

# Towns County Herald

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Sunny	79 42
Fri: Sunny	77 42
Sat: Sunny	75 43
Sun: Clouds	75 48
Mon: Clouds	75 49
Tue: Clouds	75 46
Wed: Showers	73 46



Upstream Elevation Predicted 10/05/11	
Lake Chatuge	1920.70
Lake Nottely	1767.39
Blue Ridge	1674.08

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2 sections, 20 Pages

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## Sports

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## Fall Festival



Ricky Skaggs

The Fall Festival rolls into town and settles at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Friday. Come out and enjoy nine days of fun and adventure that include the best music lineup in years.

Percy Sledge, Ricky Skaggs, Diamond Rio, John Anderson, Gene Watson and T. Graham Brown headline the 2011 music acts that will perform during the nine days of the Festival. Come out and meet the Swamp Master, the Stilt Walker and the Living Statue. Experience the fun of Water Treading.

The Festival is slated from Friday Oct. 7 through Saturday Oct. 15. The Festival also includes the Georgia State Fiddlers Convention.

Daily crafts and exhibit hours are weekdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

## Deadline

The Towns County Herald deadline for classified advertising submissions has changed. The deadline is now Friday at 5 p.m.

## Reward

Recently the Tree Tops Chevron on Bell Creek Road was burglarized. The Towns County Sheriff's Office, along with the store's owner, is seeking help from the public in an effort to quickly solve this crime. Any information which leads to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for this crime will be treated confidentially, and a reward is offered by the owner of the store.

## Homecoming 2011: Indians all the way

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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The Towns County Indians wish it was the start of the 2011 football season. The youthful Indians put it all together on this night and emerged from a battle with North Cobb Christian as the victor by a score of 33-6.

It was a night when everything clicked: offense, defense, special teams and of course, coaching.

Indians Head Football Coach Kyle Langford and his staff could do no wrong and the Indians celebrated Homecoming Night like it was the season opener.

Coach Langford was especially proud of the Indians' offensive line.

"The O-line has really worked hard," Coach Langford said. "They work hard all the time, but this

week they really worked hard on getting off the ball and being physical.

"I thought they were just that tonight - physical."

Wesley Bloodworth, recently reassigned to serve as the power back on offense, paid dividends early on, finding the end zone twice for touchdowns.

Sophomore quarterback Jackson Noblet rushed for two scores and senior tailback Noah Calhoun rambled 80 yards for a touchdown as the Indians made it two in a row on Homecoming Night.

"Defensively, everyone was getting to their right spots getting the hats on hats," Coach Langford said. "That's what I was most pleased with; I thought the secondary played well, they did a very good job tonight also."

See Gridiron, page 12A



The scoreboard and the referee tell it all as sophomore Jackson Noblet scores again. The Indians won their first game of 2011 on Homecoming Night at Frank McClure Stadium. Photo/James Reese

## Homecoming Royalty crowned

Stroud, Baker crowned King and Queen; Bleckley crowned Princess



Freshman Felicia Baker, left, is all smiles after she was crowned Towns County High School Homecoming Queen. Senior Zach Stroud, center, was crowned Homecoming King. Senior Ali Bleckley, far right was named Homecoming Princess, or first runner-up. Photo by James Reese

By Charles Duncan  
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Wow!

That's how freshman Felicia Baker describes the feeling of being named 2011 Towns County High School Homecoming Queen.

"It caught me by surprise; I was in pure shock," Baker said. "It's a humble feeling, it's an amazing feeling. It still hasn't soaked in just yet. I'm really honored to be crowned Homecoming Queen."

Baker was one of 10 beautiful Towns County High School students vying for the right to be crowned the school's 2011 Homecoming Queen.

Ali Bleckley, a senior, who was named Homecoming Princess (first runner-up), was excited for Baker.

Bleckley said the evening will be one to remember.

"It's something we'll carry with us the rest of our days," Bleckley said. "This is huge; we'll remember it for the rest of our lives."

Earlier last week, Zack Stroud was crowned Homecoming King during the Powder Puff football game at Frank McClure Stadium.

"It was a great night," Stroud said. "It was a great experience and I'm happy everyone voted for me. It means a lot coming from our peers."

It was a night of pomp and circumstance for all the young ladies vying to become Homecoming Queen. The halftime festivities included the lovely ladies, escorted out onto the field at Frank McClure Stadium,

anxiously waiting to hear their name called over the stadium's public address system. Those lovely young ladies included Baker, Bleckley, Gabby Arencibia, Jeanne Bradley, Courtney Farmer, Kristie McConnell, Kindle Moss, Diana Mouangkham, Lindsay Patton and Lexi Via.

"It's been really exciting. It just as easily could have been any of the other girls wearing this crown," Baker said. "But it's definitely a thrill."

As the announcements were made and the honors were completed, the Indians retook the field with a 19-0 lead in their Homecoming contest with North Cobb Christian. Two second-half scores by sopho-

See Homecoming, page 12A

## Austin, Wilkinson qualify for Senate District 50

Early voting begins Oct. 17 for State Senate seat

By Charles Duncan  
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The race to fill the unexpired term of Jim Butterworth in the District 50 Senate seat began in earnest on Monday.

Rick Austin, the former state representative from District 10 and John Wilkinson, the former program manager for the agricultural education program in Georgia and State FFA Advisor, have both qualified to run for the District 50 State Senate vacancy.

Butterworth accepted the post of adjutant general of the Georgia National Guard early last month. He assumed his duties as Gen. Jim Butterworth on Sunday.

Whether or not Austin and Wilkinson have competition for voters in Banks, Franklin, Habersham, Hart, Rabun, Stephens and Towns counties and a portion of White County remains to be seen.

Qualifying continues through Wednesday at noon in Atlanta.

Both Austin and Wilkinson were in Hiwassee last month to announce their candidacy for Senate District 50 during the September Towns County Republican Party meeting at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiwassee.

Austin was raised on a small farm in Habersham County. He graduated from Piedmont College in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science



Rick Austin



John Wilkinson

in Biology. He earned his Masters degree from Auburn University in 1993 and his Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi in 1997. Currently, Austin is a Biology professor at Piedmont College in Demorest.

He stepped down as Georgia House District 10 state representative to seek the seat left vacant by Butterworth.

See Qualifying, page 12A

## The Goats cast gets bigger and better

Veteran leading man Val Kilmer joins the cast of D.J. Caruso's indy film

By Charles Duncan  
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So you want to be in the movies?

So did the hundreds who lined up at daybreak to be cast as extras for the D.J. Caruso film *The Goats* being filmed on Lake Chatuge in Towns County.

Young and old alike lined up in freezing temperatures as Jack Frost left a present for the film's hierarchy on Monday morning.

Never fear, once the sun was high in the sky, temperatures warmed up to a more reasonable level.

For those lucky enough to be cast as extras for the beach scenes, the film's pro-

See *The Goats*, page 12A



The cast of *The Goats* includes lots of locals as extras. Many braved cold temperatures on Monday to join the set. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Chief Floyd puts out the biggest blaze of all

Chief gets surprised at The Ridges Resort & Marina

By Charles Duncan  
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Towns County Fire Chief Mitch Floyd's face was red as fire last week at The Ridges Resort & Marina.

The veteran firefighter had no idea what to expect as he entered The Oaks Restaurant. He believed he was about to talk with the Rotary Club about the current installation of fire hydrants throughout the county.

He almost dropped into a chair when he rounded the corner into the main portion of the restaurant and saw a banner hang-



Fire Chief Mitch Floyd

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



See *Chief Floyd*, page 12A