

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Clouds	80 51
Fri: Storms	80 55
Sat: Storms	73 51
Sun: Storms	66 48
Mon: Clouds	71 47
Tue: Sunny	71 47
Wed: Sunny	72 46



Upstream Elevation Predicted 10/02/13	
Lake Chatuge	1,921.59
Lake Nottely	1,768.60
Blue Ridge	1,678.37

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SPORTS

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John Campbell Folk School Fall Festival
October 5 & 6



American Red Cross
YARD SALE
OCT. 12TH
See Page 1B

TOWNS COUNTY Locally Grown
Farmers Market

Fridays 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Licklog Players
Holding AUDITIONS
for **THE GRINCH**
See Page 2A

FALL FESTIVAL
OCT. 11-19, 2013



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
HOMECOMING!!
FRIDAY, OCT 4TH
AT 7:30 PM
VS. COPPER BASIN

SOFTBALL
THURS. OCT 3RD
AT 4:45 PM
VS. GEORGE WALTON

Homecoming Friday; parade Thursday

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Downtown Hiawassee will be the place to be on Thursday beginning at 5 p.m.

The 2013 Homecoming Parade begins at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and proceeds through Downtown.

The parade will end at the Towns County High School parking lot, in the grassy area in front of the school.

At the end of the parade there will be a community wide pep rally. Parade enthusiasts are urged not to park in the grassy area at the school. A designated area will be assigned for parking.

The Indians will square off against the Copper Basin Cougars out of Tennessee. Game time: 7:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, the 2013 Homecoming Court has been announced.

Cadi Olin, Jasmine Forrester, Taylor Vardeman, Ansley Vardeman, Makayla Underwood, Eryn Cochran, Elizabeth Turner, Allison Page, Lindy Hollingshead, and Katlyn Hallman will vie for the crown of 2013 Homecoming



The 2013 Towns County High School Football Homecoming Court. The Homecoming Parade is Thursday at 5 p.m. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Queen. Cesar Bustamante, Brett Barrett, Bradley Rogers, Jaryd Gurley, Garrett Bradshaw, Stetson Hedden, Jackson Noblet, Jarrett Milam, Vonya Baldwin, and Aaron Dodson will compete to determine Homecoming King 2013. Dodson will escort Ansley Vardeman, Gurley will escort Lindy Hollingshead, Barrett will escort Cadi Olin, Bradshaw will escort Elizabeth Turner, Noblet will escort Allison Page, Baldwin will escort Katlyn Hallman, Rogers will escort Jasmine Forrester, and Milam will escort Eryn Cochran.

Hi River community is now Firewise safe

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Hi River Community is Firewise certified.

The community received their certificate on Friday Sept. 20th, along with a "Firewise Certified" sign to put at the entrance of their subdivision.

Towns County Firewise Coordinator Frank Riley presented the plaque to Howard Watkins, a board member of the Hi River Homeowners Association, in a small ceremony at the entrance of the subdivision next to the Hi River community sign.

Towns County Fire Chief Mitch Floyd explained that Firewise is a national program to make communities safe from wildfire.

Chief Floyd explained that the "Firewise" moniker is given to communities that meet a series of criteria, including having an application approved and going through a neighborhood clean-up program.



Frank Riley

"We actually have more Firewise communities in Towns County than any other county in the state of Georgia," said Chief Floyd.

There are 32 Firewise communities in the state, and Towns accounts for seven of them. That's an impressive number from a fire station that is made up primarily of volunteer firefighters.

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Animal lovers 'Puttin' on the Dog'

By Heather Poole
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Animal lovers united in Blairsville at the Union County Farmers Market to take part in "Puttin' on the Dog."

For \$30, the three-hour event offered a variety of activities including, wine tasting provided by The Wine Shop, live music, live auctions, silent auctions, raffles and catering by Tine DeVilliers.

All money raised went towards the Mountain Shelter, helping ensure no one flinched at the expense.

The expression "puttin' on the dog" is one that means to make a display of wealth or importance.

It includes dressing stylishly. It dates back to slang around 1860.



Puttin' on the Dog at Union County Farmers Market was a huge success as animal lovers raised funds for the Mountain Shelter. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

"Dog" was slang for style, or splurge, so to put on the dog meant to make a flashy display.

It proved a fitting term for Saturday's event, as every-

See The Dog, Page 10A

Ruud gets his Quilt of Valor

By Charles Duncan
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Blairsville - The one difference that separates a battle-tested veteran from the pack is how much they talk about their tour of duty.

A quiet veteran is a veteran who has seen more than their share of duty.

That's the best way to describe U.S. Army (retired) First Sgt. Gerald Ruud's tour of duty.

That tour included stops in Korea, Vietnam, Germany and Eniwetok. The latter tour was as a member of a nuclear bomb test site crew - a member of the nuclear clean up crew.

With family members close by, Ruud was honored last week at Coosa United Methodist Church with a Quilt of Valor from the Misty Mountain Quilters Guild.



Gerald Ruud of Towns County was recently honored with a Quilt of Valor at Coosa United Methodist Church in Blairsville.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover all combat service members and veterans touched by war with a patriotic quilt.

It is a tangible way to say "thank you" for your service, sacrifice and valor, to

See Quilt, Page 10A

Saturday showdown set for The Hall

By Heather Poole
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Competitors of all ages came out to Anderson Music Hall Saturday to audition for the chance to be Merle Haggard's opening act and win \$500.

Though the contest was just to decide to finalists, 107 contestants signed up. Sixty-nine showed up and eagerly paid the \$10 entry fee, ready to take the stage and enjoy their five minutes of fame.

Those 69 competed for the top prize.

The envelope please. Cody Short, Steven Van Sheridan, Wyatt Espalin, Robbie Hopkins, Michael Kennedy, Bill Rinaldo, Isiah Gray, Danny McFarland, Jackson Rogers, Lamar Worthy, Casey Cox, Brian Nicholson, Ashley Strickland, Felicia Owens, Emily Gerdes, Shannon York, Palmer Mirielle, Kelly Kennedy, Emily Carey, Olivia Grace, Meghan Adams, Christy Byrne, Adele Bauman and Sarah Wilson will vie for the \$500 and opening for Merle Haggard.

The tension was tangible as men and women, boys and



The quest to open for Merle Haggard on Oct. 25th begins Saturday at 7 p.m. at Anderson Music Hall. Price of admission: \$10. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

girls piled in to the auditorium at 3 p.m., many of whom were toting guitars.

The tension was not eased by the emcee, Mike Blackwell, as he was very spot on.

He explained the whole morning had been a disaster, and nothing seemed to be going as planned.

That was further evidenced by the end of the au-

ditions, which finally came around 10 p.m.

Blackwell also may have made many of the competitors nervous when he basically assured them if they were competing with an original song, it was almost pointless.

His reasoning was that the audience would not be as in-

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Kendall declares Red Ribbon Week in Towns

By Heather Poole
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall has proclaimed Oct. 23rd-31st as Red Ribbon Week.

To explain the holiday, and to accept the document from Kendall, was Sgt. Ethan Legler of the Young Marines from Lumpkin County.

The young man had a great presence, as he introduced the Red Ribbon week.

"Many people have not heard of this," Legler said. "If they have, they did not know what it is. It is an effort to create a drug-free America."

The large audience listened intently, as the confident young man spoke about a project he is obviously passionate about.

The week celebrates and remembers Enrique Camarena, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent who was tortured and killed in Mexico in 1985.

He had worked his way through college, served in the Marines and became



Commissioner Bill Kendall

a police officer.

All after he was raised in what Legler described as a "dirt poor" existence saying, "the floor of his home was actually dirt."

When Camarena decided to join the United States DEA, his mother tried to talk him out of it, but Legler explained Camarena knew he had to do it.

Therefore, the DEA sent him to work undercover in Mexico, investigating a major drug cartel.

Unfortunately, in February 1985, the 37-year-old Camarena left work to meet his wife for lunch.

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State Rep. Allison to speak to Shakers

By Charles Duncan
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Georgia House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison (R-Blairsville) is the featured speaker at Friday's meeting of the Mountain Movers and Shakers at 8 a.m. at Mary's Southern Grill in Young Harris.

State Rep. Allison will discuss recent happenings from the State House. This is one of those "set the alarm clock" Fridays. Don't miss this opportunity to spend time with Towns County's man under the Gold Dome.

The meeting should also shed light on the upcoming Towns County GOP Speech Contest, Chairman Mark Wolchko said.

"The Towns County GOP will be presenting its Third Youth Leadership Speech Contest with more than \$3,500 in prizes in October," Wolchko said. "It's open to all Towns County students, and the response has been overwhelming."

"A record 37 students have signed up for the Competition," he said. "And not only from Towns County High School. We are honored to welcome over a half dozen young speakers from Eastgate Academy."

To determine which contestants will go to the finals, there will be three preliminary rounds. These will be held in Towns County School Auditorium on Thursday, Oct. 17th at 5:30 pm and on Saturday, Oct. 19th, with preliminaries at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m.

The finals will be held Oct. 26th in Wilson Hall in Young Harris College.



Stephen Allison

"Joining Judges Dr. Aubrey Sanford, Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley and other contest judges previously mentioned, we wish to thank returning Judge Fran Johnson and Pat Malone, founder of the Conservative Business Alliance," Wolchko said. "Other distinguished judges will be announced as they are confirmed."

Wolchko said the GOP pays thanks to the Mountain Movers and Shakers for their help and support.

"It takes many people working together to present a contest of this scale," Wolchko said. "It takes the support of the whole community. It takes the time volunteered by our many judges. It takes the dedication of people like Dr. John Van Vliet of Young Harris College, who has agreed to moderate all four contest Events."

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

