

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Snow	41 22
Fri: Rain	44 20
Sat: Clouds	48 31
Sun: Clouds	50 30
Mon: Clouds	54 36
Tue: Clouds	55 34
Wed: Clouds	58 39



Upstream Elevation Predicted 02/12/14	
Lake Chatuge	1,918.14
Lake Nottely	1,762.29
Blue Ridge	1,670.90

INDEX

2 Sections, 14 Pages

Arrests2A
Church/Obits2B,3B
Classifieds4B
Editorial4A
Letters4A
Legals4B

Snowstorm stalks Towns; Gov. Deal declares state of emergency

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Gov. Nathan Deal has issued a State of Emergency for the North Georgia Mountains as significant snowfall is expected through Thursday.

According to Gov. Deal's office, a state of emergency has been declared in Cherokee, Forsyth, Hall, Banks, Jackson, Murray, Fannin, Gilmer, Union, Towns, Pickens, Dawson, Lumpkin and White counties. The weather service predicts snow accumulations of 1 to 3 inches in the first phase of the snowstorm.

The mountains could experience more than 10 inches of snow during by Thursday, according to the National Weather Service.

The weather service projects 1-3 inches of snow Tuesday, with an additional 4-6 inches of snow on Wednesday. The precipitation in the North Georgia Mountains is expected to remain snow during the aforementioned weather events.

County Roads Superintendent Clyde Shook said the county is ready for the next round of weather.

"We're ready," he said. "We've got plenty of salt, gravel and we've got the truck ready with chains.



Commissioner Bill Kendall and Roads Superintendent Clyde Shook prepare for a winter storm that has Towns County in its crosshairs.

"We're in pretty good shape," he said.

Shook said the greatest expectation of snow is Wednesday.

"We're expecting more snow than ice," he said. "That's what we're hoping. Wednesday is supposed to be the biggest day for precipitation, that's what we're hearing."

The weather service is calling the storm two events,

with Monday into Tuesday the first event, and Tuesday into Wednesday the second event. The events are expected to be separated by 12-18 hours, according to the weather service. The second event could last into Thursday, according to the weather service.

The heavy snow totals could impact power lines and cause outages. Unlike the Jan. 28 snowstorm, which produced

a stubborn dry snow, the oncoming snowstorm is expected to bring a wet, heavy snow, more likely to impact power lines and trees.

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC General Manager Matthew Akins said that the EMC will keep a close watch on trees and power lines which the expected heavy snow could impact.

"We'll just have to wait and see what happens," he said.

Tuesday's snowstorm calls for an 80 percent chance of two inches of snow or more, according to the weather service.

According to the weather service, the precipitation in the North Georgia Mountains is expected to remain all snow, with no accumulation of ice, which is projected for the Metro Atlanta area.

Temperatures will continue to fall into the 20s on Wednesday, bringing no relief from the snow totals, according to the weather service. Temperatures are expected to remain in the mid-to-upper 20s into Thursday, the weather service projected.

There could be more snow coming Thursday with a 50 percent chance of a winter storm on Thursday, with a possible accumulation of 2-to-4

inches of snow, according to the weather service.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said the county is geared up and ready to take care of the county roads.

"Hopefully, we won't get ice," he said. "The weather reports we're paying attention to say the ice will be due south of us.

"We can deal with snow a lot better than we can ice," he said. "We've got plenty of salt, and we've got everything ready to go.

"We're prepared for anyone that has an emergency," he said. "If you need us, call us, we'll come to help.

"I've already had calls about someone needing dialysis treatment, so we'll make sure they get where they need to be, snow, or no snow," Commissioner Kendall said. "Tell the people if they have an emergency to just call us and we'll come help.

"Give them my cell phone number, (706) 994-4644, or tell them to call 911," Commissioner Kendall said.

Kendall shakes his head, rolls his eyes, and wishes spring was just around the corner.

"It's not a lot of fun dealing with this much winter," he

See Storm, Page 8A

Snow threatens Region 8-A Tourney in Commerce

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Region 8-A Basketball Tournament, with both the Towns County Lady Indians and Indians participating, is scheduled for this week at Commerce High School in Commerce.

The tourney faces stiff odds, as threats of postponements due to predicted snow and ice for North Georgia lurk at every corner.

Those planning to attend the games should confirm the dates and times before driving to Commerce as the week progresses.

At press time, the Indians, as the fourth-seeded team from Sub-Region 8A North, were scheduled to face the winner of a Monday play in game between Prince Avenue Christian School and George Walton Academy on Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. with the winner of that game to face Athens Christian.



Misty Lindemuth launches a layup, part of her 15-point effort against Commerce last week. The Lady Indians will return to the home of the Lady Tigers as the No. 2 seed in Region 8-A North. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

That game against, the top seed from Sub-Region 8-A South is scheduled at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The winner of that game will qualify for the Region 8-A Semi Finals on Friday.

The winner of that game qualifies for the region championship game on Saturday.

The loser will play in the consolation game on Saturday.

As the second seed from the Sub-Region 8-A North by virtue of a coin toss with co-leader Lakeview Academy, the Lady Indians are scheduled at the time of this writing to see their first action against Athens Christian, the third seeded team from Sub-Region 8A South, at 7 p.m. Thursday.

The winner of that game will likely face state-ranked George Walton Academy, the top seed from Sub-Region 8-A South.

See Tourney, Page 8A

Queen, Spears chosen All-District

Towns County Herald
News Special

Two members of the Towns County High School Band were recently named to the Georgia All-Ninth District Band, Towns County Band Director Frank McKinney said.

Miranda Queen on clarinet, and Chloe Spears on bass clarinet, were chosen based on their scores from district auditions held last December in White County, McKinney said.

Auditions included performances of major scales and arpeggios, an etude and sight-reading. The two will join with other top musicians from North Georgia high schools for three days of rehearsals and then a concert at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Fannin Performing Arts Center in Blue Ridge, weather permitting. The concert is open to the public and is free.



Miranda Queen, left, and Chloe Spears have been selected as members of the Georgia All-Ninth District Band.

City, college negotiate water/sewer rates

By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Young Harris - The Young Harris City Council and Young Harris College are in discussions over the 2014 Comprehensive Water & Sewer Rate Ordinance.

The ordinance was first proposed last year; and after two months of stalemate, no agreement has been reached between the city council and Young Harris College regarding the proposed water rates.

Setting water and sewer rates is one of the local government's most important responsibilities, and for small, rural communities, the wastewater services are typically the largest capital investments in the community.

Utility services, such as



Mayor Andrea Gibby

the water and sewer services are expected to be financially viable and stable, which means that these services be provided at a rate that generates enough revenue to meet all expenses.

However, the water and sewer services provided by the City of Young Harris is not financially viable and, or, stable, and that is why the council and the Wastewater Committee have decided that a rate change is needed.

Originally, the college said that they were not allowed sufficient time to review the proposed rates.

However, the issue now appears to be in regards to the actual proposed rates which Stroman, Jay Stroman, Vice President for Advancement, for Young Harris College says are "unfair."

Stroman says the amount of an increase in water and sewer rates "will be at the expense of the students" attending

See Rates, Page 8A

TCSO detectives uncover more than \$1 million in fraud in elderly abuse case

Towns County Herald
News Special

An investigation into multiple cases of fraud and possible elderly abuse has been completed and is ready to be turned over to the Enotah Circuit District Attorney.

Towns County Sheriff's Office investigators followed up on a case first brought to the attention of authorities by the alleged perpetrator.

The suspect reported to Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton that one of the suspect's relatives had been taking money from his account.

The amounts totaled in the tens of thousands of dollars.

Sheriff Clinton called in Command Staff and investigators to follow up on the allegations.

It became apparent during the investigation that the alleged 'victim' may be involved in fraudulent activities with the original owner of the funds.

TCSO Detective Lt. Mark Cecci became the lead investigator in the case, and uncovered apparent misuse of power of attorney.

The true victim was living with or near the suspect at the time of the alleged crimes.

Detectives uncovered fraud and theft amounting to approximately \$1.4 million, which included cars, a boat, an off-road vehicle, a tractor, and other items, a house, and money totaling more than \$1 million in cash.

Towns County investiga-



Sheriff Chris Clinton

tors \$770,000 in cash initially, and the items bought with the funds. The United States Secret Service recovered approximately \$238,000 in cash at the request of Towns County Investigators.

Almost all of the crimes were committed in an adjacent county, but Towns County took the lead due to the fact that both the victim and the suspect reside in Towns County.

A relative of the victim has taken control of recovered items and funds through an attorney.

Due to the fact that there will be multiple charges in various counties, the evidence will be turned over to the District Attorney's Office for review and potential prosecution. More information will be released as the case unfolds.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



WRESTLING:

Fri and Sat
Feb. 14th & 15th
@ Macon
State
Tournament

BASKETBALL:

Region Tournament
@ Commerce



Habitat for
Humanity
accepting
applications

see page 3B



Living Well
Workshop

Towns County
Senior Center
FREE
6 Week
Program
see page 2A



Relay for Life
is asking
for your
Help!

see page 9A

Living Well
Workshop

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6 Week
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Habitat for
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