldest temperatures in almost 20 years are in the forecast, according to the National Weather Service.

Temperatures below zero were forecasted for Towns County for Tuesday morning. Towns County Schools, which were scheduled to resume on Monday, were closed for the second consecutive day on Tuesday as hazardous road conditions and frigid temperatures played a major role in the cancellations.

Faculty members were asked to report on a two-hour delay. Monday's Grand Jury was cancelled as was the Tuesday meeting. Grand Jurors are asked to report to the Towns County Courthouse at 9 a.m. on Wednesday.

Not since 1977 has the region felt sub-zero tempera-

tures. Life-threatening wind chills were predicted for Tuesday, according to the National Weather Service.

A wind chill warning is only issued when the wind chill is low enough that it becomes life threatening, and for the first time since the Blizzard of 1993, and the National Weather Service has issued such a warning.

County road crews worked feverishly to salt and gravel down roadways throughout the county on Monday as snow and ice pelted the area. The accumulations were mild, but with wind chill factors in the single digits, the minuscule amount of precipitation created a traffic nightmare.

The warning for Tuesday is for sustained winds between 10 to 20 mph with gusts up to 40 mph, the low Monday night into Tuesday Morning is expected to be right around zero or slightly

below the zilch mark. The weather service urges folks to stay inside unless it is necessary to go outside. If going outside, take extra precautions against hypothermia and frostbite by wearing layers as well as hats and gloves because in temperatures this cold, frostbite can begin within 15 minutes.

In addition, the weather service rarely uses the phrase "particularly dangerous situation," but it is being used with this arctic chill created by a polar vortex. This phrase is added in the event that extreme wind chills are expected to quickly lead to frostbite or death.

The wind chill refers to real feel temperature, and it is figured by a formula between the actual temperature outside and the speeds of the wind. With increased wind speeds, a person's

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Deputies bust two for copper wire burglary

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Two people have been arrested and charged with stealing copper wire from an unfinished apartment, according to the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

Working off of a tip from a Towns County resident, a Towns County Sheriff's Office deputy arrested two suspects during a burglary of an unoccupied apartment off Shakerag Road.

The incident allegedly occurred late in the evening on Dec. 31, when a local resident reported a suspicious vehicle near some unfinished apartments, and Towns County deputies arrived on the scene and interviewed the witness.

Towns County Sheriff's Deputy C. J. Worden, upon further investigation, discovered first, a white female, and later, a white male, inside the building.

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April Matheson



Brandon Silvers

Warmer weather on the way for Towns

By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

With wind chills of 7 degrees below zero at 8 p.m. on Monday, locals had to believe they were in a popsicle freezer.

Monday evening got colder and colder by the hour. By 8 p.m., temperatures were at 7 degrees with wind chills feeling even colder.

By daybreak on Tuesday, temperatures were expected to settle at zero or colder.

The bitter cold brought on by what weather experts refer to as a polar vortex. The vortex is a river of air that spins in a rough circle, around the hemisphere from west to east.

It's supposed to hold Arctic air where it belongs in the Arctic, but, sometimes it reaches out and does its own thing, forecasters say.

Nevertheless, there is very good news just around the corner as 40- to 50-degree temperatures never sounded so good.

Temperatures are headed into the 40-degree range by Wednesday, with 50-degree weather not far behind.

That's a heat wave in anybody's book.

According to the National Weather Service, temperatures will be steady at a high of 44 degrees by Wednesday, Jan. 8. The lows for Wednesday, a balmy 26 degrees.

The news gets better as virtual heat wave arrives on Thursday with a high of 49 degrees and a low of, yes, 32 degrees.

Who ever thought freezing temperatures would sound so good?

Of course on Thursday, there's the possibility of freezing rain, but, that's better than subzero temperatures.

The temperatures continue to climb on Friday as the high is forecast as 54 degrees. The low? You're going to smile, yes, 41 degrees.

Rain returns to the forecast for Saturday with a high of 55 and a low of 40 degrees.

Rain is in the forecast for the following four days, but, the high temperature is no lower than 52 degrees.

Sunday's forecast calls for 56 degrees and cloudy skies. A low of 39 degrees is expected, with a 20 percent chance of rain.

Rain is projected for Monday and Tuesday, with a 40 percent chance predicted for Monday, followed by a 30 percent chance of showers on Tuesday.

That's followed on Wednesday with mostly sunny skies and only a 10 percent chance of showers.

The low temperature for Wednesday, Jan. 15, 29 degrees.

Kendall approves 2014 budget

By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall addressed those in attendance at the called meeting to pass the Towns County General Fund 2014 Budget.

According to Commissioner Kendall, "many of the revenues and expenditures have remained the same with the exception of a few budget line items."

One example, of changes to the proposed budget included an increase to the Recreation and Culture expenditures.

The reason for the increase is that the Historical Society now has a permanent home at the old recreation center in Hiawassee, and there is a need for some modifications to the building.

Commissioner Kendall also indicated that the Historical Society, in order to move into their new home, there was a need for "some hi-tech equipment" which has been included in the Historical Society's \$21,000 budget.

These hi-tech items include necessary software, scanners, and cameras for the Historical Society's on-going efforts to preserve the history



Commissioner Bill Kendall approves the 2014 County Budget last week at the Towns County Courthouse. Photo/Todd Forrest

of Towns County.

Hiawassee City Councilwoman Joan Crothers is a member of the Historical Society, and she was on hand, and wanted to thank the county for everything they are doing to assist the Historical Society in all of their efforts.

"The Historical Society would like to thank Commissioner Kendall for giving us a new, and permanent home, and for the providing us with the funds necessary to continue the preservation of our counties

history," Crothers said.

Another increase in the expenditures is due to a 25 cents per hour increase for all county employees.

Commissioner Kendall expressed his desire to do more for the county employees, but was pleased that they were able to do that much.

In addition, \$96,000 has been allotted for the purpose of putting a new roof on the Towns County Jail, and \$95,000 was

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Towns' Welcome sign restored

By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

On Dec. 20th, the Welcome to Towns County sign near the intersection of Georgia 75 South and Georgia 76 East was completed; although, the sign itself was previously erected, the landscaping around the sign added the finishing touches.

The original sign was erected in 1995, and after some time, improvements were warranted. Therefore, in December 2012, the sign was redesigned, and a new structure was built including plaques to thank the sponsors who helped pay for the sign reconstruction.

However, in this past September, the sign was com-



The Welcome sign is restored. Photo/Azure Welch

Rollins Planetarium showcases Ice Worlds

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

Young Harris.—Young Harris College's O. Wayne Rollins Planetarium will kick off 2014 by exploring the polar regions with five special showings of "Ice Worlds" at 8 p.m. on the following Friday evenings: Jan. 17, Jan. 24, Feb. 21, Feb. 28 and March 21.

Planetarium admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and free with YHC ID.

Narrated by two-time Academy Award nominee Emily Watson, "Ice Worlds" takes audiences on a tour of frozen vistas through the solar system to explore the critical relationship between ice and life—and no parka is needed to travel to these glacial climates.

From the icy moons of the outer planets to the recent landings on Mars, this show immerses audiences in each landscape to show how ice behaves on very different worlds.

Studying neighbors in space increases the understanding of human influence on ice, snow and water throughout our dynamic planet and its ever-changing climate.

O. Wayne Rollins Planetarium features a state-of-the-art GOTO Chronos Space Simulator star projector with a full-dome digital projection system, the Sky-Skan Definition, in a 40-foot dome theater with 5.1 surround sound.

Recently renovated with comfortable seating for 104, Rollins Planetarium offers public shows and educational opportunities for school groups throughout the year. Rollins Planetarium is located in the Maxwell Center on the YHC Campus.

If skies are clear, the YHC Observatory is open immediately after planetarium shows. The observatory features a Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope and is located around 1.5 miles from campus at Brasstown Valley Resort. Maps are available at the planetarium. Observing sessions last up to one hour and include a guided tour of the constellations.

For more information about O. Wayne Rollins Planetarium and Observatory events, call (706) 379-5195 or visit yhc.edu/planetarium.

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