

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 84 Number 7

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Rain	54 24
Fri: Sunny	46 26
Sat: Sunny	53 29
Sun: Clouds	53 29
Mon: Sunny	53 31
Christmas: Rain	48 30
Wed: Snow	48 28



Upstream Elevation Predicted 12/19/12	
Lake Chatuge	1916.76
Lake Nottely	1759.23
Blue Ridge	1670.95

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FFA Poinsettia Sale ends after Thurs., Dec. 20



Sale benefits Towns County High School FFA chapter. Call Sabrina Garrett, FFA Advisor at 706.896.4131 ext. 1219 for more information. See Page 6

It's A Wonderful Life



Sunday, December 23 2:30 p.m. Peacock Playhouse See Page 6

Towns County Basketball



Tues., Dec. 18 - 6 p.m. Hiwassee Dam, NC
Fri., Dec. 21 - 7 p.m. vs. Rabun Co.

Free Food Distribution



Tuesday, December 18 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Towns County Food Pantry

EARLY DEADLINE

For All Advertisements 12 noon Friday

For Articles 10 a.m. Friday

Merry Christmas!

Search on for Pearl flag owner

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

Dave Davis of American Legion Post 23 and VFW Post 7807 is on a mission.

He is searching for the owner of a flag that was brought into the VFW Thrift Store in Hiwassee to be retired.

Davis reports that a gentleman came in with a flag in a black garbage bag and told him that the flag needed to be retired.

He also told Davis that the flag had been on his deceased father's casket.

The gentleman also told Davis that his father had survived the bombing of the U.S.S. Arizona during the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Japanese bombers scored four hits out of seven



Dave Davis holds the flag in question. Photo/Libby Shook

attempts on the Arizona. The ship exploded when one of the bombs breached its ammunition room.

The attack killed 1,177 crew members of 1,512 on board the Arizona. Only 333 survived.

See Pearl, page 12

Letters to Santa in today's edition of The Herald

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Look inside today's edition of the Towns County Herald and you'll find the ever-popular Letters to Santa Christmas Section.

Each year the newspaper solicits and receives those all important letters to the Jolly Ole Elf himself, Santa Claus, sent from the youngsters at Towns County Elementary School.

TCES Principal Dr. Sandra Page was as excited as the newspaper to learn of the completion of those letters.

She knows the children at TCES have been nice in 2012 and not naughty at all.

With this information in mind, news travels fast to the

North Pole and with Christmas just six days away, it's almost a given that Santa will pay extreme consideration to all the Christmas requests.

This special section also is a tribute to our advertisers as well as our elected officials.

So please check out the Letters to Santa section and remember to read those letters with as much enthusiasm as Dr. Page and Santa Claus.

And from the staff here at the Towns County Herald, we wish you and yours the most Merry Christmas of all.

May your stockings run-neth over and your miracles come true.

And as we move on to the second part of this journey, we wish you a very Happy New Year and a glorious 2013.

Sheriff Clinton accepts state certification

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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Another historical milestone has been reached in Towns County.

The Towns County Courthouse was packed on Thursday night, Dec. 13th, as deputies of the Towns County Sheriff's Office lined the front rows attired in dress uniform and with smiles on their faces.

You could feel the swell of pride in the room. This was a night they would not soon forget as they sat waiting for the State Certification Ceremony for the Sheriff's Office to commence.

Since being voted into office, Sheriff Chris Clinton has envisioned this night and it was now becoming a reality for the department.

This prestigious honor is only bestowed upon agencies that develop and maintain standards of professionalism set forth by the State of Georgia.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office has now joined an elite group of law enforcement agencies, less than 100 agencies statewide, to receive this honor.

Sheriff Clinton asked his good friend, Gilmer County Sheriff Stacy Nicholson, to do



Sheriff Chris Clinton accepts Towns County's state certification from his former Sheriff Stacy Nicholson. Photo/Libby Shook

the honors of presenting the award. Clinton served under Nicholson before being elected Sheriff of Towns County.

"We're not here to recognize Chris Clinton and I think Chris will agree with me," Sheriff Nicholson said. "We are here to recognize the Towns County Sheriff's Office."

"The Towns County Sheriff's Office is now State Certified," said Nicholson who

See Certified, page 12

Coroner-Elect Eller ready to get to work

By Libby Shook
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Coroner-Elect Tashina Eller was the guest speaker Friday morning, Dec. 14th, at the Movers and Shakers breakfast at Mary's Southern Grill.

Eller defeated incumbent Coroner Rickey Mathis by four votes at the Nov. 6th general election. Mathis asked for a recount which took place on Thursday, Nov. 15th with no change in numbers and Eller being declared the official winner.

"I first would like to thank everyone for your support during the election," Eller said.

Eller traveled to Forsyth during the week of Dec. 3rd through Dec. 7th to train for the office of coroner and she shared information learned during that week with those present at the breakfast.

"The primary goal of the Coroner's Office is to provide answers and assist in the closure process for loved ones involved in a death," she said. "I feel it is important to be sensitive to the family's needs while maintaining the professionalism needed to investigate the death."

Eller introduced Deputy Coroner Micah Lynn who will be responsible for performing the duties of coroner in her absence.

"Micah and I have sat down and worked on a 'to do' list and it is ever growing," she said.

Part of the "to do" list, according to Eller, includes sitting down with Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton and talk-



Tashina Eller

ing about the processing of a crime scene or accident scene.

She discussed her plans to "meet with the First Responders" in regard to expectations on all sides.

She also said that she and Lynn will be traveling to Atlanta to meet with the State Medical Examiner.

"I believe establishing lines of communication and cooperation between all possible agencies that could be involved in a death investigation in Towns County," said Eller.

"I am looking forward to serving our county and working closely with the many agencies involved in death investigations," she said.

Eller told those present that Probate Judge David Rogers will be swearing her in as Coroner "as soon as he is commissioned by the Governor's Office."

At press time, no date had been scheduled.

Eller will assume the duties of coroner effective 12:31 a.m. Jan. 1, 2013.

Eller is eager to serve as Towns County's first female coroner.

BOE honors Montgomery Wilson

By Libby Shook
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On Monday night, Dec. 10th, the Towns County School Board dedicated and named the Towns County Elementary School Media Center the Montgomery Wilson Elementary School Media Center.

Wilson's sons Kerry and Heyward Wilson and other family members were present for the dedication and naming program.

Superintendent Melissa Williams presented a plaque to his sons in honor of his years of dedicated service to the Towns County School System.

"I didn't get to know Mr. Montgomery Wilson, or 'Mont' as everyone here calls him," Williams said. "But, I feel like I know him because most of the people on the school board and many of you here tonight knew him as an administrator. It is

See Media Center, page 12



Superintendent Melissa Williams and the BOE honored former administrator Montgomery Wilson last week. Left is Wilson's son Heyward and right is son Kerry Wilson. Photo/Libby Shook

VFW honors Towns' students, teachers

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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VFW Post 7807 School Chairman and Trustee Glen Greenwald and Quarter Master Frank Norton recognized students and teachers Thursday morning, Dec. 13th, at Towns County High School.

Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren said the event was special.

"How special this is to be in a place where the VFW cares about our kids and our community. The VFW is very generous to the schools. We are pleased

See VFW Honors page 12



VFW Post 7807 honored Danielle Diehl, the winner of the TCHS Voice of Democracy Essay Award. Photo/Libby Shook

Santa comes to Towns - again

By Libby Shook
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Santa Claus returned to the Anderson Music Hall on Saturday, Dec. 15th, for the 2012 Lion's Club Give-a-Christmas.

The Lions are well-known for their community involvement, but Give-a-Christmas is one of their favorite community-based activities as they work very hard, starting in October, collecting toys and donations to make sure that no child is forgotten at Christmas.

This year was no different as they decked The Hall and got ready for the fun to commence.

Beautiful Christmas trees were decorated as Santa talked with the children, listened to their wish lists, and gave them a special treat.

The children were wide-eyed with the wonder of Santa and the festivities of the holiday season.

Parents were busy snapping pictures as their children sat on Santa's knee.

In addition to all the Lion Club members on hand to help assist the families, hand out cookies to the kids, and distribute gifts to the children, the Leo Club members were there



Julie Payne

to help as well. They were all wearing big smiles and welcoming the children and their families.

These remarkable young people are very civic-minded and work very hard to fulfill their responsibilities within the club. There were a lot of places they could have been on a Saturday morning, but they were at The Hall wishing folks a Merry Christmas.

They made sure that the children all left with a stuffed animal after their visit with Santa.

The targeted age groups

See Lions' Christmas, page 12

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

