

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, November 11, 2015

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Rain	62 42
Fri: Sun	58 35
Sat: Sun	53 34
Sun: Sun	59 39
Mon: Clouds	57 43
Tue: Rain	51 44
Wed: Rain	53 41



Upstream Elevation Predicted 11/05/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,919.34
Lake Nottely	1,764.34
Blue Ridge	1,674.60

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FREE

Food Distribution
North Mt. Zion Church of God
Thurs. Nov. 19
10 AM - Noon

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Towns County Sheriff's Empty Stocking TOY DRIVE

See Page 2



Sponsor a Foster Child for Christmas

See Page 6

Towns County High School Chorus presents

Footloose

See Page 15

Operation PUP



Operation PUP Rummage Sale
Saturday, Nov. 14
Garden Club Building

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Lady Indians State Champions Fourth Year Running

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Carrollton - To say the conditions during the Towns County Lady Indians' fourth consecutive Class A Public School Cross Country State Championship in Carrollton were less than favorable would be an understatement.

During the last race of a long day of racing, Towns' Hannah Whitehead battled a mangled and muddy course that even claimed one of her shoes, and not to mention 72 other competitors that were vying to end Towns' string of State titles, but in the end, it was her own teammate that gave her the greatest challenge.

Whitehead clocked in with a time of 22 minutes and 8 seconds for an individual State title, and in second place, a mere 22 seconds behind, was Towns' Taylor Cornett with a time of 22:30.

Taralee Arrowood placed sixth, finishing in 24:39, giving the Lady Indians three runners in the Top Six.

Jasmine Miranda came in 12th with a time of 25:58, and rounding Towns' Top Five was 18th place Emma Kate Ledford with 26:18.

Lydia Moss came in 20th at 26:30 and Samantha Quijada placed 37th with a time of 27:59.

Five runners in the top 18 turned out to be more than enough for the Lady Indians, who finished 43 points ahead of second place Commerce in the team standings.

When asked the secret to their success, Towns County Cross Country Coach Jeannie Ledford laid it out plain and simple.

"Gatorade, Jesus and Georgia Mile Split," she said. "Mastering how to look at it as



The 2015-2016 Towns County Cross Country Teams celebrate victory in Carrollton on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015

opportunity verses pressure is key. Each season is its own. One race at a time and stay humble, as you are only as good as your last race. It may seem not to bother them because I worry more than enough for each runner times 100. I haven't slept sound for months. They are my kids. When they hurt, I hurt, when they win, I win. We believe in each other on our best day and on our worst. Giving up is not an option. We are a family. That is how we do it."

Towns County's guys placed third overall and were led by Tyler Grimsley's fourth place individual finish with a time of 19:18 - good enough to hold off fifth place by four seconds.

Austin Watson placed 18th, clocking in at 20:42, and Thomas Mitchell crossed the finish line in 20:48 - good enough for 20th.

In 36th was Marshall Ledford with a time of 21:38, and 46th was Kaine Hoffman

who finished in 22 minutes flat. Towns' Chase Williams was 71st at 23:45, and Gavin Langelier was 80th at 24:16.

In the team standings, the Indians were 10 points back of second place Georgia Military College and 20 points in front of fourth place Atkinson County.

"Men's Cross Country is harder to win than girls," Coach Ledford said. "Faster times and more runners make it tougher. Like they do every year, they will do their best. They want one (State Championship) of their own."

By the time the Indians' race got underway, shortly after 4:10 p.m., nearly 200 meters of the course were deemed too treacherous for racing, forcing the course to be rerouted prior to the Class AAAAAA races at 2:50 and 3:30 p.m.

However, it was during the Class AAAA girls race at 12:30

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Councilmembers elect visit Movers & Shakers

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Young Harris - Liz Ordiales, Anne Mitchell and Kris Berrong, all of whom were elected last week to serve on the Hiawassee City Council starting in January 2016, spoke at the weekly meeting of the Mountain Movers and Shakers at Mary's Southern Grill on Friday, Nov. 6.

"My plan is, I've got my little book of door-to-door suggestions from everybody," said Ordiales. "Some of them are very easy to implement. Others, like developing the downtown area, we need to look for resources."

"There are plenty of resources out there available that will help us for free, to come in and tell us how to develop our downtown and how to work with other people, but there are some things that we

can do immediately, and I'd like to do that."

One of the issues Ordiales plans to tackle as soon as possible is to bring Sunday alcohol sales to Hiawassee, which passed as a referendum in neighboring City of Young Harris' Municipal Elections on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

"I think that's something that we need to pursue here, because every single person I talked to - of over 250 people that I talked to, not one person said it was a bad idea," said Ordiales.

After having spoken with so many people, including business owners, Ordiales said that, while there is much work to be done, she's got a plan to address the needs and wants of Hiawassee.

"I've been to businesses and I've been to residences," said Ordiales. "I want to

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Honoring Veterans Day important in Towns County

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

One simple way to honor veterans on Veterans Day is to thank them for putting their lives on the line to protect the personal freedoms of every man, woman and child in America.

Another way is to attend the ceremonies held to honor veterans, those living and those who died in service to their country, and two such ceremonies will be held in Towns County this Wednesday, Nov. 11.

The first of the day's two planned events will take place at Veterans Memorial Park in front of Towns County Schools, to commence at 11 a.m.

Every year, the Towns County Veterans Monument Committee gathers to discuss



Mel Halfon speaks at Veteran's Day ceremony Nov. 11, 2014

plans to add new names of deceased veterans of Towns County to a monument panel in Veterans Park that features names added in past ceremonies.

This year, the committee

settled on 15 names that were turned in by the loves ones of deceased veterans of the county, many of them widows, and those names will be honored at the Veterans Day Program at

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Three new members to join Hiawassee City Council



L-R: Sally Varao, Anne Mitchell, Sis Jarrard, Liz Ordiales, and Eleanor Lamb

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

After a re-count of the ballots for the Hiawassee City Council Elections, the results stand - Kris Berrong, Anne Mitchell and Liz Ordiales will join the Hiawassee City Council in January 2016.

Ballots were initially counted following the close of polls on Tuesday, Nov. 3, but minor discrepancies in the number of votes between tally sheets of three candidates necessitated a re-count, which took place on Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Finalized vote counts for City Council Post 3 were: Kris Berrong, 112 votes; Incumbent Joan Crothers, 110 votes; and John Holmes, 65 votes.

Generally, state law provides that a runoff election be held if one candidate does not receive a majority of votes of 50 percent plus one.

However, there will be no Post 3 runoff election because state law also provides that municipalities may include in their city charters, as is the case for the City of Hiawassee, that a candidate be elected by a plurality of votes rather than a majority.

Simply stated, when using

a plurality of votes to determine an election, the person with the most votes wins.

For City Council Post 4, the final tally of votes showed that Mitchell won against Incumbent Janet Allen 174-111, and for Post 5, Ordiales defeated Incumbent Pat Smith with 166 votes to Smith's 124.

Vote totals above reflect all early voting, Election Day voting, as well as absentee ballots that were mailed to City Hall.

Of the 679 registered City of Hiawassee voters, 298 received ballots for a turnout of 44 percent.

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5K in honor of Crisp a successful tribute



Savannah Dyer with race winners at Fly High 5K

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Nov. 7, Savannah Dyer held the "Fly High" 5K Run/Walk in memory of her late best friend, Jacqueline Crisp.

Crisp, a rising junior at Towns County High School, was involved in a fatal single-car crash in June.

"Jacqueline Crisp was my best friend. We've grown up since we were little. Her passing was really hard on me, and I wanted my senior project to mean something and to be something that I was going to want to do. I wanted it to revolve around her, and it just kind of came to mind and I thought it would be something good for the town to get involved in."

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Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle to highlight education

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle is coming to Hiawassee, where he will speak on education in a meeting led by students of Towns County on Friday, Nov. 13.

The meeting, which is being hosted by the Mountain Movers and Shakers, will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the new Towns County Civic Center located in the old Senior Center building next to the Towns County Courthouse.



Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle

"The Lieutenant Governor

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County, Fairgrounds rework previous lease agreement

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

In the October County Meeting, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall announced an amendment of the lease agreement between the county and the Georgia Mountain Fair Authority, a change that would benefit both sides.

"Back in 1991, Commissioner (Jack) Dayton and the Georgia Mountain Fair Authority entered into a lease agreement where they would

run the campgrounds and the fair property, and the county would get a portion of that," said Commissioner Kendall. "The fair has gotten behind on some of that, and we have worked an agreement out with Dr. (Lanier) Nicholson."

Nicholson is chairman of the Georgia Mountain Fair

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