

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Showers	64 44
Fri: Showers	51 33
Sat: Clouds	56 30
Sun: Sunny	59 30
Mon: Clouds	60 36
Tue: Showers	64 37
Wed: Showers	65 39

Upstream Elevation Predicted 10/26/11	
Lake Chatuge	1919.41
Lake Nottely	1765.60
Blue Ridge	1671.05



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Saturday Parade

Saturday marks the second North Georgia Jeepers' Spooktacular Halloween event. The day includes a Jeep Parade at 5 p.m. from the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds that concludes on the Downtown Square. The Jeepers will then take part in a Trunk-Or-Treat event as part of the annual Halloween on the Square. The event, which lasts as long as the candy is available, features lots of candy to all the children Trick-or-Treating on the Square.

Admission is free, just wear your costumes and bring your Trick-or-Treat Bags.

S.A.F.E. Sale

Young Harris College is sponsoring a yard sale to benefit S.A.F.E. on Thursday and Friday in the basement of the Pruitt/Barrett Building at YHC.

Reward

Recently the Tree Tops Chevron on Bell Creek Road was burglarized. The Towns County Sheriff's Office, along with the store's owner, is seeking help from the public in an effort to quickly solve this crime. Any information which leads to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for this crime will be treated confidentially, and a reward is offered by the owner of the store.

Driving Safety

AARP hosts a driver safety course at the Family Life Center at McConnell Baptist Church from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday.

Willie returns to Hiawassee

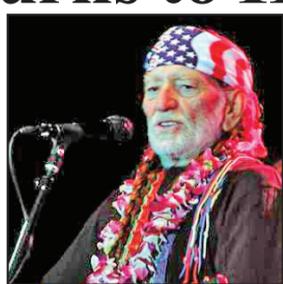
By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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The *Red-Headed Stranger* is headed back to Hiawassee.

Willie Nelson, actor, activist, singer, songwriter and the penman behind Patsy Cline's smash hit, "Crazy," has agreed to come back to Anderson Music Hall to perform on Feb. 11, said Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason.

"On Saturday, Feb. 11th, Willie Nelson will again be in concert at Anderson Music Hall," Thomason told the Towns County Herald last week.

"Willie Nelson, the *Red-Headed Stranger* is coming back to town; it's really an exciting time at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds," she said. "That's a big announcement for us



Willie Nelson

to have something going on in the winter months when tourism is slow, hotels are slow and restaurants are slow. It's a great opportunity again to promote tourism in Towns County."

Tickets go on sale Dec. 2 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Box Office, Thomason said.

Tickets are \$45 plus a \$2 handling charge, Thomason said.

"Willie tickets sold out in six days in 2009," Thomason said. "I think we will have a good turnout for this event again and we want

folks to be ready to make plans to see Willie Nelson."

Thomason also made an announcement regarding a Willie Nelson Feb. 11th appearance at the Bad Company/Molly Hatchet show on Saturday.

Willie might not be the only big name coming to Hiawassee in February.

"We have an offer out to Trace Adkins for Feb. 24th," Thomason said. "That's not confirmed yet, but hopefully we'll get those details worked out. We'll know something soon on that."

The Fairgrounds also has an offer out on *The Happy Together Tour*, featuring The Turtles, The Monkeys, The Buckingham, The Grass Roots and Gary Puckett and The Union Gap.

"It'll be a great, great concert," Thomason said.

See Willie, page 15A

Kendall begins Budget approval process Thursday

Commissioner keeps county budget at \$9.38 million

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall is poised to begin the process of approving a proposed \$9.38 million County Budget for Fiscal 2012 on Thursday at the Towns County Courthouse.

Commissioner Kendall said last week that he will cut the county's millage rate from 5.570 mills to 5.320 mills as part of the Budget approval process.

A public hearing is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Towns County Courthouse to begin the millage rate approval process prior to the adoption of the 2012 County Budget.

The millage rate decrease keeps the 2012 Bud-



Commissioner Bill Kendall

get almost identical to the 2011 Budget. One major difference is a 30 cent per hour raise across the board for county employees (elected officials excluded).

Commissioner Kendall said the county will continue to keep a tight lid on spending as the local economy continues to recover from the worst economic times since 1933.

The good news: sales tax revenues have rebounded in 2011, bringing in \$60,000 more than a year ago.

Tiny Mites keep title hopes alive

The Indians' 7-8 year olds one game away from Youth League Super Bowl

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Jefferson - The Towns County Tiny Mites were looking at the wrong end of the scoreboard at halftime on Saturday against the Jefferson Dragons.

The 7-8-year-old Indians were 8 points down to the Jefferson Dragons coming out of the locker room. The Indians' coaching staff at the half told the group that 8 points wasn't a mountain, that is, unless they let it become one.

True to form, the Tiny Mites came out of the locker room on fire and fought back like champions.

After tying the score at 20-20, Hayden McClure



Tiny Mites Kyle Oakes and Hayden McClure do the Touchdown Bump in the end zone on Saturday. Photo by James Reese

capped one of his best game performances by scampering 9 yards into the end zone to seal the 2011 fate of the Jefferson Dragons.

What does it all mean? A rematch with

Rabun County and a chance to move on to the North Georgia Youth League Super Bowl in Dahlonega is the goal.

See Tiny Mites, page 15A

Eastgate pays tribute

Local church honors local elected officials



Jean Kendall and her husband, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall greet Dr. Rick Austin Sunday at Eastgate Church in Hiawassee. Photo/Charles Duncan

By Charles Duncan
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Eastgate Church's Pastor Greg Roberts doesn't believe in separation of Church and State.

In fact, he believes the government needs God more now than it has ever before.

Almost 100 people came to the church on Sunday to pay their appreciation for local government officials. Pastor Roberts and

the congregation prayed for the continued leadership of local government officials at a time when national leaders have been as scarce as hen's teeth.

"I appreciate your service, I appreciate all you do," Pastor Roberts said.

Dr. Rick Austin, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis, Hiawassee City Council members Janet Allen, Joan

See Elected Officials, page 15A

Fun World brings skating to Towns

A new adventure in store for children of all ages as Funworld reopens

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Tyler Hoffman rolled across the Towns County blue floor with confidence.

It was easy to tell, he was no novice roller skater. The Towns County High School junior looked as comfortable on roller skates as he did on a wrestling mat.

"It's good exercise," he said. "It doesn't take long to feel the burn. It strengthens the legs, it tones the body and it's a great way to keep your body in shape. And, oh, by the way, it's pretty fun too."

"I think it's going to be

See Fun World, page 15A



A 10,000 square-foot skating floor brings a fresh perspective to the ever-popular experience at Fun World in Hiawassee. Ken and Dana Merritt say it's a Fun World on wheels. Photo/Charles Duncan

Trunk-or-Treat at hit at The Ridges

Annual event celebrates fall; puts candy in the hands of local youths

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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It's not every day that you find scarecrows, superheroes, zombies and phantoms crossing paths on such benevolent conditions. That is unless you're at The Ridges Resort & Marina's annual Fall-A-Bration event.

The Ridges Resort & Marina hosted yet another incredible community experience on Sunday as hundreds of local children and their families enjoyed three-plus hours of holiday festivities.

At the Fifth Annual Fall-A-Bration, many local businesses and civic groups took part in the Trunk-or-Treat affair passing out free candy and other concession favorites from the trunks of



Candy was a coveted resource at The Ridges Resort & Marina on Sunday in Towns County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

their decorated vehicles.

The idea is for local businesses and civic groups to adorn their vehicles in fall themes to give out holiday candy and treats to local

children.

"It's been a success every year," said The Ridges Resort & Marina

See Fall-A-Bration, page 15A

Molly Hatchet scores big with local crowd

The Boys from Jacksonville, Fla. 'Beat the Odds Again'

By Charles Duncan
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They paid tribute to America's Armed Forces, Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action, the Late, Great Danny Joe Brown and the members of Lynyrd Skynyrd that perished in a plane crash in 1977.

The tribute was the Southern Rock Anthem *Freebird* and the message was "never forget; always remember."

Molly Hatchet, the opening act for Brian Howe's version of Bad Company on Saturday at Anderson Music Hall stole the show as Jacksonville, Fla.'s finest did what they do best, play to the crowd.

Lead vocals Phil McCormick kept the crowd engaged and on the edge of their seats as the hard-rocking, heavy metal band that debuted in the late 1970s played its heart out.

It was a charged crowd that bounced, and did the shake, rattle and roll in



Lead Guitar Bobby Ingram picks like a wild man for Molly Hatchet Saturday at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/James Reese

front of the Music Hall stage. McCormick frequently told the crowd how pleased and proud the band was to be in

See Concert, page 15A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

