

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Showers	64 44
Fri: Clouds	65 42
Sat: Clouds	62 42
Sun: Sunny	67 44
Mon: Sunny	68 45
Tue: Sunny	69 47
Wed: Sunny	71 45



Upstream Elevation	
Predicted	
10/17/12	
Lake Chatuge	1920.27
Lake Nottely	1767.43
Blue Ridge	1671.87

INDEX

2 Sections, 20 Pages

Arrests.....	2A
Chamber News.....	2B
Church/Obits.....	8A,9A
Classifieds.....	3B
Editorial.....	4
Letters.....	4
Legals.....	4B

Sports Page 10A

Homecoming

Friday night is Homecoming at Frank McClure Stadium. The 2012 Towns County Homecoming Court is made up of 10 senior ladies and 10 senior gentlemen nominated by the Senior Class.

Christina Hamill, Davilyn Blythe, Erin Westberry, Alex Fagin, Dadrion Blythe, Brittany Boyer, Kayla Olin, Meagan Ellis, Brittany Ledford, and Claire Wilson make up the Court. Vying to become king are Ryan Tallent, Luke Parker, Dillon Thompson, Bradley Smith, Austin Wood, Johnny Arrowood, Wesley Bloodworth, Dillon Diehl, Tyler Hoffman, and Sonny Goodman. **Story Page 10A**

Meeting Rescheduled

The regular monthly County Commission meeting for Oct. 18, beginning at 5:30 p.m. has been changed to 3:30 p.m. The change has been made to avoid conflict for those wishing to attend the first Towns County High School Homecoming Parade which will take place later that afternoon at 5 p.m.

Senior Center

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall invites the public to tour the new Towns County Senior Center on Sunday, Oct. 28, from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Open House will be hosted by the Mountain Community Seniors and Senior Center Staff.

Towns County has the largest percentage of senior citizens of any county in the State. The new home for our seniors is located next to the Recreation Gymnasium overlooking Lake Chatuge.

The building was constructed with a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant from the state Department of Community Affairs.

Funding included in-kind contributions, the Towns County Road Department did the clearing, grading of site, storm drainage and parking lot, and some local funds also were used.

Shuttles buses will be available for any traffic overflow to shuttle visitors from the parking lot at the Rec. Gym.

Commissioner Kendall invites the community to share in the exciting event.

Fall Festival drawing the crowds in the first week

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

The 2012 Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Fall Festival opened the gates to patrons on Friday, Oct. 12th, at 10 a.m.

Folks were lined up at the ticket office most of the day as they were eager to see all the new attractions and visit some of the familiar ones as well.

One of the main attractions on both days was the fabulous entertainment provided by the Georgia Mountain Fair band featuring Jim Wood.

They put on a great performance as they opened for Aaron Tippin on Friday and The Bellamy Brothers on Saturday.

All in all, it was just a fantastic weekend for entertainment. The Hall was packed out both days and for both shows.

The prices were very reasonable as folks only had to pay \$10 for both shows on each day.

They definitely got their money's worth as Aaron Tippin walked out and the scene was set for a high energy show from the moment he set foot on stage.

He opened with Merle Haggard's *Movin' On*. The crowd was enthralled from the moment he started to sing. When he performed *You've Got to Stand for Something* the crowd went wild. They were clapping and singing right along with him. You could literally feel the energy radiating from the stage and the audience as well.

Carol and Eddie Williams of Iva, SC are long-time fans of Tippin.

"My favorite song is *The Radio*," said Carol Williams.

"He's from South Carolina and we just love him. My cousin used to work with him doing construction about 20 years ago before he made it big," said Carol Williams. "We try to go hear him perform whenever we can."

Ruthy Pitts of Elberton, GA said that she has been a fan



The Bellamy Brothers packed The Hall on Saturday at the Fall Festival. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

of Tippin for years.

"He's just a real down to earth kind of fella," said Pitts.

Tippin and his band put on a great show and thoroughly entertained their fans with their constant playful bantering back and forth between songs. If you came looking for musical excellence and excitement, you were definitely in the right

place.

Saturday was a bit more mellow as the Bellamy Brothers performed and put on a great show as they did their "oldies but goodies."

They opened with *Feelin' the Feelin'* and *Let Your Love Flow*. The fans were singing along, clapping their hands, and even some folks dancing

in the back. This duo has been performing together for almost 40 years and have withstood the test of time and they still have that magical blend of great instrumentals and a great country sound that keep fans coming back for more.

See Festival, page 12A

Wilkinson: 'vote your conscience'

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson was the guest speaker at the recent Towns County Retired Teacher's meeting at Brasstown Valley Resort, to discuss issues impacting education today.

Sen. Wilkinson was witty, informative, and a real crowd pleaser.

"It really is a pleasure for me to be here today," the senator said. "How blessed we are to live in a place like this. It was a beautiful drive here."

Coming as no surprise to anyone, the hot topic of the day was HR 1162, the Charter School Amendment on the Nov. 6th General Election ballot.

"From 2008 to 2011, there was a Commission in Georgia that could grant charters to the schools, but they had to go through the local school systems. If the local school systems did not grant the charter, they could apply to the Georgia Board of Education and, if granted by the state, they could open a charter school," said Wilkinson.

He told the group that he had some reservations regarding the Charter School Amendment and that he felt that local school boards should be able to run their schools the way they



Sen. John Wilkinson talks with Towns retired educators.

felt was best.

"I appreciate the work you have done for kids throughout your teaching careers. I really believe that teaching is a calling," said Wilkinson.

Wilkinson admitted that even though he had some "reservations," that Gov. Nathan Deal called him into his office and talked with him about HR 1162. Wilkinson said that in his conversation with the governor he reminded him of a time when he had bought a pig from him.

"When I bought that pig from you it wasn't in a bag. We took it out and looked at it," he

recalled. "I kind of want to see that pig before I vote for it."

Deal told him that this was no different from what they had had in place for the past three years, and that he felt that the people had a right to decide where they wanted their children to go to school and have some say in their education.

Wilkinson said that after having talked with the author of the bill, House Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones, and the Education Committee, he voted against the Charter Amendment.

See Wilkinson, page 12A

Fall-A-Bratton set for Sunday at The Ridges

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

The Ridges Resort & Marina's General Manager Chad Hooper is excited about the upcoming Fall-A-Bratton and Trunk-or-Treat Celebration which take place on Sunday, Oct. 21st.

They have added new attractions and activities and are planning on a great turnout with Hooper declaring this event to be "bigger and better than ever."

One of the new added features will be local dance company, Mountain Classic Dance, performing an outstanding routine at 3 p.m.

"I think this will be the best Fall-A-Bratton and Trunk-or-Treat we have had at The Ridges," said Hooper.

"The staff and management look forward to this event every year. They love working in conjunction with local businesses to support the youth of the surrounding counties," said Hooper.

Activities include face painting, a costume parade, a cake walk, featuring cakes from Executive Pastry Chef Nicole Parks of The Oaks Restaurant, sack races, lawn games, dancing, S'mores around the fire pit, and a pumpkin carving contest for children and adults.

Prizes will be awarded for the pumpkin carving winners. Children must be at least 8 years old to participate in the carving contest. All activities are free to the public.

There will be candied apples, hot dogs, and hot cider available for purchase if you start to feel that low rumble in



Fall-A-Bratton and Trunk or Treat are back for a 2012 fun for all.

your tummy. You won't want to miss out on these tasty treats.

If you are feeling adventurous, you'll be able to take a ride on a Pumpkin Pontoon Boat.

There will be an area designated for that perfect picture to take home as a souvenir, so don't forget those cameras. If your photography skills are somewhat lacking, Priya Photography will be available to memorialize this event for those interested in purchasing a photo.

The Resort will be holding a contest on Facebook for the "cutest" Fall-A-Bratton 2012 photo. They encourage you to post your photos to The Ridges' Facebook page.

Local businesses will be

passing out treats for the kids. This is going to be an afternoon of great family fun.

Staff and Management of The Ridges invite everyone to come enjoy the holiday decorations and watch the little ghouls and ghosts collect their treats.

Hooper encourages you to come take part in this wholesome family fun and the exciting activities and let The Ridges' Fall-a-Bratton and Trunk-or-Treat be a part of your fall family tradition.

The fun gets started at 2 p.m. and will wrap up at 5 p.m.

Local businesses wishing to take part need to contact the Ridges Resort at (706) 897-1555 by Thursday, Oct. 18th to reserve their spot.

City leaders tour water facilities

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

At the October Meeting of the Hiwassee Planning, Facilities, and Finance Committees, they met at the Hiwassee Water Plant.

The purpose of the meeting was to allow Committee Members to tour and inspect the Water Treatment facilities.

Hiwassee Water Plant Operator Randy Warne welcomed the guests who, in addition to the Councilmen and Committee members, included members of the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority and the Towns County Homeowners Association.

The tour included a demonstration of the plant SCADA System, a look at the plant laboratory, chemical room, filters and clarifier.

Visitors questioned Warne in regard to chemical additives as well as the quality of water production.

City Engineer Don Baker provided a briefing on the proposed new water intake.

"Plans have been submitted to state and federal agencies to replace the current intake, and the project should go to bid this year," said Baker.

"The current intake was intended as a temporary intake and plans were drawn up to replace it over 20 years ago," said Warne.

"Due to the current intake's withdrawal of water from just below lake level, we sometime have algae and lake debris problems," said City Manager Rick Stancil.

"We sometimes have



Rick Stancil

issues with odor and taste as well, and we are forced to add additional purification chemicals," said Stancil.

Mayor Barbara Mathis expressed her appreciation for the work of the plant operators and the interest of the visitors to the plant.

"We have a modern facility that can serve Towns County well for future generations. We meet and exceed state and federal standards and produce water of an extremely high quality for a reasonable price. Working with the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority, together we will ensure that all of Towns County has safe drinking water for our future generations," said Mathis.

According to Stancil, the new water intake is a part of the 2012 Water and Sewer Improvement package approved by the Council.

This project will include a new water tank at the Towns County Comprehensive Schools for drinking water reserves, fire protection, new water lines, and hydrants to better serve new businesses in Hiwassee.

The 2012 improvements
See Water, page 12A

Drop, cover and hold on

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

On Thursday at 10:18 a.m., Towns County's elementary, middle, and high schools will be participating in the *Great Southeast Shakeout* as they 'Drop, Cover, and Hold on' in a mock drill in preparation in the event of an earthquake.

"While we don't hear of many earthquakes in our area, it is possible that we might actually experience one. Because student safety is of the utmost importance to us, we want to do all we can to prepare for any possible emergency situation. Our Administrators and their staff will be working to make sure our students know how to safely respond in case of an earthquake," said Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams.

This scheduled 'Shakeout' may have more folks scrambling to participate as Fannin County and surrounding areas experienced first hand the jolt of an earthquake Saturday, Oct. 13th, just shortly after midnight.

McCaysville Mayor Thomas Seabolt said it woke him out of a sound sleep.

"I went to be around 10



Melissa Williams

o'clock and was awakened by what sounded like a loud boom," he said. "I've experienced earthquake tremors before, but I've never heard one like this before."

"A lot of folks in the area described it as sounding like an explosion. I thought a big truck had wrecked in front of my house," said Seabolt.

"It sure shook my house. I felt it strongly," said Seabolt.

Seabolt said that there were no injuries reported.

According to the Southeast U.S. Seismic Network it has indeed been confirmed as

See Quake page 12A

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