

# Towns County Herald

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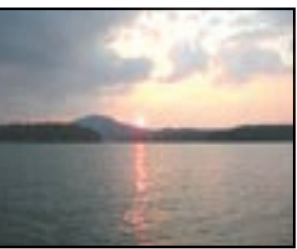
www.townscountyherald.net

Publication Number 635540 Volume 85 Number 2

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Sunny	55 30
Fri: Clouds	56 40
Sat: Clouds	64 47
Sun: Showers	64 48
Mon: Showers	62 37
Tues: Showers	56 30
Wed: Sunny	53 30



Upstream Elevation Predicted 11/13/13	
Lake Chatuge	1,917.57
Lake Nottely	1,761.00
Blue Ridge	1,668.87

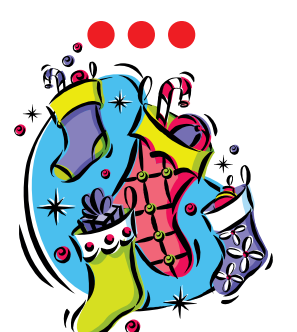
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## SPORTS Pages 8, 9



**Free Food Distribution**  
Towns County Food Pantry Thanksgiving Distribution  
Tuesday, Nov. 19th 2-5 PM  
North Mt. Zion Food Distribution  
Thurs., Nov 21st 10 AM - NOON



**Towns County Sheriff's Office Empty Stocking Christmas Parade**  
November 30th

**Adopt a Child**  
Help a local Child this Christmas  
See page 2

**Sponsor a Foster Child for Christmas**  
Your help is needed!  
see 14 for details



**BASKETBALL**  
Scrimmage  
Saturday, Nov 16th  
vs. Gilmer 2 & 3:30 PM

## Lady Indians Repeat!

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

Carrollton - Two Cross Country championships in a row.

Nothing could have prepared Towns County Head Coach Jeannie Ledford for the emotional impact of that news she received at the end of the Class A Cross Country State Championship race.

The team traveled to Carrollton to compete for their second consecutive state title on Saturday, running against familiar powerhouses Trion, Commerce, and Gordon Lee.

Coach Ledford was by turns giddy and nervous all day. Because Class A schools ran at the very end of the day, the tension stretched on and on.

She paced, put her team through their warm-ups, and called them in for a final pre-race huddle, where she spoke to them quietly, but with her typical urgency.

As the sky darkened and

See X-Country, Page 11



The Towns County Lady Indians celebrate their second straight Class A Cross Country team championship.

## Shakers learn about Firewise program

By Azure Welch  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

The weekly breakfast meeting of the Mountain Movers and Shakers were treated to an informative presentation Friday, Nov. 8, 2013. Frank Riley, a registered forester with The National Association of State Foresters, Mike Davis with the United States Forest Service, and Towns County Fire Chief, Mitch Floyd all joined together to educate all those in attendance about the "Fire Adapted Communities" campaign.

According to Riley, the Firewise program was started in 2009 as a result of a very active wildfire season.

As part of a local land management company, Southern Heritage Land, LLC, who employs foresters like Riley to provide home assessments regarding fire dangers, provide fire management education, and they will also assist homeowners with the clearing of hazard-



Frank Riley

ous debris piles. It's a perfect example of the purpose of the Firewise Communities Program.

The program is intended to "teach you how to use Firewise principles to improve your home's safety," and then after an individual learns to utilize these principles of fire safety, it is expected that they will "work

See Firewise, Page 11

## Veterans are remembered



U.S. Rep. Doug Collins

By Azure Welch  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

A beautiful and bright morning greeted all those attending the service for the observance of Veterans Day in Hiwassee at the Veterans Park adjacent to Towns County Schools.

The service dedicated to all military veterans who have and currently are serving our great nation began promptly at the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month.

Monday's service began with a welcoming by Mel Hal-fon, Post Commander, which was immediately followed by the "attention to the colors" fulfilled by members of the North Georgia Honor Guard.

Max Flaig, VFW Chap-



Towns County veterans paid homage to those currently serving, or who have served this great nation. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

lain provided the invocation for the service, as well as the introduction for the day's speaker, 9th District U.S. Rep. Doug Collins (R-Georgia); immediately preceding the congressman, the Towns County High School Band played the National Anthem.

Rep. Collins began his speech by expressing his appreciation of the beautiful weather, and said that he believes that the bright sunshine and perfect temperature was granted also in observance of

all those who have served in our nation's military; an honor "to all those who have put on the uniform."

The passion with which Rep. Collins spoke in regards to his love for our country, our fighting men and women, and our fallen heroes was pleasantly surprising and extremely engaging.

When asked what he wanted people to take away from this day, he stated he

See Veterans, Page 11

## Sgt. Walls gets a promotion

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

A lot can happen in 30 years, just ask Arvel Walls.

Unbeknownst to Walls, the November meeting of the Hiwassee City Council held special importance for the newly appointed police lieutenant.

Walls, formerly a sergeant with the Hiwassee Police Department, was honored in a small ceremony at City Hall, where he was honored for 30 years of service, received his promotion, multiple awards, and an engraved handgun.

Hoping to surprise Lt. Walls, EMTs, fellow officers, and judges all gathered for the ceremony. Recognizing his loyalty, dedication, and commitment to duty, Hiwassee Mayor



Police Chief Jimmy Wright makes Arvel Walls a lieutenant for the Hiwassee Police Department. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Barbara Mathis presented Lt. Walls with a plaque honoring his 30 years of service.

Lt. Walls also received

See 30 Years, Page 11

## Two new council members in Young Harris

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

Hilary Martin and Sam Leslie had their fingers crossed on election night, Nov. 5th.

Both were seeking seats on Young Harris's City Council.

Both work for Young Harris College, both were first-time candidates, and both hoped to use their fresh new ideas to serve a community they have grown to appreciate and love.

"I've really fallen in love with the City of Young Harris and with this area," Martin said.

Martin ran for the Post 5

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Even the Mountain Lions were casting ballots in the Young Harris City Council race in the Nov. 5th General Election. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Young Harris City Council sets millage

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

Young Harris - Tuesday, Nov. 5th, was a busy day in Young Harris, at least at City Hall.

From a busy election day, to the evening finale of the November City Council meeting, those elected to serve in Young Harris more than had their plates full.

Because the City Council meeting took place after the final ballots were cast for the City Council seats' election, there was an air of expectation.

The Council was set to set the millage rates, but before that, they had to deal with a more pressing issue - that of roadway safety.

Grace Howard stood up to address an issue that had been troubling her for some time. The intersection in front of the college is dangerous to often-oblivious Young Harris students; it would be all too easy for a driver to have an accident if a student steps in front of a moving vehicle.

"I see a lot of carelessness," a concerned Howard said. "It may be that there's some safety education that can be done on campus."

In response to Howard's



Stuart Miller

query, Councilman Stuart Miller said that the college was looking into the issue and was examining ways of making the area safer for drivers and pedestrians.

With that measure of business out of the way, the city council voted to uphold the existing millage rates, meaning that the city millage rate will be 2.493 for the next year.

The city continues to maintain its 2.493 millage rate to operate the city's maintenance and operations.

Next on tap for the Young Harris City Council is setting a 2014 budget that accommodates that 2.493 millage rate.

## Ledford, Stokes plead not guilty

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Two Towns County women charged with the malice murder of a former Union County resident have pleaded not guilty in Towns County Superior Court.

Brittany Elizabeth Ledford, 21, entered a plea of not guilty during arraignment last week in Towns County Superior Court, court records show.

Rebecca Ann Stokes, 32, waived arraignment via her attorney David Turk, and Turk entered a plea of not guilty on Stokes' behalf, court records show.

Earlier this year, a Towns County Grand Jury handed up a 13-count indictment against the two women accused of murdering 53-year-old Diane "Dee Dee" Adams-Donaldson, of Hiwassee on June 17th.

Ledford, 21, and her reported lover, Stokes, have been charged with felony murder, malice murder, two counts each aggravated assault, tampering with evidence, and removal of a body from the scene of death, according to the indictment handed up in Towns County Superior Court.

Stokes also has been accused of terroristic threats for pointing a gun at Adams-Donaldson and firing it in her direction, the indictment shows.

The murder, according to arrest warrants, occurred on June 17th at 500 Hickory

Lane. Adams-Donaldson's body was loaded in a wheelbarrow and rolled to a home that had not been occupied since 1973, according to testimony during an Aug. 4th bond hearing for the two women. Adams-Donaldson's body was dumped in an abandoned well on the property, where it was recovered on July 11th, by law enforcement, according to investigators with the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

Enotah Judicial Circuit Senior Superior Court Judge Murphy Miller denied bond for both Ledford and Stokes following a hearing on Aug. 4th.

Adams-Donaldson, who spent a portion of her youth in Union County, was discovered in the old hand-dug well at the old Roper farm on Turner Turnpike in rural Towns County. Adams-Donaldson's remains were recovered approximately at 7 p.m. on July 11th. The well was in close proximity to the residence where Adams-Donaldson lived and was murdered.

Adams-Donaldson was reported missing on June 24th by family members.

Ledford and Stokes have confessed to the crime, which conferred warrants allege hap-

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

