

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Sunny	53 23
Fri: Sunny	55 32
Sat: Clouds	62 40
Sun: Clouds	66 41
Mon: Clouds	65 42
Tue: Showers	64 37
Wed: Clouds	60 32



Upstream Elevation Predicted 11/16/11	
Lake Chatuge	1917.89
Lake Nottely	1761.43
Blue Ridge	1667.67

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## Probate Judge Notice

Towns County Probate Judge David Rogers announces that the Office of Probate Judge will be closed on Friday, Nov. 18, due to training purposes. The Probate Judge's Office will reopen on Monday, Nov. 21.

## Book Celebration

On Thursday, Nov. 17th from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Towns County Elementary will host Children's Book Celebration Night. Community members and teachers will be dressed as book characters and reading stories to children. This event is expected to be a whole lot of fun.

## Wrestling

The Towns County Indians Varsity Wrestling team opens its 2011-2012 season on the road in Franklin County on Friday, Nov. 18. The Indians return veterans Zach Stroud, Tim Collier, Tyler Hoffman and Wesley Bloodworth. The Indians and Lions do battle at 5 p.m. in Franklin County.

Last week, the Towns County Middle School Indians wrestled their way to two victories in Dawson County. The Indians defeated the Middle School Tigers and their counterparts from Riverview Middle. The Indians took care of the Tigers 52-40 and finished off the Eagles 55-48.

Jared Shook, Keanu Nguyen, Nick Shook, Daulton Rogers, Dakota Wade, Evan Phillips, and Russell Cox each had a big night for the Indians.

The Indians travel to Lumpkin on Wednesday, first match at 5 p.m. On Saturday morning, the Junior King of the Mountain takes place at the home of the Indians.

## Hardwood takes center stage

By Jerry Kendall  
Towns County Herald  
tcherald@windstream.net

The Towns County High School Lady Indians and Indians Varsity basketball teams gave their supporters a preview of their upcoming seasons on Saturday night and came away with decisive wins in scrimmage games against two schools from the mountains of Western North Carolina. The Lady Indians continued a pattern developed over several stellar seasons in having their way with a 70-20 conquest of the Highlands Lady Highlanders.

Meanwhile, the Indians broke open a close game in the last half and disposed of the Blue Ridge Bobcats of Cashiers by a 59-42 score.

The official start of the 2011-2012 regular season begins at 7 p.m. on Friday in Rabun County as the teams travel to Tiger to take on the



Towns County is ready for the regular season. Both the Lady Indians and Indians kick-off their seasons on Friday in Tiger. Both teams won scrimmage games on Saturday. Photo/James Reese

Class AA Wildcats. On Saturday, both teams travel to Dawsonville to take on Class AA's Dawson County Tigers.

The Lady Indians, the defending Region 8 Champions, have lost some talent

to graduation, but have an ample supply returning for the 2011-2012 basketball season.

The Lady Indians lost just two players to graduation.

See Indians, page 12A

## Political newcomer Miller takes Young Harris Council Seat

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

The City of Young Harris' Post 3 Council Seat is in new hands.

Stuart Miller, director of Residence Life at Young Harris College and a political newcomer, has been declared the winner following verification of provisional ballots by the Towns County Board of Elections.

Miller had exactly 50 percent of the vote at the end of the Nov. 8 General Election, garnering 63 votes to Deborah Edwards' 33 and Incumbent Jennifer Mulkey's 30.

However, five provisional ballots held the answers to whether Miller would win the election out-



Stuart Miller

right or face a runoff with Edwards or Mulkey.

Upon further review of the provisional ballots, only three were deemed valid ballots. Miller took two of the three, giving him 50.39 percent of the vote. The Elections Board declared

See Election, page 12A

## Barrett: 'Freedom isn't free'

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

It was a somber day at Towns County's Veterans Park on Thursday.

Lee Holland sang a medley of Patriotic songs, including *America the Beautiful* and *The Star Spangled Banner*, our national anthem.

Those who attended last week's Veterans Day ceremonies prayed for those who fought the good fight and finished the course.

They paid tribute to those who served in far off places and laid down their arms to march into the land of eternal peace. They remembered all veterans who served in the Armed Forces

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Veterans lay wreaths last week at Veterans Park observing the service of each U.S. Military branch. Photo/Charles Duncan

## Austin thanks Towns residents for support

Senate front-runner Austin urges locals to vote Dec. 6th

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

District 50 Senate hopeful Rick Austin could have been in Hall County at a political fundraiser on Thursday night.

Instead, the Demorest Republican vying for the District 50 State Senate seat was in Towns County, shaking hands and thanking voters for their support on Nov. 8.

Austin and challenger John Wilkinson will face each other on Dec. 6 in a runoff for the District 50 Senate Seat.

Austin first arrived at Daniels Steakhouse, the scene of the Marine Corps 236<sup>th</sup> birthday.

He thanked veterans, not for their votes, but for their dedicated service to their country. One-by-one, he walked through the dining room shaking hands and patting each veteran on the back.

Later, he attended the Monthly Meeting of Towns



Rick Austin

County Republicans at the Towns County Senior Center near the Courthouse.

"The last seven weeks have been a whirlwind," said Austin, who seeks to fill the unexpired term of Jim Butterworth. "I started off my day in Demorest teaching two classes in a laboratory. I went from there to Franklin County and then I turned around and drove up here."

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## Homecoming is sweet at YHC

By James Reese  
Towns County Herald  
tcherald@windstream.net

Young Harris – The Young Harris College Mountain Lions are roaring about their 2011-2012 debuts on Saturday.

That would include both the Mountain Lions and their female counterparts.

Both teams destroyed their opponents at the Valley of Doom.

The Lady Mountain Lions finished off Reinhardt University in thorough fashion as Coach Brenda Paul's well-coached team systematically dismantled Reinhardt by a score of 65-50. The score was closer than the overall game results.

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'Luke' the Mountain Lion couldn't be happier on Saturday. Both the Ladies and Men took season openers at the Valley of Doom.

## Kendall to finalize budget, millage Public hearing set for 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Courthouse

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall will adopt the 2012 Fiscal Budget and millage rate on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the Towns County Courthouse.

Last month, Commissioner Kendall tentatively adopted the \$9.38 million budget and the 2012 millage rate of 5.320 mills for maintenance and operation and .470 mills for the Fire & Rescue operations.

The 2012 budget is virtually the same amount as the 2011 Fiscal Budget, county records show.

The projected budget includes \$1.12 million for the Towns County Sheriff's Of-



Commissioner Bill Kendall

ice, \$912,000 for Jail Operations, \$1 million plus for Towns County Ambulance Services, \$930,700 for the County Road Department, \$294,000 for the Recreation Department and \$370,000 for Fire Services.

Commissioner Kendall said he was able to cut the proposed millage rate by realizing savings in several areas, including negotiating a Point of Service

agreement for county employees' health insurance.

Health insurance premium costs were projected to climb 36 percent, but with the new POS agreement, actual premiums declined by 15 percent.

The county also reduced spending through personnel attrition in the Towns County Recreation Department; the Towns County Board of Health agreed to split one of the full-time positions in Environmental Health with Union County to account for additional savings.

"Because of a number of state budget cuts to their portion of Health Department funding the Health

See Budget, page 12A

## Williams details new curriculum for schools

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

The schools chief for Towns County Schools says that the state-mandated Georgia Performance Standards will become the system's new curriculum beginning next year.

Superintendent Melissa Williams spoke to the Towns County Republicans last week at the Towns County Senior Center and shared plans for implementing a new life skills-based instruction for student's kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

"Georgia has joined with 44 other states to standardize a core curriculum framework that will provide consistent, rigorous knowledge of skills that will prepare all of our students, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade for college and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace," she said.

"We're really looking at what I would consider a nationally-based curriculum," she said. "Georgia has taken the lead on the development of this common core."

Bottom line: Georgia is taking their Georgia Performance Standard nationally.

"It shifts from a curriculum that was an inch deep to a mile long, to some-



Melissa Williams

thing that was a little more substantial and intact, short, compact and goes into much more detail," she said. "Georgia has taken their Georgia Performance Standard to other states; we are building a new national curriculum."

Williams said Towns County will begin introducing the new curriculum next year in math and English Language Arts.

"We will eventually add science and social studies," she said. "The focus of this new curriculum is to add a high level of thinking skills for our students."

It also is to give more

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