

Towns County Herald

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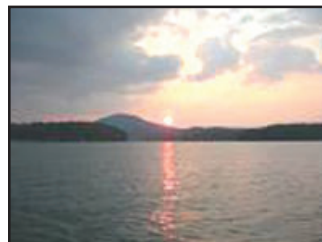
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Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2010

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Showers	75 48
Fri: Sunny	75 45
Sat: Sunny	70 41
Sun: Sunny	66 38
Mon: Sunny	67 40
Tue: Sunny	72 39
Wed: Sunny	73 43



Upstream Elevation
Predicted
9/29/10

Lake Chatuge	1920.80
Lake Nottely	1767.50
Blue Ridge	1634.50

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Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will hold its free food distribution on Tuesday, Oct. 5. The distribution will be held at the Towns County Food Pantry on Jack Dayton Circle from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. If you are unable to pick up your food, please call (706) 896-4783 for more details. All clients and inquiries are kept confidential.

BOE meet

The Towns County Board of Education's Oct. 11th Regular Meeting is rescheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 12. The meeting time and location are not changed.

Youth Basketball

The Towns County Recreation Department will hold Youth Basketball registration Oct. 11 through Oct. 23. Register your child Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Cost: \$45.

Age divisions include 10 and under (8,9 and 10 year olds), 12 and under (11 and 12 year olds), and 14 and under (13 and 14 year olds). This is for both boys and girls.

For more details about basketball registration, please contact the Recreation Department at (706) 896-2600.

City qualifying

It is official: the Hiawassee City Council seat in Post 5 is contested.

Pat Smith, a former County Clerk for Towns County, who announced her candidacy for Cunningham's Post 5 seat on the council prior to qualifying, qualified for the post on Sept. 20.

Chris Swett, 48, also has qualified to seek the Post 5 seat left vacant due to the recent resignation of long-time councilman Howard Cunningham.

Qualifying for the Post 5 Council Seat concluded last Wednesday at noon.

Gambler comes to Towns

By Charles Duncan
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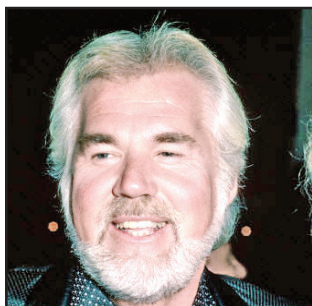
The legend of Kenny Rogers is coming to Anderson Music Hall.

Rogers, whose career has spanned more than five decades, whose voice immortalized such Rock, Pop and Country Music classics as *Ruby, Lady and Lucille*, arrives here Nov. 28 at 2 p.m.

The Gambler is the entertainment for the 2010 Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Christmas Show at Anderson Music Hall, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason announced on Monday.

Tickets go on sale Oct. 8. Prices are \$45 plus \$2 handling and \$35 plus \$2 handling, Thomason said.

Without a doubt, Rogers is a legend, pure and simple. He's performed in countless TV shows, Silver Screen movies and televised



Kenny Rogers holiday specials.

Rogers is credited with more than 40 music awards from Rock to Pop to Country Music. His awards include Grammys, lifetime achievements, Top Male Vocalist and numerous albums of the year. Most importantly, Rogers is credited as being one of the Top 40 Country Music male stars within the genre.

To date Rogers has recorded 65 albums and sold more than 122 million records.

Rogers follows yet another legend, Don Will-

iams, who comes to The Hall on Oct. 23.

Williams will be in Hiawassee the night before he's inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tenn. on Oct. 24th.

Williams, who has 17 No. 1 hits to professional credits, is one of the most legendary sounds in Country Music. He was named Male Vocalist of the Year in 1978 and his iconic hit *Tulsa Time* has crossed genres and has been featured in major Hollywood motion pictures.

However, his most memorable No. 1 hit is *I Believe in You*, a song, recorded in 1980, that reflects on the times we lived. It is a telling tale of the things in life that aren't genuine and the things that really mean the most.

See Kenny Rogers, page 2A

\$2,000-plus for Shriners

By Charles Duncan
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The first Shriner's Poker Run at The Ridges Resort has added more than \$2,000 to the cause for Shriner's Children Hospitals.

The event, held Saturday, featured 43 hands of poker played and all proceeds went to Shriner's Children Hospitals, Ridges General Manager Chad Hooper said.

"Everyone had a great time," Hooper said. "This was all about helping the Shriners' Hospitals at the end of the day. I can't think of a better cause than helping under privileged children. The Shriners' Hospitals are a very worthy cause and it was a chance to help make a difference in the life of a child."

The way to play the Poker Run was simple: seven-card stud, with participants going to seven locations on Lake Chatuge



Chad Hooper

and choosing a card from each location. The entry fee was \$25 with the opportunity to draw an eighth card for a \$50 fee.

The hands were determined for best hand at the Boat House Yacht Club at the end of the day, Hooper said.

"A lot of our staff donated their time to make the event a success," Hooper said. "Rob at The Boat House Yacht Club played a

See Poker Run, page 3A

Summer's Last Kiss a wet one



Event organizers cut loose the ceremonial balloons that kick off the annual Summer's Last Kiss, An Affair With The Arts event on Saturday. The two-day event was caught off guard by rain on Sunday that dampened the second day of the festive occasion. Saturday, however, was perfect. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

By Lisa Davis
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Tourists are becoming accustomed to Summer's Last Kiss, An Affair With The Arts, now in its third year on the Downtown Square in Hiawassee.

Even though rain clouds were looming in the distance, the event drew quite a weekend crowd. For many, Summer's Last Kiss was familiar; for others, the visit was their first event experience.

On Saturday, the weather was beautiful, with sunny skies and breezy, fall weather.

Sadly, the rain caused Sunday's crowd to pack up and leave earlier than planned.

Vendors at the event sponsored by the Towns County Tourism Association included Destiny Alpacas, the soft, camel-like animals, weighing in at 150 pounds. They fall short in stature to that of their relative, the Llama, who is, by nature, more aggressive.

Regardless of their size and demeanor, the Alpacas

were a hit with the children.

Meanwhile, artists sat under a tent, sketching outlines of various objects to serve as demonstrations. Their work included both graphic works done on a computer and sketches done the old-fashioned way, with a paper and pencil.

Other artists and craftsman included a jewelry display that included unique pendants, ranging from turquoise to ammonites, snail-like fossils which are cut in half in order to make the pendants.

The event also featured live entertainment by Fuzion Dance Company, featuring Ginny Rhoades, Easton Payne, Taylor Vardeman, Sarina Kurrimbukus, Lindy Hollingshead, Ansley Vardeman and Caitlin Sheffield.

The dancers started out in a choreographed piece in their rival colors of green and blue in a feature entitled "Church" choreographed by Amy Vardeman. One other spe-

cial feature was a solo by Rhoades, "Never Gonna Be Alone."

United Community Bank was on hand with free face painting and a fall leaf weave craft, tattoos and beads for the children. The bank's Junior Board of Directors was on hand to assist the children in these activities.

Bank of Hiawassee also had a significant presence at the event with free decorative Butterfly art for the children to have a fun experience with. The bejeweled butterflies were decorated with markers, glitz and glitter and stick-on jewels.

Playing until the end of the event, the band, Loose Cannons, made up of U.S. Military members, ended Summer's Last Kiss with a Pop spin on today's modern music.

With the last few notes in the air, Summer's Last Kiss left a lingering feeling of summer, along with anxious anticipation of fall in the North Georgia Mountains.

Towns voters continue process of early ballots

By Charles Duncan
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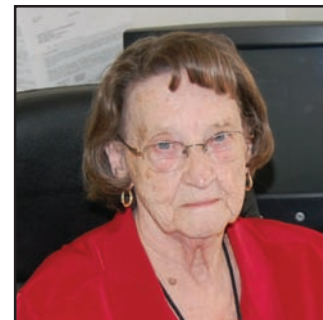
More than 180 Towns County voters have cast early ballots in the Nov. 2 General Election.

The early voting for the Nov. 2 general election is well underway at the Old Rock Jail.

Early voting began Sept. 20 and potential voters still have an opportunity to register to vote in the November General Election.

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 2 election is Oct. 5.

Early ballots can be cast at the Board of Elections and Registration at 91 Berrong St. in Hiawassee, better known as the Old Rock Jail. On Monday, voters ignored the wet conditions offered by Mother Nature to continue to cast ballots early, Towns County



Irma Nichols

Early Voting officials said.

The mid-term elections allow voters the chance to choose the state's next governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, Agriculture Commissioner, Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, and Secretary of State.

Also, voters must decide who will be their next U.S. Senator, and U.S. House representative as well

See Early voting, page 2A

Amendments can confuse voters

By Charles Duncan
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While voters must decide on which candidate best represents them in the various seats up for grabs in the upcoming General Election, the confusing part of the Nov. 2 election comes at the end of the ballot.

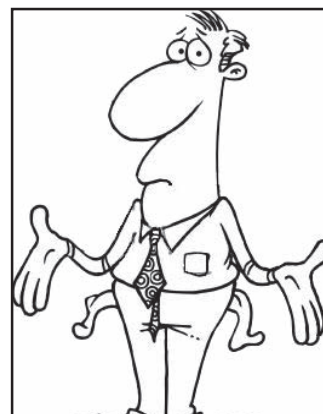
The confusion centers on five proposed Georgia constitutional amendments and a statewide referendum proposing a statewide Freeport tax exemption for businesses.

The Towns County Herald will attempt to break each proposed amendment down to give a better explanation than the ballot itself.

Proposed Amendment No. 1 asks "Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to make Georgia more economically competitive by authorizing legislation to uphold reasonable competitive agreements?"

The question itself is designed to lead the voter to a positive conclusion without much of an explanation.

Truth be told, legislation was passed in 2009 with this amendment in mind. The present Georgia constitution prohibits or impairs *non-competes* contracts typically with companies and employees which limit what employees can do if they leave the employment of that



company-hence the "non-competes" clause.

This *non-competes* clause could extend to banning selling to the present employers' customers or other related customers. Judges could also, under this amendment, alter an agreement's provision to satisfy legal requirements.

Supporters believe the change would free companies to write tighter contracts with employees and protect trade secrets and or competitive trade details.

Opponents argue against broadening of these clauses because it could inhibit a person's ability to practice his or her profession in a small competitive industry. You be the judge.

See Amendments, page 9A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

