

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	47 29
Fri: Clouds	45 26
Sat: Sunny	51 28
Sun: Sunny	54 30
Mon: Clouds	54 30
Tues: Clouds	54 32
Wed: Clouds	48 25



Upstream Elevation Predicted	01/02/13
Lake Chatuge	1918.34
Lake Nottely	1761.92
Blue Ridge	1673.36

INDEX

12 Pages

Arrests.....	2
Chamber News.....	10
Church/Obits.....	6,7
Classifieds.....	11
Editorial.....	4
Letters.....	4
Legals.....	11

Sports

Page 8



Towns County Basketball

Friday, January 4 @ Commerce

Towns County Wrestling

Fri. & Sat. January 4 & 5 @ Holy Innocents

Monday, January 7 @ Robbinsville, NC 5:00 p.m.



The Towns County Chamber in conjunction with the Blairsville-Union County Chamber and the Small Business Development Center out of Gainesville, GA will be offering a five-week course on managing financials for the small business owner beginning February 22, 2013. The class will cover topics like budgets; financial statements; improving cash flow; identifying potential cash shortfalls; developing a strategic financial focus, and, much more. Price for the five-week course is \$69 for Chamber members and \$90 for non-members (lunch is included in the price). The classes will be part of both Chambers Lunch and Learn series of workshops. More information will be forthcoming.

Free Food Distribution



Tuesday, January 8 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Towns County Food Pantry

Elected officials sworn into office

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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Enotah Circuit Senior Judge Murphy Miller was sworn into office on Dec. 17th by Probate Judge/Magistrate David Rogers and Rogers in turn was sworn in by Judge Miller.

Judge Rogers was ready to get to the task of swearing in the returning and newly elected officials of Towns County who were voted into office in the general election on Nov. 6th.

Last week, Judge Rogers administered the oath of office and loyalty oath to Clerk of Superior Court Cecil Dye on Dec. 18th and to Sheriff Chris Clinton on Dec. 19th at the Towns County Courthouse.

Wednesday morning, Dec. 26th, Rogers was back in his official attire at the courthouse as he once again began the swearing in process for Coroner-Elect Tashina Hall Eller, Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, Tax Commissioner Bruce Rogers, and School Board Member-elect Bob Gibby.



Probate Judge David Rogers was a busy man last week swearing in the county's elected officials. Photo/Libby Shook

As they raised their hands for the oath of office and the loyalty oath, you could feel the swell of pride in the air.

There was a small gathering of family members and friends who had come to share in this special occasion as they stood proudly by, snapping

pictures and applauding after their loved ones were sworn into office.

A very excited and proud Eller said, "It is an honor to be given this opportunity to serve as coroner of Towns County

See Oaths, page 5

Lady Indians suffer defeat in Battle of the States Tourney

By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lady Indians Varsity Basketball team extended its undefeated season start to 11-0 with a one sided victory over Murphy last week in the Battle of the States Tournament.

Perfection turned to heartbreak as the Lady Indians fell to defeat in the second round of the tournament to a red hot-shooting Union County Lady Panthers team.

They also suffered a heart-wrenching overtime loss to Gordon Lee in the third round to finish fourth in the tournament.

The opening game of the tournament for the Lady Indians against Murphy was a total mismatch from start to finish in the only non-competitive game of the opening day of the Battle of the States.

The Lady Indians held leads of 7-0 and 24-2 on the way to a 26-7 lead after one quarter and it never got any better for the Lady Bulldogs.

The Lady Indians led 42-14 at intermission and 61-21 after three quarters on the way to a 70-25 victory.

In the second round, the Lady Indians fell to the Lady Panthers as Union County lit up the gym with red hot 3-point shooting and rallied from an early 17-4 deficit for an eventual 65-56 victory.

It was the third meeting of the two teams with the Lady Indians having taken decisive victories in the first two games and facing the often difficult burden of defeating an opponent three straight times.

There was reason to expect the possibility of third consecutive confrontation in



Eryn Cochran

three years in the Battle of the States between the previously undefeated Lady Indians and two-time defending Battle of the States Champion Gordon Lee of Chicamauga in the championship game.

But the two teams found themselves meeting each other in the third place game instead due to the Trojans falling victim, like the Lady Indians to Union County, and to a truly outstanding performance by Class AAA Dawson County in the semi finals on Friday.

The Lady Tigers were the eventual tournament champions.

Meanwhile, Towns and the Lady Trojans went to overtime.

And Gordon Lee's Cassidy Blevins did what superstars do as she made a huge play by driving the lane for a layup with :02 left for a field goal and a hard fought 70-69 Gordon Lee victory.

The Lady Indians' Eryn Cochran was named to the All-Tournament Team.

Cochran put up a combined 46 points in the tournament's three games.

She added 19 assists and a bevy of steals in the tourney.

Shop With a Cop a blast in Hiawassee



Hiawassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright, center, treats 25 local youth to a shopping adventure at the Blairsville Walmart. Photo/Libby Shook

By Libby Shook
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Christmas was just a little bit brighter for a select group of Towns County students as the 2012 Shop With a Cop program hosted a Walmart shopping spree for them on Saturday, Dec. 22nd.

Twenty-five eager young people, ages 12-16, met at the school at 8 a.m. along with 21

volunteers who were just as excited about this adventure as the students.

The Shop With a Cop program was implemented by Hiawassee's Police Chief Jimmy Wright in 2008.

Since its inception, the program has grown by leaps and bounds and this year's Fifth Annual Shop With a Cop was the biggest and best ever according to Wright.

"I have been over-

whelmed at the support and generosity that the citizens of Towns County have shown to the program. With the gracious donations of local businesses, organizations, and individuals, the program has grown to be more successful than I could have ever imagined," said Chief Wright.

According to Chief Wright, each student was elated

See Shop, page 5

Rogers has a leg up on life

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School junior Bradley Rogers had the world on a string in the eighth grade.

He was a star soccer player, had just finished his best year ever in Cross Country, finishing 34th with a time of 21:47.

He was a member of the wrestling team and a very popular kid in school, well liked by teachers, coaches and classmates.

He was at the top of his game in life and athletics until a swollen knee continued to bother him and a visit to the doctor changed his life forever.

Rogers explains the soreness occurred mid-way through wrestling season.

"My knee was bothering me pretty bad," Rogers said. "I told my mom I wanted to go have it checked. The news



After a battle with cancer, an amputation below the left knee, and lung surgery, Bradley Rogers is back on the mat and feeling better than ever. Photo/Joe Collins

wasn't good. The X-ray found about a quarter-sized tumor on my left knee.

"I had six months of chemo and then I chose to have a metal knee replacement," Rogers said. "I had a lot of problems with the replacement,

it was too painful to walk on and the cancer kept coming back in my leg.

"They put radiation on it and that made it worse," Rogers said. "One day I came home early from school and

See Rogers, page 5

Marine Corps League hands out Christmas

By Libby Shook
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Christmas is all about the children or at least that's the motto of the Marine Corps League, Unicoi Detachment 783, as they distributed toys to the children of Towns County on Dec. 15th and Dec. 22nd at the Towns County Courthouse.

They opened the doors at 9 a.m. both days and stayed until the late afternoon making sure that everyone in need was able to pick up toys for their children.

The Marine Corps See Toys page 5



Marine Corps League members are all smiles. Photo/Libby Shook

Historical Society brings the past to the present

By Libby Shook
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What's in a number? Well, 2012 was a very eventful year for the Towns County Historical Society as they continued to bring the past into the present as a reminder to all of how far Towns County has come as a community.

Members, old and new, have come together monthly at the old Senior Center averaging 45 to 75 people coming out to hear local residents share their knowledge, memories, photos, and memorabilia of various communities in the county as well as enjoying good food, fellowship, and sharing stories and remembrances of the county in its early days.

"Those attending were a good mixture of newcomers to the county who were anxious to learn more about the area they had moved into or the history of the county in general, and those who have lived here all their lives and contributed some personal history about the families or area being discussed," said Historical Society member and secretary Joan Crothers.

Towns County's official historian Jerry Taylor was the first featured speaker of 2012 as he provided a detailed and informative overview of the county at the February meeting.

With his quick wit and unlimited knowledge of the area, Taylor outlined the history of how many of the roads and community names in Towns County originated.

He definitely left everyone eager to return for the March, April, and May meetings as he continued his series on the history of Towns County in which he continued to discuss various communities and roads throughout the county.

He also provided the facts and myths behind the names and families, elaborated on the influence of early settlers and political figures.

He also gave insight as to how Native Americans influenced local names, and discussed and shared photos of many of the early buildings and houses of the area as well as the architectural influences of the time.



Dub Garrett

Taylor entertained and educated listeners with his interactive approach as he shared his wealth of information of the Towns County area.

At the June meeting, former Sole Commissioner Truman Barrett presented an informative and witty history of the Hog Creek community.

Barrett recalled his days as a young boy growing up in Hog Creek. He shared many photos of the early homes, farms, as well as photos of Union Hill Methodist Church, the Blue Jay Lunsford Store, and the old Hog Creek School.

Barrett discussed the impact the TVA had on the area, telling folks that TVA changed the economy of the entire Tennessee Valley area.

If you lived on Hog Creek, you could really appreciate what it was like when the power came on," said Barrett.

In July, Morris Phillips and Steve Holmes of the Friendship Community were the featured speakers as they shared their collective knowledge of the area.

The two of them have a combined 142 years of experience in this community. They recalled and shared the drastic changes that took place when Lake Chatuge was first built in 1940.

August's guest speaker, Betty Phillips, provided extensive information on the history of the Cedar Cliff Com-

See History, page 5

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

