

# Towns County Herald

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	68 57
Fri: Showers	69 41
Sat: Clouds	61 33
Sun: Sunny	59 34
Mon: Sunny	61 38
Tue: Clouds	63 44
Wed: Showers	65 49



Upstream Elevation Predicted 10/30/13	
Lake Chatuge	1,918.54
Lake Nottely	1,763.38
Blue Ridge	1,672.05

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## SPORTS

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City of Young Harris Election Results will be available on our website [townscountyherald.net](http://townscountyherald.net)



**Free Food Distribution**  
Sign ups for Thanksgiving Boxes from Food Pantry underway see page 3A

**2013 HALLOWEEN ON THE SQUARE**  
OCT. 31ST 5:30-7:30 PM



Don't forget to set those clocks back at 2 AM Sunday Morning



**FOOTBALL**  
Friday, Nov 1 vs. Lakeview 7:30 PM SENIOR NIGHT

## Merle delights the masses at The Hall

By Azure Welch  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

It has been six years since Merle Haggard and his band have darkened the doors at Anderson Music Hall.

But on a cold Friday night in Hiwassee, Haggard entertained an almost sold out crowd of more than 2,000 at Anderson Music Hall at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

Before the iconic Haggard took the stage, Ashley Strickland and Steven Van Sheridan, both of Athens, the best female and male vocalist winners in the talent show where the prize was to be part of Merle's opening act, cut loose on the partisan Haggard crowd.

The crowd more than welcomed the multi-talented Strickland and Van Sheridan, who sang like they had been there before.

While Strickland and Van Sheridan held their own, it was obvious who this partisan crowd came to see.

The word "legend" usu-



Merle Haggard

ally makes an appearance at some point when the topic turns to discussing Haggard, who along with Buck Owens, launched the music known as *The Bakersfield Sound*.

It's an acknowledgment of his artistry and his standing as "the Poet of the Common Man."

It's a tribute to his incredible commercial success and to the lasting mark he has

made, not just on Country Music, but on American music as a whole. His performance at The Hall on Friday night was testimony true to this fact.

Not only was Anderson Music Hall's audience treated with the vocal stylings of a Country Music legend, they also were treated to an array of Haggard and Country Music souvenirs and memorabilia.

Haggard entertained the crowd with a few of the more than 40 No. 1 hits he's recorded through the years. He also delighted the crowd with his dynamic sense of humor.

Haggard performed hits like *Mama Tried*, and *I Think I'll Just Stay Here and Drink*.

He performed a few of his newer songs, and tossed in a little *Okie From Muskogee*, and *The Fighting Side Of Me*.

Prior to his performance of, *I Think I'll Just Stay Here and Drink*, Haggard sparred with the crowd, telling them "this song is dedicated to all those drunkards out there," and he quickly reminded the crowd that he was now "a reformed

See Haggard, Page 10A

## Penland wins GOP Speech Contest



Towns County High School's Adam Penland, center, wearing a dark suit, is all smiles after winning the 2013 Youth Leadership Development Scholarship Speech Contest at Young Harris College. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Azure Welch  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

Saturday greeted the finalists of the Youth Leadership Development Scholarship (YLDS) Speech Contest with beautiful weather and an eager audience.

Nine participants arrived on the campus of Young Harris College prepared to once again

convey their convictions regarding some of today's highly debated topics.

At the end of the day, only one was beaming with pride.

Adam Penland, no stranger to speeches, delivered a winner at Wilson Lecture Hall on Saturday.

Afterward, Penland said that he "was very nervous," but

that he decided to participate in the Speech Contest because he wants the experience with public speaking because he plans to enter into politics in the future.

You can bet your bottom dollar that he's proud he did.

Presented by the Republican Party of Towns County,

See Speech, Page 10A

## Entwhistle earns Quilt of Valor

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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Terrerence Entwhistle has done the Tour of Duty, now, he has the ultimate medal of honor.

On Sunday, surrounded by family and friends at his Blairsville home, Entwhistle was surprised in a ceremony presenting him with a Quilt of Valor.

Entwhistle, who served in the United States Marine Corps from 1966 through 1969, and served in the Vietnam War 1968-69, fought in three major battles during his tour in Vietnam, including the fight in Dan Nang, where he was exposed to Agent Orange.

Entwhistle then joined the U.S. Army in 1970, and served in U.S. Military Intelligence through 1999.

He received numerous Military honors, including the Legion of Merit.



Terry Entwhistle was surprised with a Quilt of Valor at his home on Sunday. Entwhistle served in Vietnam.

The Quilt of Valor was a special online request by his wife, Sandra, through the Quilts

See Valor, Page 10A

## Two charged with child molestation

Towns County Herald Special

A Young Harris couple have been charged with child molestation, according to the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

According to a release by the Towns County Sheriff's Office, the agency was given information which led to an investigation into alleged child molestation and the arrest of two Young Harris residents.

Towns County sheriff's Lt. Terry Conner and Cpl. Cory Ingram were given information regarding allegations of abuse of two children, and began an investigation.

The local agent with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation was requested, and subsequent investigation led to the arrest



Corey Wade Persall

of Corey Wade Persall, 29, and Vanessa Leona Persall, 28, both of Young Harris.

Both suspects were charged with child molestation, and are currently housed



Vanessa Leona Persall

in Towns County Detention Center. Towns County's magistrate judge denied bond and bail must be set by a Superior Court judge. The case is still under investigation.

## Millage rates: three down, one to go

By Azure Welch  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

Three local governments have set their millage rates for the upcoming year.

On Nov. 5th, the fourth local government, the City of Young Harris, is expected to follow suit.

The City of Hiwassee, the Towns County Board of Education, and Towns County Government set their millage rates last week during called meetings.

Two local government bodies, Towns County Government and the BOE, raised their millage rates, while the City of Hiwassee stayed the course.

The City of Young Harris will maintain their existing millage rate when they meet on Nov. 5th.

However, a millage rate increase for the county government doesn't signal a tax increase for residents.

You have to examine the big picture.



Mayor Barbara Mathis

Towns County's Tax Digest plummeted \$57 million from 2012 to \$771.8 million in 2013.

In an economy that continues to spiral, Towns County has witnessed a drop in its Tax Digest from \$1.03 billion in 2008, to \$771.8 million in 2013.

See Millage, Page 10A

## Fall-A-Bration a hit at The Ridges

By Azure Welch  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

During a brisk Sunday afternoon, The Ridges Resort & Marina hosted their 5th Annual "Fall-A-Bration & Trunk-or-Treat."

In the parking lot nearest to the pavilion and marina, vendors and individuals were invited to decorate the trunks of their vehicles and pass out treats, coupons, or information on their businesses. That way, the children in attendance are able to move from trunk to trunk checking out the decorations and collecting treats.

The guidelines set forth by the sponsors "trunks should be appropriately decorated in a fall or holiday theme or simply advertising [their] business." Therefore, according to the event coordinators, Cindy Lynd, the marketing director for the resort, and Kristin Crisp, the sales manager for the resort, the children can have a safe and eventful time in a secure area.

Not only do the children attending get to gather treats from trunks, they were also able to listen to their favorite music while painting pumpkins. The pumpkin table was full of costumed children painting all sorts of Halloween themes on their pumpkins. The pumpkins



A good time was had by all at the annual Fall-A-Bration at The Ridges Resort & Marina. Photo/Azure Welch

for this event were donated by B.J. Reece who owns an apple orchard in Ellijay.

After the pumpkins were all painted, one lucky winner would win a free dinner at The Blue Otter. The adults were not left out of the fun either.

Those vendors or individuals who took the time to attend and decorate their "trunks," were also in the running for a prize designated for the winner of the best deco-

See Fall-A-Bration, Page 10A

## Early voting ends Friday in Young Harris Council races

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby returns to office as she was unopposed in the upcoming city elections.

Likewise, Young Harris City Council Post 6 Council Member John Kelley also returns to office, and long-time Young Harris City Council Post 5 Council Member David Sellers did not seek re-election.

Sellers' decision created City Council race. Steve Clark and Hilary Martin will vie for the seat vacated by Councilman Sellers.

The votes won't end there.

Young Harris City Council Post 4 Council Member Donald Keys will face opposition on Nov. 5th from Samuel M. Leslie.

The November election offers the potential for two more council seats that could change hands.

Stuart Miller defeated incumbent Jennifer Mulkey in 2011.

In Hiwassee, Mayor Barbara Mathis, and Council members Stephen Smith and Jay Vernon Chastain Jr. all return to office in November.

Mayor Mathis and the two council members are unopposed in the upcoming city elections in Hiwassee.

No opposition in the Mayor's race, and the two City Council posts in Hiwassee, allowed the Council to cancel the Nov. 5th election of Council



Mayor Andrea Gibby

members. No other issues or races are on tap for the off-year Nov. 5th General Election in Towns County.

The Towns County Herald will cover the Young Harris City Elections and post the results online at [townscountyherald.net](http://townscountyherald.net) on Election night.

Staff Writer Mason Mitcham will cover the story and election coverage will appear in the Nov. 13th print edition of the Towns County Herald.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

