

# Towns County Herald

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy	69	34
Fri: Sunny	65	31
Sat: Sunny	68	36
Sun: Sunny	70	43
Mon: Clouds	72	44
Tue: Rain	71	38
Wed: Rain	67	35



Upstream Elevation Predicted 10/27/10	
Lake Chatuge	1919.60
Lake Nottely	1765.40
Blue Ridge	1625.00

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## Chamber Chronicles Page 11A

### Be Strong Run Long

The Bradley Rogers Celebration begins Saturday morning on the Downtown Square in Hiwassee.

The event features a 5K Race, 10K Race, Corn-Hole competitions, music, kids games, barbecue and a softball tournament.

That's not all, the day's activities also include a silent auction, a cake walk, a bake sale and \$5 barbecue plates.

Fourteen-year-old Bradley Rogers was diagnosed with cancer in late 2009. Since then, he has undergone treatments, surgeries and physical therapy. Be Strong Run Long is a celebration of Bradley Rogers. Even though the cancer has returned, this brave young man still keeps a positive attitude and continues his studies at Towns County High School.

The corn-hole competition includes a \$20 per team entry fee to participate.

Come on out and celebrate one of the brightest young faces that Towns County has ever known, Bradley Rogers.

Proceeds from Be Strong Run Long will be given to Bradley for his continuing medical treatments. For more details on how to sign up for the event, or maybe, just to make a donation to the cause, please contact Lori McClure at lori.mcclure@hiwassee.com or Bonnie Carter at (706) 896-2243.

### Harry Potter

Tickets for the Nov. 19th debut of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows 12:01 a.m. showing are now on sale at Fieldstone Cinemas Six in Hiwassee.

It's Part 1 of the finale of the J.K. Rowling masterpiece.

Voldemort's power is growing stronger. He now has control over the Ministry of Magic and Hogwarts. Harry, Ron, and Hermione decide to finish Dumbledore's work and find the rest of the Horcruxes to defeat the Dark Lord. But little hope remains for the Trio, and the rest of the Wizarding World. Everything must go as planned.

## Indians win one for No. 5

By James Reese  
Towns County Herald  
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The Towns County Indians borrowed a page from Billy Meier's personal playbook.

The Indians, down by 20 points with less than nine minutes to play against the Glascock County Panthers, rebounded with a powerful display of heart and intestinal fortitude to claim victory in overtime at Frank McClure Stadium, 47-45.

Freshman quarterback Jackson Noblet sealed the deal for the Indians with a two-point conversion in the fifth quarter to lift the Indians to victory.

Noblet, a huge Meier fan, having been tutored by the senior since the first day he became a member of the varsity football squad, was



Above, Coach Kyle Langford shares a word with injured Indian Billy Meier following Friday's upset overtime win over Glascock County. Below, Meier's teammates show their support for him following the thrilling victory. Photo/James Reese

See *Tribe*, page 5A

## Don Williams concert set to be rescheduled

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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Illness put Saturday's Don Williams Concert on hold until a makeup date can be scheduled, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said.

The Country Music Hall-of-Fame singer made it to Hiwassee as part of his limited Hall of Fame Tour, but he was unable to make the curtain call because of bronchitis, Thomason said.

"He was in Ashland, Kentucky on Friday and received medical treatment," Thomason said. "He had 10 rooms reserved at the Ramada Inn in Hiwassee on Saturday, but he was in bad shape and unfortunately, couldn't perform."

According to Williams' Web site, after two "fabulous



Don Williams

concerts" in The Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn., the Country Music legend had to cancel both the concerts in Ashland on Friday, and Hiwassee on Saturday.

The Ashland concert has been rescheduled for Monday, Nov. 1.

According to his Web site, "Don started to feel the

See *Don Williams*, page 8A

## Retirement community a shot in the arm

By Charles Duncan  
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Hiwassee Park is expected to have a \$19.3 million impact on the Towns County community.

That was the word as Baptist Retirement Communities President and CEO Laura Willis welcomed Saturday's guests to the official groundbreaking ceremonies for Hiwassee Park off Georgia 17/76.

The retirement community is slated to consist of 65 one and two bedroom units as well as several cottages. Willis said that the only thing holding the project back is positive word from one of the three banks competing to finance the project.

"Maybe after today, those banks will sharpen their pencils a bit," Willis said, referring to a financing deal for the project.

Saturday's affair at-



Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis, left and Commissioner Bill Kendall, far right, get a thanks of appreciation from Baptist Retirement Communities President and CEO Laura Willis on Saturday at Hiwassee Park. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

tracted local and regional dignitaries, including Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis.

Kendall categorized the event as an historic one.

"This is an event that the history books will reflect favorably upon," Commissioner Kendall said. "This project will create a tremen-

See *Hiwassee Park*, page 8A

## Tax bills on the way Nov. 10

By Charles Duncan  
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Towns County residents will soon see their new tax bills in the mail.

Tax Commissioner Bruce Rogers told residents attending Thursday's County Commission meeting that county tax collections are at 94 percent.

He added that the new tax bills will be in the mail by Nov. 10.

"Be ready," he said. Rogers added that there are a lot of good people struggling right now to pay their taxes in this unpredictable economy.

"We understand that," he said.

However, Rogers said that a small percentage of residents have not paid their property taxes in at least three years.

"We have no choice but to go after those tax dollars," he said.

Rogers' comments



Commissioner Bill Kendall

came on the heels of Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall's approval of the 2010 millage rate at 5.570 mills, down slightly from last year's rate of 5.580 mills.

A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed property tax. Towns County assesses property at 40 percent of its value.

"We've got the millage rate set and we'll be adopting a tentative budget ordinance next month," Com-

See *Tax Bills*, page 3A

## Oldest resident casts early ballot

By Charles Duncan  
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Arthur Shook remembers the first time he ever voted, the first time he ever went to the doctor, and most importantly, the last time he voted.

The 102-year-old Young Harris resident, the oldest voter in Towns County, came to town Thursday to cast his ballot early for the Nov. 2 General Election. He's one of 1,650 Towns County residents to cast early ballots in the upcoming general election.

Early voting continues through Saturday at noon at the Old Rock Jail that Shook helped build in 1930.

See *Early Vote*, page 8A



Arthur Shook, Towns County's oldest voter at 102 years old, leaves the early voting booth on Thursday after casting his ballot in the Nov. 2 General Election. Photo/Alisa Richards

## Flood plain ordinance on the table

By Charles Duncan  
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall heard the first of two readings of an ordinance that will free 300 local homes from the flood zones of Lake Chatuge.

The purpose of the revised federally-mandated Flood Plain ordinance is to allow the 155 homes still within Lake Chatuge's Flood Plain an opportunity to purchase affordable flood insurance from the federal government's National

See *Flood Maps*, page 3A



Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and Towns County Tax Commissioner Bruce Rogers look on and smile as Deputy County Clerk Andrea Anderson finishes reading the 20-page Flood Plain Map ordinance on Thursday. Photo/James Reese

## Halloween on the Square

By Charles Duncan  
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Halloween on the Square in Hiwassee returns Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis said.

Hundreds of local children are expected to line up again in anticipation of pre-Halloween treats as the local government, businesses, churches, and charitable organizations prepare to dish out merriment and candy to euphoric groups of local children.

Businesses and organizations involved in the event aren't just trying to advertise. Last year, one group admitted to purchasing more than 850 bags of candy, blending in with the lively and benevolent affair on the square.

Expect a dunking booth again as those loveable local cops gear up for a soaking to raise money for the Hiwassee Police Department's *Shop With A Cop* program, which makes Christmas a little brighter for 12-16 year olds in the city.

The children in need of holiday gifts are identified through Amy Gibby-Rosser with Towns County Family Connection, Hiwassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright said.

This is the third year for the program, 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," Chief Wright said.

Last year, the department raised enough money



Mayor Barbara Mathis

to benefit 40 local children and treat them to a trip to Wal-Mart in Blairsville and pizza via the *Shop With A Cop* program.

Halloween on the Square makes a difference in the community. Groups not interested in setting up a booth this year can make a difference as well for the charitable event. Donations of candy, money or prizes for the costume contest are greatly appreciated.

For those who can afford to do so, please bring a can of food to donate to the Towns County Food Pantry.

There will be bins set up around the Square to collect canned goods for the Food Pantry.

For more details, call (706) 896-2202.

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