

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2011

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Clouds	91 62
Fri: Storms	89 63
Sat: Storms	86 63
Sun: Clouds	85 59
Mon: Sunny	88 60
Tue: Sunny	88 61
Wed: Storms	88 61



Upstream Elevation Predicted 08/24/11	
Lake Chatuge	1922.31
Lake Nottely	1777.20
Blue Ridge	1675.66

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Sports Page 10

Senate District 50

State Senate District 50 State Sen. Jim Butterworth seems destined to once again represent Towns County in District 50.

However, state lawmakers have redrawn his Senate District's boundaries. Butterworth no longer would represent Hart and White counties, if the recently realigned state Senate Districts maps are approved by the state legislature and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Senate District 50 would remain in Towns, Rabun, Habersham, Stephens, Franklin and Banks counties. It is proposed to add a portion of Jackson and Hall to Butterworth's Senate duties of representation.

House District 8

It appears District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison will return unscathed to represent Towns County.

Allison's State House district looked like a mirror image of itself after state lawmakers redrew the map that decides representation in the Georgia House of Representatives.

There were some disappointed delegations, especially in Hall County. However, for the most part, Towns County was lucky enough to stay in District 8.

Voters in House District 8 overwhelmingly said 'yes' to another term for Rep. Allison, a Blairsville Republican, in the 2010 General Election. Rep. Allison carried Towns, Union, Rabun and a portion of White to earn a return trip to the State Capitol.

In concept, this House District remains almost exactly the same.

Local runners race for a cure at Relay for Life

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

The 2011 Relay for Life event in Towns County offered a new twist this year: a 5K Run.

Warmer than usual temperatures couldn't scare away Saturday morning event goers on the Hiawassee Downtown Square as music played, and event booths featured cakes and many other treats.

Children laughed and played games, they danced in the streets. It was all for a good cause.

The annual Relay for Life event went on without a hitch as a community came together to help find a cure for the deadliest disease known to humanity, cancer.

The 5K Run featured more than 40 runners vying for the chance to make a

difference in local lives while at the same time, taking home the confidence that comes from winning a foot race.

Thomas Clements and Ansley Vardeman finished one and two respectively to lead the field of more than 40 runners competing in the charity event.

Actually, there were two other Vardemans competing in the event, with Taylor Vardeman, who finished 10th overall, staking claim to the 15-19 year-old title, while her father, Kirk Vardeman, who finished 11th overall, claimed the distinction of being the fastest in the 50-54 age group.

Of course, Ansley Vardeman, Taylor's twin sister, claimed the satisfaction of being the first female finisher in the race. Both Taylor and Ansley are top notch

See Relay, page 12



More than 40 runners turned out to take part in the Relay for Life 5K Run in Downtown Hiawassee on Saturday to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Photo/Lowell Nicholson.

Senators to host Town Hall

U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson and U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss coming to YHC

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

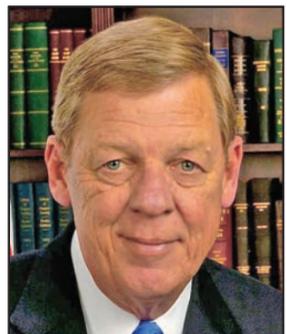
You might want to stop by Young Harris College if you've got time on your hands on Aug. 30 at 2 p.m.

U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson and his U.S. Senate counterpart, U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss will be in town to update locals on the happenings in Washington, D.C.

The two Georgia Republicans, literally, the state's voting block in the U.S. Senate, will host a joint Town Hall Meeting in Young Harris at the YHC Recreation and Fitness Center, according to Isakson spokesperson Lauren Culbertson.

Chambliss and Isakson will give a brief update regarding the state of affairs from Washington, D.C. and then will spend the rest of the hour taking questions from their constituents, according to Culbertson.

The Senators invite the

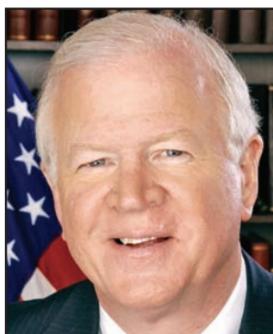


U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson

public to attend the event.

"Young Harris College is very pleased to have this opportunity to host both of Georgia's U.S. Senators, and we encourage our campus and surrounding communities to attend," said Young Harris College President Cathy Cox. "This will be a unique opportunity to hear from both of our Senators in one setting."

From all indications, it was the charismatic President Cox that was able to get two U.S. Senators from Georgia to partake in a rare joint Town Hall Meeting.



U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss

The public will learn quickly just exactly what Sen. Isakson and Sen. Chambliss think about the continued economic crisis and Washington's handling of the problem.

Sen. Isakson has been scheduling Town Hall meetings throughout the month of August.

He has been very vocal about the recent Debt Ceiling issues, gas prices and calling for sanctions against Syria during its very

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Mohawk Building sold; industry far behind?

Advanced Digital Cable buys industrial building

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

The 65,000 square foot Mohawk Building on Highway 76 has been sold, its former owner Hugh Hoodenpyle said last week.

The building and nine acres of land, unoccupied since Mohawk Industries closed its Hiawassee operations in September 2007, and laid off its 130 employees, could soon be a local industrial source again.

Hoodenpyle sold the building to Advanced Digital Cable, a manufacturer of coaxial cable, and also electronic, industrial and utility cable.

"I've kept the building in good shape, in case we could get some industry in here (Towns County)," Hoodenpyle said. "I could have sold it for more, but I



Hugh Hoodenpyle

wanted to make sure we secured some jobs for the people of Towns County.

"From what I can tell, they'll have to retrofit the building to their operations and that could take some time," he said. "I believe once that is complete, they'll add 20 jobs in the beginning in Towns County."

See Mohawk, page 12

Shriners honored in Towns

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

If you run into a guy wearing a funny hat and asking for money, don't be afraid to give him your pocket change.

The annual Shriners' fund-raising efforts are underway until the end of the year. Noble William Lovell will oversee the collection efforts.

In 1922, the first Shriners Hospital for Children opened in Shreveport, LA.

Eighty-nine years have passed by and 21 more hospitals have opened, 20 in the United States and one each in Canada and Mexico.

Those hospitals serve specialties treatments for children from birth to 18 years old.

In Boston, Cincinnati, Galveston and Northern California that provide burn care. In Chicago, Northern California and Philadelphia, spinal cord injury care is provided. In Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Houston, Los Angeles, Northern California, Portland and Springfield, cleft lip and palate care is a specialty.

In 19 of the 22 hospitals, orthopedic care is common place.

Every hospital has one group to thank, a group that is 325,000 strong with 193 chapters in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto Rico and



Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis sign proclamations declaring October as Shriners Hospital for Children Month last week. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

the Republic of Panama.

They are the Shriners. Each year, motorists see them dressed in their Noble uniforms, bucket in hand asking for a donation.

That money doesn't go toward administration; it goes directly to fund those 22 hospitals that impact the lives of so many children.

Last week, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis teamed up to declare the month of October Shriners Hospital for Children Month - forever in Towns County.

See Shriners, page 12

Proposed maps shift Towns to the 9th District

Congressional redistricting could put county in familiar territory

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

Towns County would shift back to the 9th Congressional District if the proposed redistricting Congressional maps are approved by state lawmakers and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Towns County's current Congressman, U.S. Rep. Paul Broun, an Athens Republican, would stay in a revamped 10th Congressional District, which shifts to the South, if the maps are approved.

Congressman Broun, currently traveling with a



U.S. Rep. Paul Broun

Congressional delegation visiting Israel, has not yet had an opportunity to review the proposal, his Press Secretary Jessica Morris said on Monday.

The proposed Congressional maps trim Towns, See Redistricting, page 12

Towns man dies on GA 2 in Gilmer County crash

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

Banister Funeral Home in Hiawassee was packed on Monday as the Towns County community said good-bye to a 21-year-old Towns County man who died last week from injuries sustained in a one-vehicle accident on Georgia 2 in Gilmer County.

Taylor Jordan Phillips, of Hiawassee was laid to rest in Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery on Monday afternoon.



Taylor Jordan Phillips
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



See Crash, page 12