

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Storms	72 51
Fri: Clouds	77 51
Sat: Clouds	80 51
Sun: Clouds	79 54
Mon: Storms	81 54
Tue: Storms	82 55
Wed: Clouds	82 55



Upstream Elevation Predicted 09/07/11	
Lake Chatuge	1921.62
Lake Nottely	1773.97
Blue Ridge	1674.76

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9/11

remembered

Sunday marks the 10-year anniversary of the day terrorists tried to steal freedom from the people of the United States.

At 2 p.m. on Sunday, at the Veterans Memorial Park in Hiwassee, a ceremony remembering those who died on Sept. 11, 2001 in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania.

Almost 3,000 lives were taken in a series of terrorist attacks on our nation, later determined to be the handy work of al Qaeda mastermind Osama bin Laden.

The terrorist attacks in the Northeast touched us all. Today, we still pay the price through the War on Terror.

So much has changed since Sept. 11, 2001. Those changes have been for the good. Countless terror attempts have been foiled worldwide because America and its allies are working together to combat terrorist acts.

The one most significant change on this, the 10th anniversary: Osama bin Laden isn't alive to witness it.



New Deadline

The Towns County Herald deadline for classified advertising submissions has changed due to printing schedules. The new deadline is Friday at 5 p.m.



Community Chorus auditions

Mountain Community Chorus will hold auditions Monday, Sept. 12 at the Clegg Recital Hall at Young Harris College. Call (706) 835-5749 for more details.

Senators say bi-partisan effort needed to solve nation's woes

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson says the nation is up to the lick log.

Translating the Appalachian slang into a modern day expression, the United States is up to its neck in debt.

Things have to change and in a hurry, Sen. Isakson said. "We're about to be over leveraged and we've got to stop it now," Georgia's Junior Senator said during a rare joint Town Hall meeting at Young Harris College with the state's Senior Senator, Saxby Chambliss.

"It's a serious situation, but, it's fixable," Sen. Isakson said.

Isakson said both parties must put all differences aside to work for the betterment of the American people.

"If there is no common ground, there is no solution,"

Sen. Isakson said. "We're going to have to work together so we can get this thing fixed."

Sen. Chambliss agrees. He says it's going to take some work to achieve a balanced budget and deal with other important issues.

"I hope that the work that the Gang of Six has done sets the right kind of tone," he said. "We've got an awful lot of difficult issues that we've got to face. If we don't do it in a bi-partisan way, then the country is going to suffer."

"We have to find that common ground and we can find common ground without giving in on principles," Sen. Chambliss said. "It's never easy, but this country is in a crisis situation. It's not just a financial issue, we're in the middle of two wars, and you can almost count Libya as a third."

"We've got to work

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U.S. Senators Johnny Isakson (top) and Saxby Chambliss (below) say Democrats and Republicans must focus on common ground to resolve the nation's financial and economic woes. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

Back Pack program renewed

Program provides nutritional snacks for elementary students in need

Special to Towns County Herald
tcherald@windstream.net

The Towns County Food Pantry has renewed its Back Pack program for the county's elementary school students for the 2011-2012 school year.

The program was started in March 2010 and continued thru the 2010-2011 school year.

The program provides "kid friendly," nutritional food for elementary school children, whose families are in need due to the continued harsh economic climate.

The Back Pack program snacks went home with the children on Sept. 2.

With a month of delays, the program has been revamped to provide a better variety of nutritional age-appropriate foods. The Food Pantry also secured some new resources to gain the necessary products.

The Food Pantry is working with local businesses, Ingles' and Dollar



Towns County Food Pantry volunteers fill Back Packs for kids.

General, as well as the North East Georgia Food Bank of Athens to keep costs down yet still provide the food children need.

Among other obstacles the Food Pantry has faced is the need to provide peanut free foods to the elementary school because they are a Peanut Free school because of allergic reactions by some children.

The Food Pantry, which opened its doors in June 2008, has been supplementing family's nutritional

needs each Tuesday since, reaching as many as 430 households per week.

The Towns County Food Pantry is solely supported by the community through individuals, church and civic organization donations. It does not receive any government funding.

"Volunteers are always welcome to help box and distribute the food," said co-coordinator Richard

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Kendall, Mayor Mathis welcome H.O.G. Rally

Harley owners of Georgia come to town for three-day event

By Charles Duncan
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The Georgia State H.O.G. Rally rolls into town on Thursday, and the community awaits their arrival, ready to welcome them with open arms.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis are ecstatic about the arrival of the Harley Owners of Georgia group on Thursday in anticipation of the H.O.G. Rally ever held in Towns County.

Commissioner Kendall expressed his gratitude to the Harley Owners Group for choosing Towns County as the site for their convention for 2011. He asked residents to join in extending this great organization a warm welcome later this week.

"They will spend hundreds of thousand dollars and give the economy a boost at a time when our business community needs it very much," Commissioner Kendall said. "It will also help dwindling sales tax rev-



Commissioner Bill Kendall



Mayor Barbara Mathis

enues due to the recession and help all local governments and schools which receive sales tax revenues.

Economic statistics

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Fireworks draws a crowd

Second Annual Labor Day event a hit with tourists and locals alike

By Charles Duncan
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Fireworks lovers waited out threatening skies on Sunday night to enjoy the Second Annual Labor Day Fireworks Show at the Ridges Resort & Marina.

The event featured lots of people and lots of fireworks. The event got underway just after 9 p.m.

"It went pretty good," Ridges General Manager Chad Hooper said. "I'm sure the threat of rain scared a lot of people away, but we had a lot of people here waiting for fireworks. I'm glad we were able to top off their Labor Day weekend."

Young and old alike celebrated the holiday that signals the end of summer and that fall is just around the corner. They sat in large groups around fire pits, sharing stories and waiting for the event to begin.

Some got restless, almost believing the event had been canceled. However, when the lights that illuminate the grounds went dark, a crowd buzz began in earnest.

They weren't disappointed as round after round of fireworks began rocketing toward the skies, lighting up the darkness from the sky and from the water as the fireworks reflected on

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Everyone loves fireworks. Photos/Lowell Nicholson and James Reese

State Rep. Collins seeks open 9th District seat

Rep. Collins to speak at Towns GOP meeting on Thursday

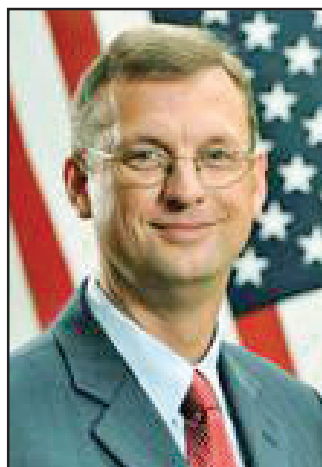
By Charles Duncan
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The District 27 state representative from the Georgia House of Representatives has become the first candidate to seek the open Congressional Seat in the 9th Congressional District.

State Rep. Doug Collins, who represents portions of Hall, Lumpkin and White counties, currently is serving his third term in the Georgia House of Representatives.

"I am announcing my plans to run for congress in the new 9th (Congressional District), an open seat that was created as a result of Georgia gaining a district after the 2010 decennial Census," Collins said. "Our country is truly at a crossroads and we need bold conservative leadership to get us back on track."

"All throughout my adult life I have worked hard to solve problems and make my community a better place," he said. "My wife Lisa and I are blessed to have three wonderful children: Jordan, Copelan, and Cameron. I don't want them to look back 20 years from



State Rep. Doug Collins

now and ask their dad why he didn't do anything to stop the mess that they will no doubt inherit.

"I very much look forward to visiting every county in the District as I seek to represent the people of north Georgia and their values in Washington," Collins said.

Collins is a scheduled speaker at the GOP September meeting at Daniel's Steakhouse on Thursday evening in Hiwassee.

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

