

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Sunny	88 57
Fri: Cloudy	86 58
Sat: Storms	85 56
Sun: Storms	79 52
Mon: Storms	77 51
Tue: Rain	79 49
Wed: Sunny	78 52



Upstream Elevation Predicted 9/22/10	
Lake Chatuge	1920.80
Lake Nottely	1767.60
Blue Ridge	1635.80

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Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired meds for safe disposal on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Downtown Square. No questions asked! The DEA, in conjunction with the Towns County Sheriff's Office and Hiwassee Police Department are conducting a pill disposal service. They are doing this to prevent narcotics from falling into the wrong hands, of children and unauthorized persons.

BOE meet

The Towns County Board of Education's Oct. 11th Regular Meeting is rescheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 12. The meeting time and location are not changed.

Firewise meet

All are invited to the next Fire Corps Community Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 28th, 7 p.m. at the Senior Center to learn how to prevent your property from becoming fuel for a wildfire. Fire Chief Mitch Floyd and Firefighter Frank Riley will be giving the Firewise Presentation and also be on hand to give information on the Firewise program. The chief also will discuss recruitment for volunteer firefighters and also answering any questions. Fire Corps members are asked to attend as well as anyone who might be interested in helping the Fire Corps in its duties behind the scenes working with the Fire & Rescue Department.

City qualifying

It is official: the Hiwassee City Council seat in Post 5 is contested. Pat Smith, a former County Clerk for Towns County, who announced her candidacy for Cunningham's Post 5 seat on the council last week, qualified for the post on Monday. Smith wasn't alone. Chris Swett, 48, also has qualified to seek the Post 5 seat left vacant due to the recent resignation of long-time councilman Howard Cunningham. Qualifying for the Post 5 Council Seat continues through noon Sept. 22.

Lance draws a crowd

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Blairsville - Saturday's event at Meeks Park was reminiscent of a community social.

Hundreds flocked to the event that featured hot dogs, cole slaw, potato chips, Moon Pies, RC Colas and a local country music legend (Tommy Townsend of Blairsville).

The masses came from Towns, Union, White and Rabun counties, almost 500 to be exact. They came to witness what a young man that they've been watching for three decades had to say.

Jack Lance Jr. didn't disappoint.

He stood before the crowd as poised as he did during his high school days shooting three-point baskets. The Blairsville native, now



State House District 8 candidate Jack Lance talks with a large group of supporters during a rally on Saturday at Meeks Park in Blairsville. Lance was cheered loudly as he unveiled his platform. Photo/James Reese

a lawyer and a husband, was holding court again, wowing the masses with his savvy and charm.

This time around, Lance is running for his first political office, not driving the lane and shooting game-winning baskets that lift a crowd to its feet.

He's hoping to unseat a first-term incumbent.

Not the first drop of mud was slung against his opponent State Rep. Stephen Allison, a Blairsville Republican. Rather, Lance was telling the masses that he was just as qualified for the job. He also told the crowd that he heard their voices yearning

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CB&T celebrates customers



Teresa Parker, Lowell Nicholson and James Soville each grab a fistfull of dollars during CB&T's first Customer Appreciation Day event at the bank near City Hall in Hiwassee. The Money Grab was a huge success as customers attending the event can't wait until next year. Photos/James Reese

By Charles Duncan
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It was as much fun as you could have in 110 seconds.

Time spent in the Money Grab Machine was well worth the anticipation of waiting for bank employees to call out the numbers for the lucky individuals who would spend time in the machine.

It was all part of Community Bank & Trust's inaugural Customer Appreciation Day in Hiwassee, held Friday at the bank's headquarters near City Hall. The event marked the bank's 110th year in the banking business.

The event featured door prizes, food and of course, a chance to collect money from the Money Grab Machine.

First, Teresa Parker stepped into the booth. As the wind machine began to blow and the money began to swirl around inside the machine, Parker began to make swipes in the air to try and corral some cash.

After 110 seconds was complete, Parker exited the Money Grab booth.

Following a few moments of anticipation, it was revealed that she had collected \$72 for her efforts.

Next up: the Towns County Herald's own Lowell Nicholson.

Nicholson, anxious and excited, was asked to remove his legendary Towns County Indians hat. Amy Breedlove helped him put on the necessary wind goggles for the event. All set and ready to go, the money soon began to swirl from the bottom of the booth and Nicholson's hands began to move quickly to grab some cash.

When the clock ticked off 110 seconds, Nicholson walked out of the booth with \$62.

"That was fun," he said. "It's nice to walk away with more money than you came here with."

Breedlove then called out ticket No. 45. James Soville answered the call and entered the Money Grab machine.

Like Parker and Nicholson before him, he did his best to get his hands on the cash. As the stopwatch clicked 110 seconds off, Soville was able to collect \$72 for his personal cause.

CB&T customer Regina Ramsey of Hiwassee, who unfortunately didn't hear her number called, said the event was pure fun from start to finish.

"I think this is one of the best community events that I've ever seen," she said. "Most banks, you go in and you know what to expect. This bank is totally different.

"It's a wonderful atmosphere at CB&T," she said. "The bank employees are great, they know you when you walk in the door and they're always willing to help with any situation.

"Today's event was incredible," she said. "I really like this money machine. It

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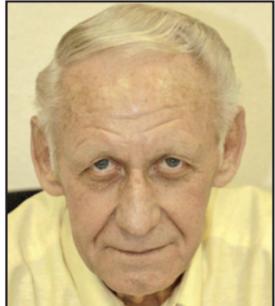
Kendall revises local dog law

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall has completed his efforts to amend the county's dangerous dog ordinance.

The new local legislation holds dog owners accountable for the actions of their dogs if they display aggressive behavior toward humans or domestic pets while on the property of another, or on public property in unincorporated Towns County.

It also allows persons previously threatened, or



Commissioner Bill Kendall

whose pets encountered dangerous experiences with a dog that has returned to their property, to put the dog down in the most humane method available at the time the incident occurs

to protect his or her personal property or personal safety, according to the revised ordinance.

"These changes do not apply inside the city of Hiwassee, or Young Harris," Commissioner Kendall said.

"It shall be the duty of every owner or custodian of an animal or livestock within unincorporated areas of Towns County to exercise reasonable care and take all necessary steps and precautions to protect other people, other domestic animals and property from damage and

See Dangerous Dog, page 5A

Poker Run Saturday

By Charles Duncan
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The Ridges Resort is doing its part to help Shriners' Children's Hospital.

The Resort will host a Poker Run on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with 100 percent of the proceeds going to Shriners' Children's hospital.

The Poker Run requires a \$25 fee to enter with proceeds benefiting the Shriners' Children's Hospital. Prizes have been donated by numerous commercial sponsors of the event, and are awarded for the best hand.

"The way to play the Poker Run, there will be seven locations on the lake from which to choose a card from," explained Chad Hooper, general manager of The Ridges Resort. "The entry fee is \$25. You draw a different card at each location. You'll have the opportunity to draw an eighth card for a \$50 fee.

tunity to draw an eighth card for a \$50 fee.

"We're playing seven-card stud; after going to all seven locations, we'll end up at the Boat House for the final look at the cards," Hooper said. "That's where the cards will be judged at the end of the day."

Hooper said there will be lots and lots of prizes at the end of the day. He said he hoped the event could jump start a weekend of giving to the Children's Hospitals. It's important to remember this is a nonprofit event, Hooper said.

"This is all about helping the Shriners Hospitals at the end of the day," Hooper said. "I can't think of a better cause than helping underprivileged children. The Shriners' hospitals are a very worthy cause and it's a

See Poker Run, page 5A

Towns voters begin early voting process

By Charles Duncan
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Early voting for the Nov. 2 general election is underway in Towns County.

Early voting began on Monday and potential voters still have an opportunity to register to vote in the November general election.

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 2 general election is Oct. 5. Early ballots can be cast at the Board of Elections and Registration at 91 Berrong St. in Hiwassee, better known as the Old Rock Jail.

By Monday, slightly more than a dozen ballots had been cast early, Towns County Early Voting officials said.

Bottom line: mid-term elections are underway and local voters must choose the state's next governor, lieutenant governor, attorney



Irma Nichols

general, Agriculture Commissioner, Insurance Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, and Secretary of State. Also, voters must decide who will be their next U.S. Senator, and U.S. House representative as well as the next state representative in House District 8. Last but not least, voters must choose a replacement for outgoing Towns County Board of Education member Bob Gibby, who has met his

See Early voting, page 5A

Swett seeks Post 5 seat on Council

By Charles Duncan
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Chris Swett is gearing up to go door-to-door throughout the city of Hiwassee in a grassroots effort to become its next Post 5 council representative.

"I need to speak to people face-to-face," he said. "I need to learn their concerns directly from them. In a small-town environment, government should come to you."

Swett is seeking the seat left vacant due to the resignation of Howard Cunningham from the council. Pat Smith, a former County Clerk for Towns County is his only opponent thus far.

Qualifying for the Post 5 seat ends at noon, Wednesday, Sept. 22.

"I'm ready to step in as a City Councilman right now," Swett said. "I'm up to speed on all the issues and it would be a very great honor to follow Mr. Howard Cunningham in office."

In addition to his work with the city, Swett currently serves as the president of the Towns County Homeowners Association and commander of the Hiwassee Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

"Our Homeowners Association, which repre-



Chris Swett

sents about 110 families in Towns County, has been working with the Commissioner (Bill Kendall) and City Manager (Rick Stancil) over the last year to come up with a fair and equitable cost-sharing plan for expanding the Sewerage Treatment Plant. I believe they are on the brink of signing that agreement," Swett said.

"We also toured the Rowe Canupp Water Treatment Plant a couple of months ago and have a list of improvements that need to be done there," he said. "The City is working toward funding those improvements."

As a member of the city's Finance and Facilities Committee, Swett said that

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