

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, January 22, 2014

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	30 8
Fri: Sunny	34 15
Sat: Clouds	44 22
Sun: Sunny	49 21
Mon: Clouds	47 23
Tue: Clouds	40 20
Wed: Clouds	42 23



Upstream Elevation Predicted 01/22/14	
Lake Chatuge	1,918.33
Lake Nottely	1,761.72
Blue Ridge	1,669.10

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Towns County Homeowners Association

potluck dinners

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Fire Adapted Community Pilot Project

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Understanding Hospice, Palliative Care and End-of-life Issues Seminar

Brasstown Manor
Jan 23rd, 2 PM

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WRESTLING:

Tues. Jan 21
@ Robbinsville, NC
Fri. Jan 24
vs. Hayesville
6 PM
Sat. Jan 25
@ Stephens Co. 9 AM
BASKETBALL:
Tues. Jan 21
@ Prince Avenue 6 PM
Fri. Jan 24
vs. Providence 7 PM
Sat. Jan 25
Vs. Riverside
(Homecoming) 6 PM

Noblet, Gurley head to Columbus

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

Jackson Noblet and Jayrd Gurley will conclude their stellar Towns County Indian football careers in Columbus on Feb. 8.

The two gridiron stars will compete in the Alabama-Georgia Indoor Football Classic, Indians Head Coach Blair Harrison said.

The High School All Star game is sponsored by the Columbus Lions Indoor Football Club and played at the Columbus Civic Center.

The match up pits Team Red versus Team Blue.

Noblet and Gurley will play on Team Blue, Coach Harrison said.



Jayrd Gurley, Coach Blair Harrison and Jackson Noblet will represent Towns County in the Alabama-Georgia Indoor Football Classic on Feb. 8 in Columbus at the Columbus Civic Center. Photo/Charles Duncan

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Homecoming on Saturday

By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

On Saturday, January 25th during half time of the Towns County Boys basketball game against Riverside Military Academy, Basketball Homecoming Royalty will be named.

Before Towns County Schools had a football team there was basketball and during basketball season the Homecoming Court would be crowned during the half time of a game, and at this time Towns County only had a boys' basketball team.

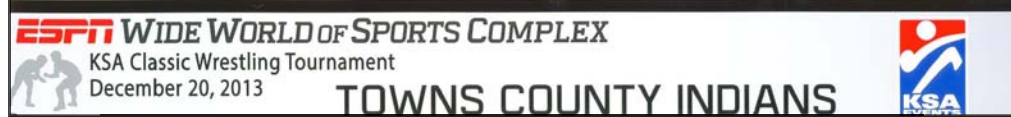
Therefore, in keeping

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One of these lovely young ladies and handsome gentlemen will be named Homecoming King and Queen on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The Indians had a blast at Disney



Head Coach Jeff Stowers and the Towns County Indians' wrestling team say thank you to the community for all their support in getting the team to Florida.

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Towns County Indians Head Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers and the Towns County Indians Wrestling team would like to take say thank you.

They take this opportunity to thank the individuals and businesses that made the

team's trip to Disney World a reality, Coach Stowers said.

"Were it not for the support of businesses like Ingles, Happy Hawg BBQ, Mary's Southern Grill, Riverbend Campground, Chatuge Shores Golf Course, Bald Mountain Park Camp Ground and Zaxby's, the trip would have never been possible," Coach Stowers said.

"We would also like to

thank Superintendent Melissa Williams and the Towns County Board of Education as well as Jonathan Gibson and Roy Perren for allowing us to go," Stowers said.

"Lastly, we would like to say a huge thank you to each and every individual who made a contribution toward our trip," Coach Stowers said. "It truly was the trip of a lifetime."

Young Harris family displaced by fire

Towns County Herald
News Special

According to Capt. David Sellers with Towns County Fire & Rescue, a single-family home located at 1734 Old Union Church Road occupied by two people, was engulfed in flames on Friday night.

The call was received at 11:18 p.m. by Towns County firefighters.

With a response time of only six minutes, Capt. Jeff Krokonko from Fire Station 2 arrived on the scene with Engine 2, to find a single-family dwelling engulfed in flames.

Also dispatched were Tanker 2 and Tanker 1 from Station 1. Fourteen firefighters battled the flames as winds helped push the fire through the residence.

The couple in the residence escaped through the rear of the home with no injuries. No fire hydrant was close by, so a water shuttle was set up, providing water to extinguish the blaze and grass



Fire at this Young Harris home displaced two people.

fire around the house.

Four firefighters stayed on scene throughout the night making sure that no further damage would occur.

Frigid temperatures and high winds made firefighting

difficult for all involved in the extinguishing of the blaze.

According to Towns County Fire & Rescue Assistant Fire Chief Harold Copeland, the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Towns breaks ground for library upgrades

By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Public Library proudly and officially broke ground Saturday on the Towns County Public Library renovation and addition project, one that has been long anticipated by members and supporters of the library, and the community of Towns County.

Donna Howell, the Director of the Mountain Regional Library System, was the master of ceremonies for this occasion.

Because of the chilly temperatures and even colder wind chills, the actual ceremony was held inside the Towns County Courthouse, while the actual ceremonial "digging" took place on a portion of ground behind the library that used to be a parking lot, and is now designated for the additional library space.

Howell told the crowd that she was thrilled to have "all of you here with us to commemorate this long anticipated ground breaking," which has been seven years in the making.

Howell continued by saying how "amazing of an opportunity" this is for the Towns County Public Library and she is delighted that the hard work of so many has paid off.

Briefly succeeding Howell, Dr. John Kay, who is on both the Towns County Public Library Board of Trustees, and the Mountain Regional Library System Board of Trustees, provided the invocation for the ceremony, asking for "blessings upon this property that so many hold so dear."

Howell said that she wanted to "recognize some people who have been instrumental in attaining their project goals, and they are not listed in order of importance."

Howell thanked Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall because if "it was not for his true love of Towns County, and for his work adding the library's project to the Long-Term Planning Commission's agenda, this project would not have taken hold."

Howell also thanked the Towns County Public Library staff members because "they have all put a lot of work into this project and because they are the heart and soul of the



Donna Howell

library."

One Towns County community member went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure this renovation and addition project for the library was approved at the state level when it came time for funding decisions to be made.

Shirley Stallings, a native to Towns County, was instrumental in a letter writing campaign that she touted throughout the county, and the efforts provided her with more than 700 letters of community support, but that is not the entirety.

Stallings literally collected all of the letters herself and personally drove and hand delivered this enormous stack of community support to the State Capitol.

Stallings briefly spoke to the crowd. She explained her profound love for the library.

"When I was a teenager and very confused, I was lucky enough to work in the library," Stallings said. "So, one day I asked the librarian a question, and she told me something that I have never forgotten. She told me, 'the answer to any question you could ever have can be found in a book, you just have to want the answer bad enough to find it.'"

Ever since, Stallings said that she has immersed herself in books and in the library, and she will forever hold an intense and deep affection for the library. That's why she collected all of those letters of community support.

It is hard to believe, but more than 70 percent of the Towns County population holds a valid library card. That's a higher percentage than the number of people registered

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Fire Adaptive PSA filmed in Towns

By Charles Duncan
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In late December, the International Association of Fire Chiefs sent a film crew with professional actors to Towns County to film a Public Service Announcement for the Fire Adapted Communities program.

What better place to do this than right here in Towns County where the Eastern Hub of the national Fire Adapted Communities pilot projects is currently under development.

The Fire Adapted Communities program was awarded to only eight communities across the United States and Towns County is the only one east of the Mississippi and is leading the pack of eight with the project.

The national FAC grant administrators frequently use the program here in Towns County as the example of "How to Do It right"

The Chatteee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council is the administrator of the Towns FAC grant and the plans are for the RC&D to spread the FAC concept all around the Southeast when developed here so other communities can become Fire Adapted and be safer from wildfire.

The FAC Public Service Announcement focuses on Firewise principles and shows a homeowner doing the right things to make her home more wildfire resistant.

While the lady was rak-



Frank Riley

ing, her 8-year-old son was jumping in a pile of leaves and crews from the Towns County Fire Rescue and Georgia Forestry Commission were responding to a woods fire across the street and this created conversation between the mother, the year 8-year-old, and the firefighters about what Firewise and Fire Adapted is all about.

"There was also a 'Town Hall meeting' scene where we presented the Firewise Communities program to a group of homeowners just like we have done since 2009 for Towns County's 12 Certified Firewise communities," RC&D Execu-

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

