

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

www.townscountyherald.net

Publication Number 635540 Volume 83 Number 49

Wednesday, October 10, 2012

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Sunny	71	42
Fri: Clouds	75	48
Sat: Sunny	75	48
Sun: Clouds	73	51
Mon: Clouds	76	49
Tue: Showers	72	46
Wed: Showers	71	47



Upstream Elevation Predicted 10/10/12	
Lake Chatuge	1920.84
Lake Nottely	1767.75
Blue Ridge	1671.73

INDEX

2 Sections, 22 Pages

Arrests.....	2A
Chamber News.....	2B
Church/Obits.....	8A,9A
Classifieds.....	3B
Editorial.....	4
Letters.....	4
Legals.....	4B

Sports Page 10A

Gridiron

Copper Hill, Tenn. - The Towns County Indians football team played its most solid first half of football this year Friday night, as they traveled to Copper Basin to take on the Cougars. The clock was the Indians' worst enemy as Towns ran out of time trailing the Cougars 52-34. **Story Page 10A**

TCMS

The Towns County Middle School Indians football team finished its season Thursday with a tough loss to the Rabun County Wildcats. The loss eliminated the Indians from the 2012 playoffs. The Indians and finished the 2012 season 3-3. **Story Page 10A**

Cross Country

Towns County's Cross Country competed at Athens Academy last week against solid competition from around the area to prepare themselves for the Area Championships. **Story Page 10A**

Historical Society

The Towns County Historical Society invites you to the 2012 Heritage Festival on the square in Hiwassee On Saturday. Opening ceremonies start at 11 a.m. with a welcome by county officials, leading into a day of great music, food, and Towns County memorabilia. Local community speakers will speak briefly and have tables set up with old photos and much history of the county. Come and enjoy a hot bowl of vegetable soup or pinto beans, and cornbread, so come hungry. Drinks and fresh popped popcorn and homemade desserts will also be available. Special entertainment includes Wyatt Espalin, Trees Leave; along with the American Indian group, Women of Heart; all performing in the gazebo. Tents and chairs will be set up so you can sit and enjoy the performers. Be sure to stay for the cake cutting in the afternoon celebrating the county's 156th birthday.

Early Voting begins Oct. 15 for six contested races

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

Monday, Oct. 15 officially kicks off the 2012 election season. Voters will finally have the chance to cast ballots for their presidential choice, two public service commissioner posts, a new 9th District Congressman and their choice for Georgia House District 8 state representative. In the local races, six seats are up for grabs. Almost all incumbents in the Nov. 6th election face opposition, except for two, Clerk of Superior Court, Cecil Dye, and Probate Judge David Rogers. Both were unopposed in July. Towns County experienced a 37.17 percent registered voter turnout for the July 31 Primary. Expect that number to double during the

November election. That's because it's a Presidential Election year. On the November ballot, Democratic Incumbent Tax Commissioner Bruce Rogers squares off against former Young Harris mayor Bill Kuykendall. Both were uncontested on their respective ballots. Democratic Incumbent and Sole Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall faces Republican Steve Gerdes in November. Both were unopposed in July. Democratic Incumbent Coroner Rickey Mathis faces a November election against political newcomer, and Towns County Republican Tashina Eller. Both were uncontested in July. Republican Incumbent Sheriff Chris Clinton seeks reelection against Democratic challenger Daren Osborn in November. Both were uncontested on their



See Candidate Profiles inside this edition on pages 6A and 7A

respective ballots. Two Board of Education races were decided in July, Donna Hedden and Bob Gibby return to the board. In the District 8 State House race, Incumbent Stephen Allison, a Blairsville Republican, faces Democrat Jana Hill of Clayton. Both were uncontested on their respective primaries. District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson, a Toccoa

Republican, ran unopposed. In the 9th Congressional District race, voters must choose between Republican Doug Collins and Democrat Jody Cooley, both of Gainesville, for the redistricted Congressional seat. There are two proposed Constitutional Amendments on the ballot. First, voters are asked to agree to public school charter options. Should the Charter School

amendment on the Nov. 6 ballot pass, it essentially brings an end to home rule by our local Board of Education. A yes vote generates a new unfunded mandate by the state, and creates a situation where local school boards will have to increase millage rates to continue funding public schools. It also leads to charter school funding stripping public schools of the raw materials to make each successful. It's a lose-lose for taxpayers. Second, amendment No. 2 allows Georgia to save taxpayer dollars through multi-year real estate agreements. The belief is that this amendment would reduce the state's operating costs. It allows agencies to enter into multi-year deals, whereas now they're obligated to only enter into one-year deals, thus, taking away the state's negotiating powers. Vote your conscience.

Casting Crowns packs The Hall

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

Casting Crowns performed for a packed out crowd at the Anderson Music Hall in Hiwassee Saturday night as about 3,000 people showed up to hear the Christian Contemporary sounds of this phenomenal Christian group. Fans stood with hands in the air and sang along as they quickly became a part of the praise and worship that only the Crowns can inspire. "What I'm usually thinking about when I first go out on stage is that these people are trusting us," lead singer Mark Hall said in a backstage interview. "We become a part of their life. We want to make sure that we are pointing them toward Jesus and not toward us. "There are three things that I want to see happen during a concert. I want to make sure that the Gospel is shared clearly and plainly. I want the believers to be challenged to have a deeper walk with Jesus and get more deeply into the Word themselves. Finally, I want the believers to discover that they have a ministry. I want them to be able to point people toward Jesus and do it well," said Hall. Hall discussed their latest album, *Come to the Well*.



Fans came from near and far to witness the phenomenal Casting Crowns at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/Libby Shook

"The theme is John, Chapter 4, the story of the woman at the well," Hall said. "The idea is if you're depending on the world to fill you, you'll be thirsty. If you look to Jesus, you'll never be thirsty and you'll be able to pour back into the well." Hall, who is a youth pastor at his home church in McDonough said he's been a youth pastor half his life. "I've been a youth pastor half my life and I still want to be that when I grow up," he said. The Crowns certainly did draw folks to the well and it seemed they were filled to overflowing. With their latest hit, *Come to the Well*, the crowd went wild and were definitely in tune with the message the song had to share. They were equally as inspired with the hit *I am Yours* as they stood, hands in the air, eyes closed, and worshiped along with the Crowns. Hall stopped frequently during the performance to pray with and for their fans and everyone joined him in a big 'Amen'. The Crowns are all very active in their home churches in the Atlanta area. "We are all youth leaders and pastors in our churches. We are usually home with our families and churches Sunday through Wednesday. We travel and perform Thursday through Saturday,"

See Crowns, page 15A

Fall Festival cranks up for 10 fun days

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

The Georgia Mountain Fall Festival returns to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Oct. 12th through Oct. 21st for 10 days of arts and crafts, mountain history and folklore, good food, and live entertainment amidst a beautiful backdrop of fall colors. The festival also features the dynamic Georgia Mountain Fiddlers Convention. According to Fairgrounds' General Manager Hilda Thomason patrons are in for a treat. "We have some new things for the Fall Festival," Thomason said. "We will be having helicopter rides on Oct. 17th, Oct. 18th, and Oct. 19th. We also have the 'Fearless Flores Thrill Show' as a special attraction." Throughout each day of the festival, visitors will be entertained by a wide range of musical performances as Aaron Tippen opens the festival on Friday, Oct. 12th. Other legendary performers include the Bellamy Brothers, John Conlee, Connie Smith, Ronnie McDowell, and many others. There will be the traditional two days of Gospel Music performances. Two-time Fiddle King Champion Johnny Ray Watts should be back to defend his 2011 crown as the Georgia Fiddler's Convention returns on Oct. 19th and 20th. Throughout this event, performers of all ages will compete in various musical categories such as Senior Fiddler, Junior Fiddler, Bluegrass Band,



Johnny Ray Watts

Finger-style Guitar, Flat-pick Guitar, Banjo, and Mandolin. After the initial competitions, a winner will be declared in each category. The winner from both the Senior and Junior Fiddling groups will compete in a 'Fiddle Off' where the winner will be declared the "Georgia Mountain Fiddle King." Watts, 46, of Delta, Ala., should be hard to beat if he decides to compete again this year. Patrons also will have the opportunity to step back in time as they watch educational demonstrations such as blacksmithing, moonshining, soap-making, hominy-making, and quilting in the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' very own Pioneer Village. Visitors can tour restored authentic and antique buildings including a one-room schoolhouse, a general store, a blacksmith shop, and an old mountain home moved

See Fall Festival, page 15A

Summer's Last Kiss a blast for local economy

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

The Fifth Annual Summer's Last Kiss, sponsored by the Towns County Tourism Association, was the highlight of the fall season. Some of the finest and most talented juried artists and crafters gathered at the Downtown Square Saturday, Sept. 29th and Sunday, Sept. 30th as they bid fond adieu to the summer season. Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis opened the event by extending a hearty welcome to the crowd, vendors, and musicians. As tradition holds, Mathis released a dozen balloons into the air to signal the official opening of 'The Kiss.' There was a huge turnout on Saturday as folks braved the elements and the threat of rain to enjoy the many arts and crafts, wonderful live entertainment, and delicious food. Sunday the weather was perfect with only slightly overcast skies. The sun peeked it's through for the last day of the event. A crowd flocked to the Square once again in search of that perfect gift for home and in some cases a gift for friends and family. Marley Jenkins of Marietta was doing a little Christmas shopping while in town. "I didn't even know the festival was going on. I was just in visiting family. This is wonderful and I have found some unique gifts. I bought my mom an alpaca scarf. She will be thrilled," said an excited



Summer's Last Kiss, in its fifth year, had its most successful year to date. Kiss Committee members are ecstatic about the turnout this year. Photo/Libby Shook

Jenkins. If you couldn't find what you were looking for at this event, you simply were not looking hard enough. There were approximately 40 vendors set up and ready to share their story and handiwork with anyone who stopped by. There were some amazing treasures to be found with the incredible handcrafted wares being offered. Everything you could imagine including jewelry, silk scarves, designer jackets and vests, acrylic and water color paintings, furniture, pottery, birdhouses, alpaca woven hats and scarves, reclaimed metal art, stained glass items, hand bags, letter art, and so much more. Tina and Richie Harwood of Alpharetta were there selling window-framed glass art for their 20-year-old daughter, Haley. She is an art student at Georgia Southern University and due to illness could not make the trip, so proud mom and dad stepped in to pick up the slack. "There's been quite a bit of traffic and we've done pretty well for Haley," said Tina Harwood. Kotah Moon, eco artist, who specializes in reclaimed metal art was more than happy to share information regarding her passion for metal working. See Kiss, page 15A

Tri-County chase ends in Clay County, NC

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

It'll be years before folks in Northeast Georgia and Western North Carolina forget the name Vannie Marie Nguyen. Today, Nguyen is behind bars in Clay County, NC, the end result of a high-speed chase through Union, Towns and Clay counties on Sunday. She's being held on numerous charges that include attempted murder of a police officer in North Carolina. She also faces numerous traffic charges in Union and Towns counties. The chaos that originally involved Nguyen began on Thursday in Union County. First, local authorities say she tried to make off with \$1,403.20 in shoplifted merchandise from Walmart off Georgia 515 in Blairsville. She also made off with a \$400 cell phone owned by an employee with Walmart's Asset Protection, authorities said. She fought with members of Asset Protection, escaped from them and fled through the parking lot to the back of the retail store. She scampered



Vannie Marie Nguyen

down a hill, went through the woods, and was doing her best to make it to Georgia 515, authorities said. Union County Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Hogsdon spotted Nguyen about 75 yards out in front of him. He told her that he was a deputy sheriff and that she needed to stop running. Union County sheriff's reports show.

See Chase page 15A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

