

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2010

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Storms	90 60
Fri: Sunny	88 57
Sat: Sunny	79 54
Sun: Sunny	81 55
Mon: Sunny	84 57
Tue: Sunny	84 58
Wed: Sunny	85 60



Upstream Elevation Predicted 9/1/10	
Lake Chatuge	1922.20
Lake Nottely	1770.20
Blue Ridge	1645.70

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Holiday traffic

The Georgia State Patrol reminds drivers not to get behind the wheel while impaired the holiday weekend.

The 78-hour Labor Day holiday travel period begins on Friday at 6 p.m. and ends at midnight Labor Day.

During the 2009 Labor Day holiday period, there were 1,917 crashes reported, resulting in 867 injuries and 15 traffic deaths in Georgia.

Troopers and officers with the Motor Carrier Compliance Division will work alongside Sheriff Clinton and his deputies in an effort to keep the holiday weekend as safe as possible for everyone.

Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will hold its free food distribution on Tuesday, Sept. 7. The distribution will be held at the Towns County Food Pantry on Jack Dayton Circle from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. All that are in need of assistance are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to pick up your food, please call (706) 896-4783 for more details prior to distribution day. This allows us to make arrangements to deliver food to you. All clients and inquiries are kept confidential.

Electronic Recycling

There will be an electronic recycling and paper shredding for this area on Saturday, Oct. 2. Leslie George, executive director of North Georgia Resource Management Authority, said that they have decided on this date, but not yet decided on a location. Please go to their Web site www.ngrma.org for more details and watch this paper for a location to drop off. All proceeds benefit the Humane Society Mountain Shelter.

Labor Day weekend celebration at The Ridges

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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The Ridges Resort has new, strong local ownership and its also planning a Labor Day blast, literally.

The Resort, now owned by a couple out of Knoxville, Tenn., will host the First Fire on the Water Fireworks & Labor Day event, said Chad Hooper, general manager of The Ridges Resort.

"That's on Sunday and it's the perfect time to come on out and join us for some barbeque and all the fixings, live music and a boat tour or two," Hooper said. "We're going to have fireworks about dusk (around 9 p.m.). We'll have live music with Steven Phillips and Midnight Express.

"Bring a lawn chair or watch from the lake, it's going to be beautiful,"

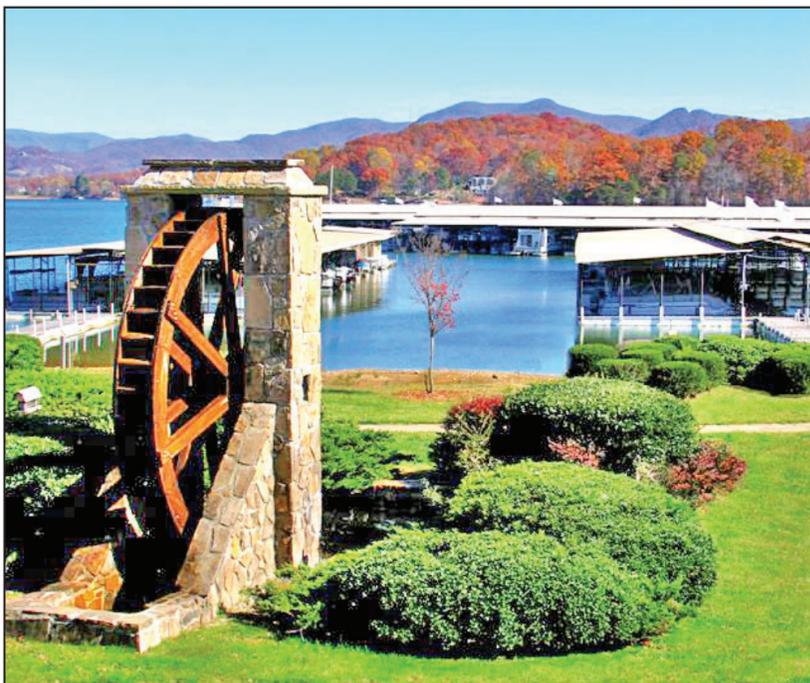
Hooper said. It's all part of The Ridges community-oriented approach to celebrating the Labor Day weekend, Hooper said.

Hooper said the new owners are excited to be a part of the Towns County community.

"We consider them local owners, hands on owners," Hooper said. "They own other marinas and they understand the marina business. They want to be community supportive, they want to be involved locally and they want to be involved in the works of this project we call The Ridges Resort."

Plans for new projects at the Resort are intense, Hooper said, and the new owners want to roll up their sleeves and get involved in the Resort's future.

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Labor Day weekend holds special meaning at The Ridges Resort. The First Fire on the Water Labor Day celebration is planned as the Resort announces it has new ownership in place. Photo/The Ridges

Clinton unveils long range plan



Sheriff Chris Clinton talks with locals following last week's public meeting at the Towns County Courthouse. Clinton unveiled his long-range strategic plan for the Towns County Sheriff's Office. Photo/Charles Duncan

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton didn't make any promises or demands before a packed crowd of

local residents at the Towns County Courthouse last week.

He asked one simple question: "what do you want from your Sheriff's Office in 5, 10, 15 or 20 years down the road?"

He also let them know that according to a study by the Association of Chiefs of Police, the department is vastly understaffed, in need of new equipment

See Sheriff, page 3A

Kendall: 'I won't raise taxes'

By Charles Duncan
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Dire financial straits will keep Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall holding the line on county property taxes, the commissioner said last week.

In response to Sheriff Chris Clinton's list of long-range departmental needs, Commissioner Kendall said the Sheriff's Office is the highest funded, per capita department of any of our neighboring counties.

According to Commissioner Kendall, county payroll records show that Sheriff's Office has a total of 42 employees with either full-time status or that have worked full time during the last 10 weeks and four part-time employees.

"Once the commissioner, who is responsible for setting tax rates and raising budget revenue, adopts the budget amount, the Sheriff



Commissioner Bill Kendall

has authority of how he wants to spend his budgeted amount," Commissioner Kendall said.

Commissioner Kendall says the county has an assortment of other government and infrastructure needs that are just as important to local residents as law enforcement.

The commissioner added that during tough cuts

See Kendall, page 3A

Festival a hit in Young Harris



Festival goers flocked to Young Harris on Saturday and Sunday to take in the first Young Harris Arts Festival. The event attracted surprising numbers for a first year event. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Janice Boling
Special to Towns County Herald

The First Young Harris Arts Festival was without a doubt a rousing success throughout the weekend.

With more than 70 artists and food vendors, the juried, two-day festival offered everything from fine art, pottery and jewelry to home canned jellies and hand-knitted scarves.

And believe it or not, there were even free hugs at The Gazebo in Mayor's Park, featuring celebrity huggers from throughout the community. The booth was hard to miss as more than a dozen signs advertised the hospitable signs of community affection to the multitude of event goers.

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Broun comes to Towns

By Charles Duncan
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U.S. Congressman Paul Broun is coming to town Sept. 7 to throw his support to Incumbent House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison in his upcoming November race with challenger Jack Lance Jr.

According to local Republican Party officials, the event featuring Broun and Allison will be held Sept. 7 at the Towns County Recreation Pavilion from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The event features free barbecue and the all the fixings as Broun talks with locals about why they should support the Incumbent State Representative Allison in the upcoming November general election.

Allison, a deputy whip in the state House, represents Towns, Union, Rabun, and White counties. He's completing his first term. State Rep. Allison defeated incumbent District 8 State Rep. Charles Jenkins in the 2008 General Election.

In his first year in office, Allison either sponsored or co-sponsored 24 legislative actions, including House Bill 667, which related to hospital acquisition and House Bill 782 which offered Towns County residents the right to cast ballots to increase their local home-stead exemption from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

On Tuesday night, David Ralston, Speaker of the Georgia House of Rep-



U.S. Rep. Paul Broun

resentatives, was in town to lend his support to State Rep. Allison's reelection campaign.

A political newcomer, Lance, 30, a Blairsville attorney, seeks to unseat the incumbent representative Allison, 39. Though a newcomer to the political arena, Lance is no stranger to politics, having served on the staff of retired U.S. Sen. and two-term Georgia Gov. Zell Miller.

Miller recently endorsed Lance as the candidate of choice in House District 8.

The race between Allison and Lance has been one of the more quiet campaigns for State House.

Miller believes Lance poses a strong threat to the incumbent Allison.

"Jack was an excellent staff member when I was in the United States Senate," Sen. Miller said.

"His mountain values and work ethic set him aside as someone special," Sen. Miller said.

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