

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Sunny	93 66
Fri: Sunny	89 67
Sat: Storms	82 64
Sun: Storms	87 65
Mon: Clouds	85 65
Tue: Clouds	84 65
Wed: Clouds	86 66



Upstream Elevation Predicted 7/07/10	
Lake Chatuge	1924.70
Lake Nottely	1774.90
Blue Ridge	1685.20

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## Early Voting

Early voting continues this week for the July 20 Primary.

More than 200 locals have cast ballots during the early voting process.

To cast early ballots, go to the Board of Elections and Registration at 91 Berrong St. in Hiawassee, better known as the Old Rock Jail.

Opportunities to cast ballots are plentiful – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Tuesdays, ballots can be cast from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Towns County voters also can cast ballots on Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The last opportunity to vote on Saturday prior to the Primary is July 17, from 9 a.m. to noon.

## Qualifying

Two Enotah Circuit Superior Court judges have November competition and a vacant seat on the Towns County Board of Education is up for grabs.

That's the results of last week's qualifying for judge-ships, Independent candidates and nonpartisan races.

Senior Enotah Circuit Superior Court Judge David Barrett will face former Enotah Circuit District Attorney David Turk for that judgeship.

Also, Enotah Circuit Superior Court Judge Lynn Alderman will face Dahlonega attorney Ridge Rairigh.

Qualifying for the three nonpartisan Towns County Board of Education seats resulted in two incumbents returning to office with no opposition. The third seat, currently held by Bob Gibby in Young Harris' Post 3, will be filled by either Jerry Taylor or Deanne Ledford.

The incumbents in Post 1 and Post 2, Michael Anderson and Emily Phillips respectively, will run unopposed.

Gibby, the incumbent in Post 3, stepped down due to filling his three-term limit on the Towns County Board of Education. His final term ends Dec. 31.

The election for judge-ships and nonpartisan races will be featured on the Nov. 2, General Election ballot.

## Community turns out for park ceremony

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall looked out among the masses in the Towns County Courthouse on Friday and winced with pain.

Something was missing. Not just something, somebody was missing.

He began to speak, he let the crowd know immediately that something just wasn't right, celebrating a 50-plus acre parcel of new park property without the guest of honor.

Nancy Broshears, now an icon in Towns County lore, noticed a touch of discontent in the commissioner's voice. She quickly turned to hear what ailed him.

"It just doesn't feel right; our good friend Johnnie is not here today,"

he said. "That bothers me." Nancy bowed her head. Indeed, the one person who made this event possible, her late sister, Johnnie Irene Foster, wasn't there to share in a glorious moment in Towns County history.

"They could have sold this property for a lot more money to developers," Commissioner Kendall said. "Nancy felt that this is what her sister Johnnie would have wanted; doing something for all Towns County."

In weeks and months leading up to Friday's event at the Courthouse, the groundwork had to be laid to make the occasion come to fruition. Jean Kendall, Commissioner Kendall's wife, approached Nancy in the spring about the property for Towns County to use as a park.

"I knew immediately

that would have been what my sister would have wanted – something beneficial to many people for years to come as a memorial to her and her husband Ralph," Nancy said.

Commissioner Kendall gave way to Nancy. She stood and looked around the room; she didn't hesitate to tell the crowd that she wasn't a public speaker.

"When Mr. Kendall asked me if I would like to say a few words here today I was about speechless," she said. "This is a happy day and a sad day for me. I'm sad because my sister is not here today.

"If she was, she would certainly have a big smile on her face," Nancy said. "I know if she could



Bill and Jean Kendall present Nancy Broshears with a plaque proclaiming July 2 "Nancy Broshears Day" in Towns County during a ceremony at the Towns County Courthouse on Friday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Stevens a hit at Music Hall



Locals went ape over Ray Stevens' *Gitarzan* on Saturday night at Anderson Music Hall in Hiawassee. Stevens, a comedic and music legend, played before a near capacity crowd at the Fairgrounds. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan  
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The pride of Hahira brought music fans at Anderson Music Hall to their feet on Saturday night, singing the quirky classic songs that made him an Interna-

tional music legend.

Ray Stevens didn't disappoint as he headlined the Fourth of July weekend in Hiawassee at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

He told the near capacity crowd that performing in North Georgia was a

pleasurable experience.

"It's great to be here in Hiawassee, GA. . . life in the fast lane," he said. "There's nothing more beautiful than the North Georgia Mountains."

See Ray Stevens, page 5A

## SPLOST vote in March?

By Charles Duncan  
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Touting a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum as a "second major step" for Towns County, Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall told a packed Towns County Courthouse that he's considering putting SPLOST on the ballot in March 2011.

The first major step, of course, was purchasing 50.3 acres on Mining Gap Trail from the Johnnie Irene Foster Charitable Trust for a recreation park.

The second major step, Commissioner Kendall said, is finding funding for the park's development.

"For the past year, we've discussed putting a SPLOST on the ballot," he said. "The Towns County Board of Education voted last month to discontinue the one they had going on for the past 10 years.

"The ball is back in the



Commissioner Bill Kendall county's court," he said. "The question is do I put it on the ballot for the voters to vote on. We were looking to do it in November. I've been listening to people in the county. The response I'm getting has been very favorable."

The Towns County Homeowners Association has endorsed a county SPLOST along with other

See SPLOST, page 5A

## Towns celebrates Fourth

By Shawn Henrikson  
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The mountain streams, beautiful views and cooler temperatures proved a magnet for tourists during the Fourth of July holiday.

They came from near and far, from as near as Cumming to as far away as Massachusetts.

They all wanted to witness the same thing: the beauty of Lake Chatuge and the cool of the night mountain air.

Mother Nature cooperated and temperatures hovered in the low 80s to high 70s throughout the weekend. Overnight temperatures dipped into the low 60s.

"The weather felt more like April or May and there's nothing wrong with that," said Chad Hooper, general manager of The Ridges Resort. "The cooler temperatures made people feel comfortable outside. I think that played a major role in how many people came to the mountains this weekend."

The local adventure began on Friday as more than 300 people attended a hot dog social at the Towns County Recreation Beach Area to celebrate the purchase of 50.3 acres of land on Mining Gap Trail for a new county park.

On Saturday, a day of recreation fun took place: horseshoes, a home run derby, a three-legged race



Towns County celebrated the Fourth of July in style. From a celebrated fireworks display to a Boat Parade to a Little Miss Recreation Pageant. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

## Wind energy arrives in Towns



Mike Hoover of Green Point Wind & Solar aids BRMEMC linemen as they permanently attach a wind turbine to the ground above the Towns County Schools softball field last week. Photo/Charles Duncan

By Charles Duncan  
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Towns County Schools have become the first public school in the state to have a wind turbine on its campus.

It's all part of the \$27,405 in federal stimulus dollars the school recently received to install a 2.4 kilowatt Skystream Residential Wind Turbine just outside the fences at the school's varsity softball field.

The grant comes through the Appalachian Regional Commission and doesn't cost local property taxpayers any extra funds, said Dr. Richard Behrens, Superintendent of Towns County Schools.

"We're honored that they selected us," Dr. Behrens said. "It's a great opportunity for our kids to learn about what wind turbines are and hopefully in a few weeks, we'll have this up

on the Internet where people can access it and look at it and see how we're doing."

Dr. Behrens plans to introduce the wind turbine technology into the school's curriculum. He even plans to introduce elementary school students to the wind turbine. Eventually, TCHS students will learn first hand the merits of wind energy, he said.

Though Towns County is the first public school to experience wind turbine technology, several surrounding school systems will be working with the school system to implement the NEED Energy Program across their own curriculum.

See Wind Energy, page 3A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

