

Cross Country...continued from page 1A

about his accomplishment.

These teams are like family and when one wins they all win.

The boys ran first and even though they knew they had not made it out of Area, they still lined the course and cheered on the girls as they ran their meet.

Victory was at the end

and the girls earned it. Now it's on to the State Championship in Macon and a chance to make even more history.

You can bet that Ledford will have them in the right state of mind when it is time, and win, lose or draw, they will always be champions and nobody can take that away.

Senior Center...continued from page 1A

said. "The center is open daily providing education, exercise, socialization, and a noon meal for anyone 60 years of age or older. The center was built for growth and we look forward to welcoming many new participants."

Kendall thanked everyone involved in the project.

"I want to thank all those, there are too many to single out, for their help and support in making this new facility for our seniors a reality," said Kendall. "Our seniors have dedicated much of their lives to helping others. It is fitting that through the new Senior Center, we can

express our gratitude and appreciation to them."

This facility is one that Towns County can be proud of for many years to come. The county's seniors are deserving of a gathering place of this magnitude with its beautiful views of Lake Chatuge and the huge sitting porch overlooking the lake.

If you were unable to get by for the Open House, you owe it to yourself to go by and tour the facility.

It is certainly a wonderful addition to beautiful Towns County.

L.O.S.T. ...continued from page 1A

9.08 and Young Harris 4.04 percent.

The municipalities did not have their numbers and findings ready at that time.

LOST negotiations resumed on Aug. 23rd at which time Hiawassee and Young Harris presented their proposed findings.

Young Harris' Attorney Cary Cox said at that time, "For the county to say 4.4 percent and cut us half of our population, I really think is appalling. It's not even true negotiations."

Cox's proposal was that Young Harris should be receiving 13.6 percent based on population and projected growth in the City and in the college community as well.

At this meeting, Hiawassee City Manager Rick Stancil presented findings by their expert consultant, Brown Pelican Consulting, Inc. The consulting firm represented both municipalities.

Stancil's proposal was that Hiawassee should be receiving 15 percent of the proverbial LOST pie.

Once again the county and the cities came together for a final session on August 28th at which time Commissioner Kendall said the county was willing to keep an open dialogue with the cities "as we work toward a resolution."

Kendall made a proposal at the last negotiation meeting.

"I support and submit the committee's recommendation of not taking money away from anyone by keeping the formula for the past 10 years at 82 percent for the county and 18 percent for the cities to decide how to split their share."

Negotiations basically broke down at this point as the cities did not view this as a fair and equitable distribution.

"We offered the additional 2 percent to try to avoid going to court and assuming additional litigation fees," said Kendall.

"The purpose of the LOST is to use the revenue from the tax bill to roll back citizens' property taxes, which is shown on their property tax bill each year," he said. "As Commissioner I am elected to equally represent all citizens of the county, both inside and outside the city limits. It is my commitment and that of the County Negotiating Committee to come to an agreement with the cities that is a fair and equitable property tax roll back for all taxing citizens whether they live inside the city or out in the unincorporated areas of Towns County."

According to the county's attorney, Rob Kiker, everything must be resolved by Dec. 31st. If an agreement is not reached, the money goes away.

"We will make sure an agreement is reached by the deadline," said Kendall.

Kiker said when the case goes to trial, the county will bear the brunt of the expenses.

"We offered the additional 2 percent to avoid the cost, stress, and expense of litigation," he said. "It's not Mr. Kendall against the municipalities, they are all Towns County citizens and will all benefit from LOST regardless of how the percentages come out. All citizens will benefit from the LOST and city residents will come out ahead," said Kiker.

"The only citizens who can be hurt by these negotiations are the ones in the unincorporated area," he said. "The municipalities will get a credit against their county tax and their city tax."

Neither Young Harris or Hiawassee offered comment.

Early ...continued from page 1A

Incumbent Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall faces Steven Gerdes, and Incumbent Rickey Mathis faces Tashina Eller for the office of Coroner.

Let's also remember that we have several key decisions to be made as the office of President of the United States will be decided in this election, the 9th District Congressional race, the State House District 8 representative seat as well as

two Public Service Commissioner seats.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the voting process, Shook encourages you to call her at (706) 896-6920. Early voting will continue through Friday. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day. The Towns County Herald will have results in its Nov. 7th edition on and the Web at Towns County Herald.net

Halloween...continued from page 1A

City Councilman Stephen Smith got into the fun as he exceeded the costume judging contest.

There were so many kids dressed up and excited to be a part of the contest.

There were three judges who really had their work cut out for them as their were so many creative costumes.

It was obvious that parents had put a lot of thought

and planning into the costumes for their children.

In the age 0-2 years contest the winners were: 1st place, Jordan Cooper, 2; 2nd place, Easton Osborn, 10 months; 3rd place, Jacob Smith, 6 months; the 3-5 year old category the winners were: 1st place, Autumn Beaver, 3; 2nd place, Kaylee Rader, 4; and 3rd place, Brelee Rowland, 4; the aged 6-7-year-old category the win-

ners were: 1st place Ethan Stewart, 7; 2nd place, Eli Phillips, 6; and 3rd place, Tyler Blackwell, 7; the final category were kids ages 8-10 and the winners were: 1st place, Isaiah Cargle, 10; 2nd place, Laurel Sanford, 9; and 3rd place, Lea Neumyer, 10.

All of the winners received a gift bag of prizes and goodies.

"It is so great to live in a

community like Towns County where everybody can come out and be family and enjoy a happy and safe Halloween with their kids," said Smith.

Smith summed it up well as all that came out had a wonderful time and it was a great sense of community and family coming together to enjoy some good old fashioned family fun thanks to the City of Hiawassee and the North Georgia Jeepers.



Trunk or Treat delights a crowd of kids

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

The Ridges Resort & Marina was the hot spot to be on Sunday, Oct. 21st, as they hosted their Fifth Annual Fall-A-Bration and Trunk or Treat with more than 20 local businesses and individuals there handing out treats for the kids.

It was an afternoon of great family fun with hundreds of people there with their kids as they walked around collecting candy and getting very sticky.

Kids were lining up to participate in the sack races and, win or lose, they were equally excited to just be a part of the games.

Kids ranging in age from 4 and up were busy kicking off their shoes and climbing into



An Alien was among us at Trunk or Treat. Photo/Libby Shook

the empty sacks.

There was no pressure to win as they were all just having a great time as parents and strangers alike cheered them on

as they raced their way to the finish line.

Another exciting feature that was very popular was the free pumpkin pontoon boat rides.

Imagine a cruise on a pontoon at no charge.

In fact, all the fun events were free courtesy of the Ridges.

There were so many well planned activities and fun for the whole family including a pumpkin carving contest, cake walk, and face painting.

If you got hungry from all the many available activities and walking, there were hot dogs, candied apple, and apple cider available for a very affordable price.

General Manager Chad Hooper said, "We've had a fabulous turnout, the weather's been great, and I think everyone is enjoying themselves. We are delighted to bring this event each year for the public to enjoy, especially the kids. We are already looking forward to next year's Fall-A-Bration. We encourage you to make this a part of your fall family tradition."

Rep. Broun bids Towns County farewell

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Mountain Movers and Shakers, a non-partisan conservative political group, held its regular Friday morning meeting at Mary's Southern Grill and had as a very special guest, 10th District U.S. Congressman Paul Broun.

Rep. Broun was there to give a report on the status of government in Washington and he had some strong words for the voters of Towns County.

He also was there to bid farewell to Towns County as it enters the 9th Congressional District in January.

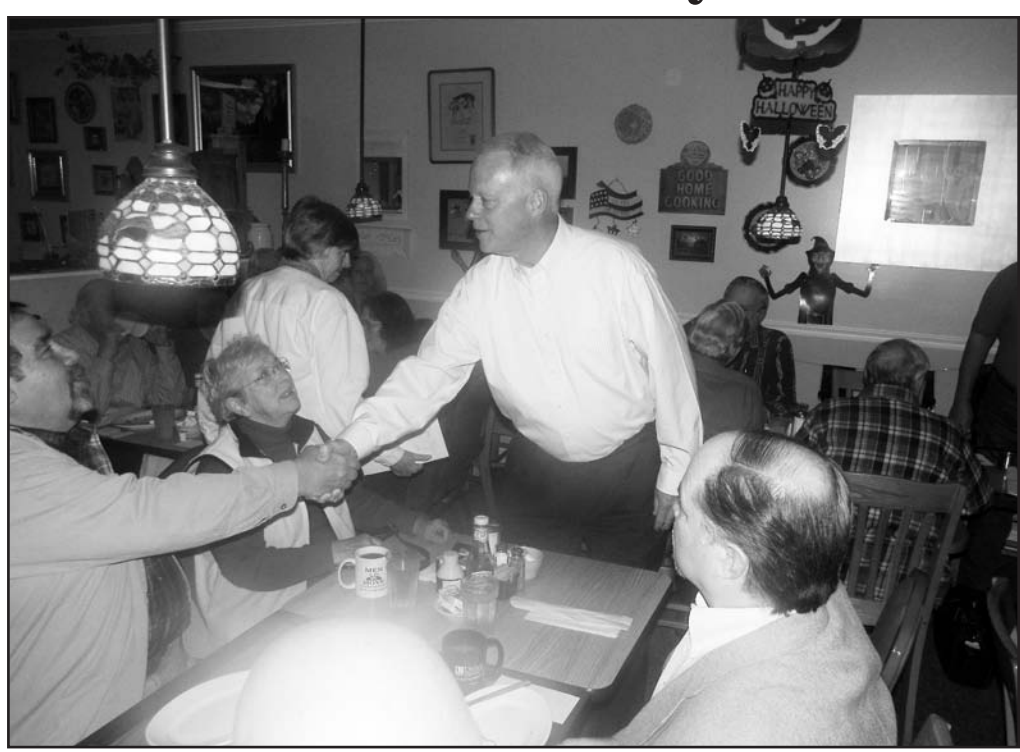
Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton opened the meeting by thanking Dr. Broun for all he has done for the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

He then invited Dr. Don Maynard to offer the invocation. District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison was asked to introduce Dr. Broun and he did so by describing him as a friend and mentor; a man who honored God and the Constitution of the United States and represented Towns County by voting accordingly.

A man who, "actually carries a pocket size Constitution every where he goes. A Constitutionalist if you will," stated Allison as Dr. Broun took the podium.

Dr. Broun started his statements by showing the audience the pocket Constitution he was actually carrying and, after receiving a loud applause, spoke on the value of what the Founding Fathers had created in 1787.

"I believe in the Constitution and the way it is meant to be understood by our Founding Fathers when they



Tenth District Congressman Paul Broun is greeted by locals at Mary's Southern Grill during Friday's Mountain Movers and Shakers' meeting in Young Harris. Photo/Joe Collins

first wrote it," Dr. Broun said. "Many in Washington today have other ways of looking at the Constitution and this is a big problem. We need people in Congress that will vote by what the Constitution says and not the way they interpret it."

Dr. Broun has been known to speak his mind.

He has been very vocal about the TSA as airport security and has openly criticized their methods.

He called for the resignation of TSA chief John Pistole and said we needed to use intelligence to prevent terrorist attacks.

He was recently quoted as saying, "All that stuff I was taught about evolution and embryology and Big Bang theory, all that is lies straight from the pit of hell. And it's lies to try

to keep me and all the folks who are taught that from understanding that they need a Savior."

This statement has caused the liberal media to have a feeding frenzy but it proves he is a Congressman who is not afraid to say and vote what he believes.

Dr. Broun continued and called for action to try and right what he believes is wrong in Washington.

"We as voters and concerned citizens need to be proactive in trying to reach people and persuade them to get out and vote," Dr. Broun said. "I didn't come here today to politic cause you can't vote for me."

"I came here to discuss the problems we're having and let you know there is a way you

can help," he said. "Try and influence people you know within your sphere and call people on the phone."

"That way you can help get voters out and involved on one of the tightest and most important elections in history," persuaded Dr. Broun as he discussed ways in which constituents could help the election results.

Dr. Broun closed by thanking all in attendance and said what an honor it had been to represent the people of Towns County. He said he would continue to work on the issues that he believed in for the 10th District and invited folks to contact him with any problems they were facing at the federal government level. He then reminded folks to get out and vote because you can and will make a difference.