

Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 85 Number 1

Wednesday, November 6, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Rain	58 30
Fri: Sunny	59 31
Sat: Sunny	60 34
Sun: Sunny	62 38
Mon: Clouds	65 39
Tue: Clouds	64 41
Wed: Clouds	63 46



Upstream Elevation Predicted 11/06/13	
Lake Chatuge	1,918.24
Lake Nottely	1,761.96
Blue Ridge	1,670.30

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SPORTS

Pages 8A, 9A

Sponsor a Foster Child for Christmas

Your help is needed! see 7A for details

Free Food Distribution

Towns County Food Pantry Distribution

Nov. 12th 2-5 PM

Sign ups for Thanksgiving Boxes from Food Pantry underway see page 2A

Mistletoe Market

Annual Craft Show

Sat. Nov 23rd & Sun. Nov 24th

N. GA Technical College

FOOTBALL

Friday

November 8th

@ Hebron

7:30 PM

CROSS COUNTRY:

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MEET

Sat. Nov 9th

@ Carrollton High

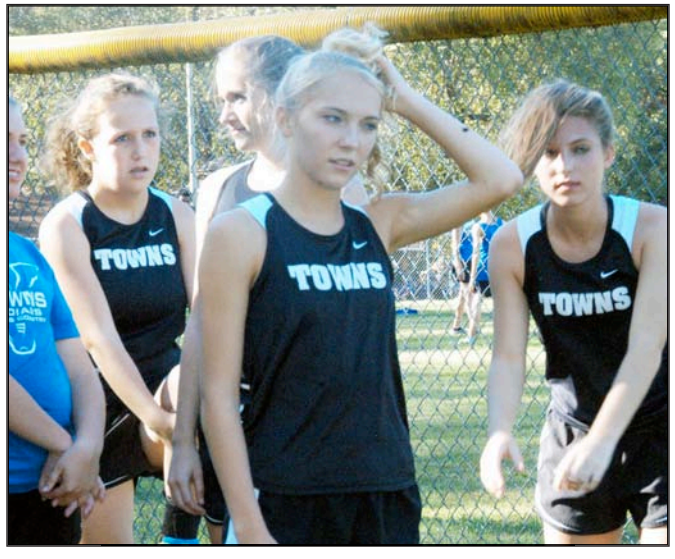
Girls 4:55

Boys 4:15

Indians, Lady Indians head to state

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Coach Jeannie Ledford's boys and girls Cross Country teams are headed to the state championships in Carrollton on Saturday. Both teams finished among the top four teams in Region 8-A and will compete for a state championship. The Lady Indians are the defending Class A State Champions, led by Individual State Champion Ansley Vardeman. The teams earned the right to advance to state meets during the Region meet at Athens Christian School in Athens on Halloween. Coach Ledford regards her Region 8-A as the toughest in the state. Mere seconds separate the teams that move on to the state tournament and those who do not. This year, fate has thrown everything it can at the girls' team to weaken their charge toward state. Coach Ledford's team has had to deal with two major



Both of Coach Jeannie Ledford's teams are headed to the Cross Country State Championships on Saturday. Photo/Todd Forrest

injuries and has had to cope with the loss of two runners she had previously depended on. Ally Settles suffered a leg injury just before Region and was unable to run. On the other hand, however, No. 2 runner Caitlin Sheffield returned to medal in Region with a time of 24.23. Coach Ledford describes watching Sheffield run for the first time since the start of the season as "such a mix of emotions." "Her form is meticulous," Coach Ledford said. "The kid has such a spirit about her to fight back against that." Though she was fighting off a cold, defending Region 8-A and Class A State Champion See *X-Country*, Page 10A

Halloween on the Square a sweet hit

By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Iron Man came to Downtown last week. Well, we think it was Iron Man, but, it could have been someone in disguise, after all, it was Halloween. Hundreds of excited, costume-clad children, teenagers, and adults flooded the streets around the Downtown Square in Hiawassee on Halloween to join in the annual festivities. The annual event organized by Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis and the Hiawassee City Council brought together more than 20 businesses and organizations who volunteered their time and candy to make Halloween a thrilling event for all. This annual event was originally organized for the purpose of providing a safe environment for families to take their children Trick-or-Treating without worrying. Adding to the safety factor were deputies from the Towns County Sheriff's Office and officers from the Hiawassee Police Department who were on hand to usher the children and their families across Main Street to the Downtown Square, as eager kids made a dash to get their treats. In addition to the handfuls of candy each child re-



Locals packed the Downtown Square to celebrate Halloween on the Square in Hiawassee. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

ceived as they made their way around the square, the local American Red Cross was on hand selling food and drinks to those that might want something a little more filling than candy. For those who might want to just sit and enjoy the festivities, Halloween-themed music was provided by Charlie Reiner of Charlie's DJ Service. Not only did Reiner provide the music, he also acted as the commentator for the Costume Contest. Any child between the ages of birth and 10 years old were encouraged to participate in the contest. The contest was composed of four age groups, birth to 2, 3-5, 6-7, and 8-10, and the top three costumes from each group would receive a prize. The prizes for first, second, and third place winners from each age group received a goody bag full of items that included candy, little toys, coloring books, and each winner received a free "All Day Pass" to Fun World and a free pass to the movies. The prizes, passes, and movie tickets were donated by Fun World and Fieldstone Cinemas who were also gracious enough to provide free pumpkin painting and free fall photos for the crowd to enjoy. The contest was judged by Teresa Kelly, Michael Zaic, and Gale Eaton and the Master of Ceremonies was Stephany Zaic - all of which volunteered See *Halloween*, Page 10A

Indians make it 3-1 in second half

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

When the 2013 football season began, the Towns County Indians had a new coach, a new offense and a new defensive strategy. That was a lot of information to swallow for such a young team. Until Head Coach Blair Harrison arrived, the Indians had only dealt with the Wing-T offense on defense. It was a learning process, and a process that found them 0-5 to begin the season. After a bye week, and Week 6 rolled around, the Indians were obviously getting close to reality in their knowledge of Coach Harrison's Wing-T offense. The result was a 17-8 win on Homecoming Night over Copper Basin. They followed that up with a 48-10 trouncing of North Cobb Christian. A meeting with a tough St. Francis squad resulted in a 30-3 loss on the road. On Friday night, they returned home for Senior Night at Frank McClure Stadium. They rallied to pull out a 10-7 victory over arch rival Lakeview Academy, a team they had never beaten. And now, the Indians are on the verge of finishing the second half with a 4-1 record under Coach Harrison. Coach Harrison told his troops on Friday night after the 10-7 win over Lakeview, that he wished they had 10 more games See *Indians*, Page 10A



The Indians celebrate a win on Senior Night. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Duckworth charged with theft

Towns County Herald
News Special

Investigators with the Towns County Sheriff's Office assisted by an investigator with the Georgia Department of Transportation on Friday, Nov. 1st, arrested Robert Wayne Duckworth, 49, of Young Harris, formerly of Blairsville. Duckworth was charged with theft by taking in reference to incidents where gas was stolen from a GDOT



Robert Wayne Duckworth

fuel truck, Towns County Sheriff's reports show. The fuel truck was located at a GDOT Shop in Towns County, sheriff's reports show. The thefts occurred between Sept. 9th, and the Oct. 29th, sheriff's reports show. There was a total of 153 gallons of fuel taken. Duckworth was arrested without incident at the Towns County Sheriff's Office, sheriff's reports show.

Kendall: 'Noise complaints on hold for now'

By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall believes community and business leaders can come to a resolve regarding noise from two local businesses. During the regular county meeting, held on Thursday, Oct. 17th, Commissioner Kendall's last item on the agenda was in regards to the "proposed amendments to the Towns County Resolution providing for the Sale of Malt Beverages and Wine Consumption on Premises."

Homeowners on Ramey Mountain have voiced their displeasure over the noise coming from the Blue Otter and Sand Bar restaurants. In attendance at the October Commission meeting was Zadie Peterson who spoke on behalf of the Ramey Mountain Homeowners Association members in regards to the "loudness of the music and



Commissioner Bill Kendall

the amplifiers and the lateness of the outside activity" of the "Blue Otter" restaurant and the "Sand Bar" located right across the street from one another on U.S. Highway 76 West. Peterson asked if the "businesses couldn't just turn the music down and off at a reasonable hour," and she came prepared with a list of questions prepared by the members of the homeowners association. The members of Ramey Mountain's Homeowners Association See *Noise*, Page 10A

Dye: 'beware of records scams'

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

A letter from the "Local Records Office" isn't what it seems, Towns County Clerk of Superior Court Cecil Dye said. These letters are surfacing in Towns County, and, it's not good news. The letters, which have an address of 925B Peachtree St., NE, #745, Atlanta, GA 30309, are arriving at homes in Towns County and offer the service of providing a copy of the recipient's property deed for a cost of just \$89. The problem is, Dye, who oversees these records can make property owners a copy of their land deed for just 50 cents. Dye said he's heard of this operation before happening in other counties, but, this is a first for Towns County. "They target the elderly," Dye said. If you read the paperwork sent by the "Local Records Office," it's pretty easy to decipher that something smells fishy. On the letters, there is one disclaimer after another telling the recipient that this service is not associated with any government agency. It also discloses that the recipient can obtain a copy

of their deed or other records from the county recorder in the county where their land is. The county recorder is Dye, and the folks that work for his office. The deed scam is ongoing and letters are arriving in Towns County on a daily basis, so, it's best to watch out for them in the mail. The letter includes Towns County public information of the property owned by the letter recipient. It breaks down and provides a detailed description of the recipient's property. It even includes the acreage, square feet, the year the home was built and even the name of the second homeowner, usually, the spouse. The records are obtained through public information, and the "Local Records Office" offers to provide a property profile to the recipient that includes detailed information about the recipient's property. All for the low price of \$89, all this public information can be available to the recipient, the letter states. Don't be fooled, Dye said. "If you get a letter like this, drop by and see me," he said. "If you need a copy of anything on file, I'll get you one for 50 cents."

Shakers learn about nation's debt ceiling

By Azure Welch
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Dr. John Van Vliet, author and Professor of Business & Public Policy at Young Harris College, enriched those in attendance at the weekly meeting of the Mountain Movers and Shakers last week at Mary's Southern Grill. Dr. Van Vliet spoke knowledgeably about the "debt ceiling," and how it affects our nation, and he gladly answered the questions following his presentation. Dr. Van Vliet opened by informing the audience that our country is currently \$17 Trillion in debt, which is more than the last debt ceiling limit which was last set at \$16.4 trillion in 2011. Because the debt surpassed the ceiling, the decision of the federal government was to "suspend the debt ceiling until Feb. 7, 2014," which as Dr. Van Vliet explains is a



Dr. John Van Vliet speaks to the Mountain Movers and Shakers at Mary's Southern Grill. Photo/Azure Welch

temporary solution because Dr. Van Vliet projects that by the time February rolls around, the country will have borrowed more, passing the current deficit of \$17 trillion. In his book, Business and Public Policy, Dr. Van Vliet explains the debt ceiling as the "legal limit on the amount of

Veterans Day services

Towns County will recognize Veterans Day on Monday at 11 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park beside the Towns County Schools campus. U.S. Rep. Doug Collins, R-Gainesville, who represents Towns County in the 9th Congressional District will be the keynote speaker. Afterward, a luncheon is scheduled at Garrett-Owenby VFW Post 7807 on Sunnyside Road. The Towns County High School Band will be there and a portion of the North Georgia Honor Guard will be there as well. The public is invited to attend this annual ceremony which pays homage to those who served. C.E. "Bud" Johnson reminds us that freedom isn't free. TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

