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comes to town every Wednesday for Senior Bingo.

On this Wednesday, she struck the first shovel of dirt with a little help from her friends.

In 180 days or so, weather permitting, Winkler & Winkler Construction out of Blairsville will have completed the 5,800 square foot Senior Center.

With the front entrance and back porch included, the facility will be around 7,000 square feet.

And Chad Winkler promises that there isn't another Senior Center around that will have the back porch view that the Towns County Senior Center will have. It overlooks beautiful Lake Chatuge.

When completed, the new Senior Center will be located next to the Recreation Department.

The contract for the construction is \$554,236. The project, bid out earlier this year, attracted 13 bidders, including Winkler & Winkler. The highest bid, from Civil Works Inc., came in at \$1.647 million, while the lowest bid came in at \$709,420 from Winkler & Winkler.

The lowest project bid was over the allotted budget by \$239,420.

The Senior Center construction funding comes from a \$500,000 Community Block Grant with a construction allowance of \$470,000 and a \$30,000 administrative allowance to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, Commissioner Kendall said.

Commissioner Kendall, project architect Dick Bachman and Chad Winkler worked tirelessly for hours on end to revise the construction plans to save construction dollars. The savings amounted to \$155,184. Commissioner Kendall allotted \$84,236 in local funds toward the project to help narrow the financial gap.

"It was imperative to add these additional funds with the other alternative being for Towns County to lose the \$500,000 grant," Commissioner Kendall said. "We think it's well worth it and will serve the purpose."

Pat Freeman, executive director of Legacy Link, said the new center has been a long time coming.

"I just want to thank everyone who played a part in this," she told a crowd of more than 50 who attended the groundbreaking ceremony.

Commissioner Kendall agreed.

"We want to thank everybody for what they've done to make this new Senior Center a reality," Commissioner Kendall said.

Shirley Stallings, of Mountain Community Seniors of Clay, Towns and Union counties, said Wednesday's groundbreaking ceremonies was a great day in Towns County history.

"Thank you all that have supported these efforts," Stallings said. "The folks that get involved here make Towns County one of the greatest counties in Georgia. Thank you Bill (Kendall) for giving back to Towns County. We appreciate you so much."

Pat Nicholson, director of Towns County's Senior Center was ecstatic.

"I'm sure everyone will enjoy it," she said. "We're just looking forward to getting down here."

Cross Country...continued from page 1

rather obvious that Ansley Vardeman was doing well just to be on the 3.1 mile race course.

"We had some kids that came out here today and they weren't physically ready to run this race," Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren said. "We've got some kids that have been sick all week, but they suited up and ran this

race. They competed and gave it their all."

Ansley's twin sister Taylor Vardeman was under the weather as well, she finished 86th in the state championship race.

Sierra Nichols had one of the best races of her season finishing 94th and third overall for the Lady Indians; the Lady Indians' only senior, Cassie Buck, finished 126th;

Karlie Albach finished close behind in 128th place in her best race of the season. Freshman Courtney Stephens finished 143rd with her fastest run of the season.

It was the eighth time in nine seasons that Coach Ledford has led the Lady Indians to the Class A state championships. She led the Indians' boys' teams to state in 2003 and 2004.

Grease...continued from page 1

To set up the action, 'after spending a hopelessly devoted summer with Sandy Dumbrowski (Cassie Buck), the new girl in town, Danny Zuko's (Mathew Gay) world is thrown upside down when Sandy appears at Rydell High on the first day of school. What follows is a rock n' roll celebration of growin' up, cruisin' with friends and goin' steady.'

This production of *Grease*, directed by Chris Adams, features songs from the smash hit 1978 motion picture, including *Sandy*, *Hopelessly Devoted to You* and *You're the One That I*

Want.

Sound familiar? Well, these songs and others include the Jacobs/Casey songs made famous by the original stage production such as *Summer Nights*, *Greased Lightnin'* and *We Go Together* will be heard.

"Our students are working hard to put this program together" says Principal Roy Perren, who plays the part of 'Johnny Casino.'

Adams, who plays the part of 'Teen Angel,' invites the community to come out for his smash it that is incredibly entertaining.

He also invites the

community to come out and see just how much the students hard work has paid off.

Other cast members include Courtney Farmer as 'Rizzo,' Nick Santisi as 'Kenicki,' Taylor Vardeman as 'Marty,' Bradley Rogers as 'Roger,' Christa Hamill as 'Jan,' Dustin Carver as 'Doody,' Kayla Taylor as 'Frenchy,' Jordan Woodard as 'Eugene,' Mia Manto as 'Patty Simcox,' Chelsea Alferink as 'Mrs. Lynch,' and Kayla Nichols as 'Cha-Cha.'

Come out and see this exciting display of theatrical production at its best.



Cora Berrong and Jean Kendall share a moment at last week's groundbreaking for the new Towns County Senior Center that overlooks Lake Chatuge in Hiawassee. Photo/Marty Roberts



Danny Zuko and the T-Birds have some thinking to do. Come out Thursday at 7 p.m. and catch all the action of the Towns County High School production of Grease. Photo by James Reese

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free to contact Vicki Ellis at (706) 896-8343.

"This year our country is again experiencing financial crisis," Sheriff Clinton said.

"With these continuing struggles, there are many families who will need help this Christmas season. Remembering that Christmas is about the gift God gave to the world, we can show others some of that love by giving of ourselves during this season. So, while we are asking you to help, we want to assure you that it is for a most worthy cause."

The Empty Stocking Fund will attempt to help at least the same number of children as in years past.

The sheriff understands that times are hard and that economically, businesses and residents have struggled to stay above water, in terms of fiscal mat-

ters. He also understands that rough economic waters also make for tough times for small children who don't quite understand what the word recession means.

"We hope the giving spirit of the people of Towns County will be able to help and assist us in this endeavor," Sheriff Clinton said.

Likewise, Chief Wright and his department want to make Christmas a little brighter for 12-16 year olds in the city.

The department is targeting this age group for the fourth consecutive year with its *Shop with a Cop* program. Chief Wright and community leaders continue to promote the program because of the benefits it reaps with young people.

"We identify the children in need through Amy Gibby-Rosser with Towns

County Family Connection," Chief Wright said. "Our goal is to spend \$200 a piece on each child and let them spend it on anything that they want to buy."

Several businesses and civic organizations donate money to help the program reach its goal each year. Chief Wright said the program once again is dependant upon donations in order to help the young teens enjoy a Merry Christmas.

"We know folks are still struggling," Chief Wright said. "But somehow, the folks in this community manage to come together and make Christmas a bright one for the young people who otherwise aren't expecting a Christmas."

To help Chief Wright and Shop-With-A-Cop, contact him at City Hall at (706) 896-2203.

Indians Win...continued from page 1

Towns County history.

Coach Langford gave a special salute to the Towns County Indians' faithful.

"We just really want to thank the fans," he said. "We had a good number of folks that came down. They we're really supportive. The band was awesome. The cheerleaders were awesome. The love and the class that we have here at Towns County is really special."

Coach Langford issued a special notice to all able-bodied athletes returning next school year. He wants to see them on the football field.

"We have 18 or 19 guys coming back next year

so that's something positive," he said. "We said going into tonight this was the first game of the 2012 season. It kind of was. It was a lot of fun."

"If the guys in the hall will come out and play next season, we will win and can win a lot but they've got to come out and play," he said. "I would guarantee anybody that if we have the kids we're going to win. No question about it. Having to fight with 20 kids that have a lot of character and a lot of guts was fun, but it's very hard."

"We need every guy that's physically able out playing football next year and let see if we can take

this thing back to where it needs to be and ramp it up a notch or two," Coach Langford said.

The season-ending victory was something special. It was the first time since 1978 that a Towns County football team won the final game of the football season.

"This was one to remember," Coach Langford said. "It was a good Hebron team, they had 4 wins trying to make it 5 on the season. They had a good running back. Probably as good as we've seen. They finished 9-1 last season so they've got something there to draw on. It was just a real nice win for us."

Election...continued from page 1

percent of the vote combined.

Austin and Wilkinson will face off Dec. 6 in a runoff for the District 50 Senate Seat. Austin took Towns County 568 to 222 for Wilkinson to 202 for Focer. Strickland and Burger claimed 42 votes and 19 respectively.

The Homestead Exemptions for Young Harris, Hiawassee and the School District passed unanimously, each garnering more than 80 percent of the vote.

Meanwhile, Mulkey, who has been on the Young Harris Council for almost 20 years, didn't concede de-

feat. Nevertheless, she said she's fine with the turnout one way or another because it's the people's choice.

"And 'We the People' is what this country was founded upon," she said Tuesday night. "If it's meant to be, it will be and if not, I can live with that. I love this city; I've lived here all my life. Young Harris is all I know."

"I'm excited about the new things that are happening with Young Harris College," she said. "I truly believe that the city and the College can coexist in peaceful har-

mony, and that's the way it should be."

If there's a runoff between Miller and Edwards, Mulkey said she would support the candidate that intends to keep the best interests of the City of Young Harris and its people at heart.

"It's in everyone's best interests to live in harmony," she said. "There's no place for bickering in the City of Young Harris. There's no sense in being at odds with each other. I think that no matter what the issue, there is always a peaceful compromise."

GOP Meet...continued from page 1

ties in her career and has a strong understanding of what it takes to run a small school system. She also is the first female superintendent in the history of Towns County Schools.

During her career in various school systems, Williams has served as a reading and math teacher, taught business education, served as vocational director as well as director of technology, career technical and agricultural education. She also has served as a personnel director, director of curriculum, in addition to serving three years as superintendent of Jenkins County Schools.

Meanwhile, during the past ten years, the population of Georgia increased enough to award the state another Congressional District. When the districts were redrawn this year by the Georgia General Assembly, Towns County shifted

out of the 10th Congressional District back into its traditional 9th Congressional District.

The redrawn districts left the 9th Congressional District without an incumbent Congressman.

Two candidates have emerged to seek the vacant 9th Congressional District seat: Georgia House District 25 State Rep. Doug Collins and Martha Zoller, a popular conservative talk show host.

Zoller will be the second speaker at Thursday's Republican Party meeting.

Zoller says that her conservative positions make her the person who will best represent the 9th Congressional District.

Her platform includes installing a tax replacement system rather than reforming the current tax code, decreasing government intrusion in the lives of its citizens, supporting public edu-

cation, insisting on a balanced budget, creating a foreign policy that supports only our allies and repealing federal health care changes, while introducing common sense solutions to our health care system.

Towns County Republicans welcome public participation at their meetings - they are open to everyone in the county. In addition to Republicans, Democrats, Tea Party members and Patriots are invited. Many times, these meetings are the only avenue that county residents have of keeping up with the important issues of the day.

Towns County Republican Party meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. at Daniels Steak House.

The public is invited to attend the Republican Party Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 10th to meet and listen to Williams and Zoller.



Only 1,089 of Towns County's more than 7,000 registered voters cast ballots in the 2011 General Election. More than 130 were cast in the city of Young Harris. Photo/James Reese