

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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50 Cents

www.townscountyherald.net

Publication Number 635540 Volume 82 Number 2

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Cloudy	60	31
Fri: Sunny	60	29
Sat: Sunny	63	33
Sun: Sunny	66	37
Mon: Sunny	68	37
Tue: Rain	69	43
Wed: Rain	64	34



Upstream Elevation Predicted 11/17/10	
Lake Chatuge	1919.05
Lake Nottely	1764.13
Blue Ridge	1625.10

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Chamber Chronicles

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Tour of Homes

The Towns County Chamber of Commerce annual Tour of Homes is scheduled for Dec. 4-5. The 2010 theme is "A Celebration of the Season Through the Arts."

In addition to having seven beautifully decorated family homes, there also will be a home with an antique organ exhibit as well as the first Decorator Show House. The Show House will exhibit the talents and imagination of the area's most innovative decorators.

Tickets are on sale now and are available at the Chamber office.

A portion of the proceeds from this year's event benefit the Towns County Food Pantry.

Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will hold its free food distribution on Tuesday, Nov. 22. The distribution will be held at the Towns County Food Pantry on Jack Dayton Circle from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

All that are in need of food assistance are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to pick up your food, please contact the Pantry at (706) 896-4783 prior to distribution day so that arrangements can be made to deliver your food. Clients' personal inquiries are kept confidential.

Harry Potter

Tickets for the Friday debut of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows' 12:01 a.m. showing are now on sale at Fieldstone Cinemas Six in Hiawassee. 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 or doom is certain.

College basketball returns to Towns County

By James Reese
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Young Harris – College basketball has returned to Towns County after a 41-year absence on the hardwood.

The Mountain Lions and Lady Mountain Lions split with their natural Peach Belt Conference rival North Georgia College and State University from Dahlonega.

On the court first at the "Valley of Doom," the Lady Lions dropped their season opener 64-39 despite a game-high 15-point effort from former Towns County Lady Indian Nikki Winn.

Led by freshman O'Neil Lubin's career high 26 points, the Mountain Lions took the nightcap with a 78-68 win over the Saints.

"What a fabulous way to kickoff basketball at Young Harris after 41 years," Young

Harris College President Cathy Cox said, referring to the win by Head Coach Pete Hermann's Lions. "It just doesn't get much better than this."

The event, aired via YHC Web cast and local television was filled with pomp and circumstance as 2,301 fans filled into the arena dubbed the "Valley of Doom" by Coach Hermann.

The game was capped during the Web cast by YHC freshman Ethan Burch, who called the game for Young Harris with an excited "Mountain Lions Win! Mountain Lions Win at the Valley of Doom!"

The games attracted alumni of the Luke Rushton era. It also brought home his son and former Towns County Indian basketball standout Eddie Rushton.

"Luke, the Lion" YHC's team mascot delighted the crowd with high-fives and

inspiring antics throughout the night.

Of course, the mascot's name was inspired by the legend of the college's legendary former coach and mentor. The college dedicated two courtside seats in honor of Luke Rushton and his wife June Rushton.

Their son, Eddie Rushton welcomed the players back that performed tirelessly for his father during his legendary coaching career at YHC.

"Thank you from my family, and I appreciate everybody that came here," Eddie Rushton told the crowd prior to the Mountain Lions matchup with the Saints Monday night. "I hope y'all will come back and renew this friendship that has been so long in coming."

"Young Harris College has meant a lot to me," he said. "President Cox and my good buddy Randy



Coach Pete Hermann gets a hug from YHC President Cathy Cox following Monday night's win over North Georgia. Photo/James Reese

Dunn (YHC Athletics Director) who I played college basketball with at North Georgia College, the honor that you have bestowed on me and my family tonight, I appreciate it."

Coach Luke Rushton and his teams won 407 games and lost only 167 from 1948 to 1969.

On this night, Luke Rushton's successor, Coach

Hermann, was choked with emotion and ecstatic following his team's victory over the rival Saints.

"I thought it was a great team effort," Coach Hermann said. "It's great for all the former players to come back and see. I'm very happy about the positive performance. This is just a great win for Young Harris College."

TCHS basketball teams victorious

By Jerry Kendall
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If the season-opening scrimmage at Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium is any indication, Towns County basketball is in for a solid season.

The Lady Indians had five players in double figures, led by senior Jordan Moss with 17 points, in a dominating 79-21 victory over the Andrews Lady Wildcats out of North Carolina.

Junior Gabby Arencibia finished with 14, juniors Ali Bleckley and Ben Pong added 10 points each, as did sophomore Dadrion Blythe.

Leading 10-6 in the first quarter, the Lady Indians went on a 25-0 scoring run between the 2:51 mark of the first quarter and the 5:34 mark of the second for a 35-6 advantage.

They never looked back.

The scoring barrage included 17 consecutive points in closing out the first quarter with five 3-point bas-



Crystal Bishop (55) and Kindle Moss (14) position for a rebound on Saturday against Andrews. The Lady Indians won 79-21. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

kets included in that 25-0 run.

The Mercy Rule shortened the fourth quarter preventing an even wider margin of victory.

Other Lady Indians adding to the scoring include freshman Eryn Cochran with 7 points, senior Crystal Bishop with 4 points, freshman Makayla Underwood with 4 points and sophomore Davilyn Blythe with 3 points.

In boys' action, seniors Bradley Swanson, D.J. Rogers, Brett Bradshaw and Corbin Gilfilian combined for 53 points en route to a 62-29 victory over the Andrews Wildcats.

Swanson led the way for the Indians with 20 points, followed by Rogers

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Pierson: 'economy is growing stronger'

By James Reese
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Young Harris - Bill Pierson of ReMAX Hiawassee Realty is fed up with the national news media.

Every day, the news is different, either good, bad or worse.

One national network claims the economy is on the mend. Another claims the end of the worst economic times since the Great Depression won't be until 2014.

Yet another, a bit more comedic, makes fun of the leaders of our country, mocking them and the policies they develop to help ease the country back to prosperity.

"We've been bombarded with negativity for the past 3 years and I'm sick of it," Pierson told members of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce Monday morning at Brasstown Val-



Bill Pierson

ley Resort. "The national media can't seem to decide if the economy is getting better or worse. I'm here to tell you that regardless of what anyone says, things are getting better."

Pierson, speaking during the annual Chamber Meeting, told fellow chamber members that one only need pay a visit to the local government offices to determine the state of the local economy.

"Locally, our counties

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Kendall: 'remember those who served'

By Charles Duncan
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A solemn hush fell over the crowd gathered last at Veterans Memorial Park.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Color Guard presented the Colors that don't run.

It was a day to pay tribute to the blood, sweat and the tears of the men and women who proudly served to keep our nation free of tyranny and oppression.

Residents of Towns County take Veterans Day very seriously and with good reason.

The Wall at the Park is covered with names of local Veterans of Foreign Wars and pays tribute to those who served in combat and during times of peace.

These locals served in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air



World War II veteran Chief Johnson salutes as the TCHS Band plays the U.S. Navy fight song on Monday at Veterans Park. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Force, Marines and Coast Guard. They fought bravely during the wars dating back to the War to end all Wars. They served in combat from World War I to Afghanistan.

Many continue the defense of our nation, taking part in a modern warfare

known simply as the War against Terror.

On Wednesday, veterans, residents and school children, a crowd of more than 200, gathered to re-

See Veterans, page 3A

Kendall to approve county's \$9.38 million Fiscal Budget

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall is poised to approve a proposed a \$9.38 million county budget for Fiscal 2011 on Thursday.

A hearing is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Towns County Courthouse to adopt the 2011 Towns County Fiscal Budget. The current Fiscal Budget is \$9.42 million.

Commissioner Kendall said that the proposed budget doesn't include reoccurring expenses such as salary increases. However, it does assure all Towns County employees will have a job in 2011. He reiterated that the county's hiring freeze will continue in certain areas that haven't previously lost employees through attrition.

Commissioner Kendall has planned a conservative budget with projected revenues down \$344,061 due to an increase in the local homestead exemption passed by local voters in 2009. It also accounts for a decrease in the county's millage rate from 5.580 mills to 5.570 mills.

The Commissioner's proposed budget restores \$23,000 the Library lost due to cuts by the Board of Education and up to \$5,000 in



Commissioner Bill Kendall

matching funds that the Friends of the Library may raise for books cut by the state government.

It also restores \$25,000 for the local health department that the state government will cut in the next state budget.

Commissioner Kendall said that he felt the budget was a good one considering the nation remains in the worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"This is a reaffirmation that I will not raise your taxes at a time when electrical rates and food prices continue to rise," he said. "Wages are stale or non-existent in many cases due to the high unemployment rate."

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Loretta Lynn tickets still available

By Charles Duncan
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Tickets are still available for Saturday's Loretta Lynn Concert at Anderson Music Hall, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said.

The Queen of Country Music, celebrated last week at the Country Music Awards for 50 years in the Country Music industry, will appear at Anderson Music Hall at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Thomason said.

Seats for the Loretta Lynn performance are \$40, plus \$2 handling for Level I seating; prices for Level II



Loretta Lynn seating are \$30, plus \$2 handling, Thomason said.

Loretta Lynn, whose musical career began with I'm a Honky Tonk Girl, in 1960, has written more than 160 songs and released 70 albums. She has had 10 No. 1 albums and 16 No. 1 singles on the Country Mu-

sic charts. She has won numerous awards including four Grammy Awards, seven American Music Awards, eight Broadcast Music Incorporated Awards and 10 Academy of Country Music Awards.

Loretta Lynn has never been shy. In her heyday, she kept Country Music on the front page for her views on how women are treated, their civil rights and why women should stand up and be counted among the masses.

Sissy Spacek won the Oscar for Best Actress for her portrayal of Loretta

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