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the size that we are, one or two kids can move you from third place to ninth place when you have less than 100 students in a grade level."

Out of the 15 CRCT tests given, TCMS was the top performing school regionally in seven categories: sixth grade Math, seventh grade Reading, English Language Arts, and Science, and eighth grade Reading, English Language Arts, and Social Studies.

Since 2003, no other school in the 13-county Pioneer RESA has been the top performing school in that many areas.

Principal Berrong was almost speechless regarding the CRCT results, but not quite.

"The data shows that TCMS is the top middle school in our RESA this year and one of the top middle

schools in the entire state of Georgia," Principal Berrong said. "We're not just getting kids to pass the tests, those students are exceeding the state average at a high percentage level."

Principal Berrong gives the credit to TCMS teachers who challenge their students to be the best they can be. But most of all, he says the students of TCMS have risen to the challenge presented to them by their teachers.

"The teachers have worked really hard and the students have stepped up and really taken a hold of every thing that they've been taught," Berrong said. "I really feel that we've built a culture in this school that goes beyond the administration. The teachers and students are working to-

gether and it's something that I don't believe is going to stop anytime soon."

Considering that there are 184 middle schools in Georgia, the recent rankings by TCMS students are extremely impressive.

The Georgia Criterion Referenced Test (CRCT) is what the state of Georgia uses to determine student academic success. Each year students in grades three through eight take the state mandated CRCT in April and May to determine student promotion as well as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Schools are also ranked on the Georgia Department of Education website in order of their success in Reading, English/Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, and Social Studies.

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or exceeded the standard in English Language Arts testing; 84 percent met or exceeded the standard in Math testing; 81 percent met or exceeded the standard in Science testing; 78 percent met or exceeded the standard in Social Studies testing.

Towns County fifth graders scored in the 97<sup>th</sup>

percentile in meeting or exceeding the standards of the Reading test; 95 percent met or exceeded the standard in English Language Arts; 89 percent met or exceeded the standard in Math testing; 91 percent met or exceeded standards in Science testing; and 85 percent met or exceeded

standard in Social Studies.

"There's always room for improvement," Dr. Page said. "We certainly want to maintain our test scores and consistently bring them up. We have a high-functioning group of students and we're very proud of their accomplishments."

## Fair...continued from page 1A

Bradley recently had another surgery, this time on one of his lungs. He might not be able to wave real big, but count on seeing a big smile on his face.

Bradley's participation in this year's event is just one of the many reasons to come out to the Fair, which begins Wednesday and lasts through July 30.

Another big reason is the Annual Cooking Contests, sponsored this year by Susan DeVries' State Farm Insurance and Ingles Supermarket.

On Thursday, July 21, the Ingles Supermarket Baking Contest takes place at the Fairgrounds. First prize is \$30, second prize is \$20 and third prize brings home \$10. There is a division for adults and youth, with the prize amounts the same for each group.

Also on Thursday, the Ingles Supermarket Gluten-Free Baking contest. First prize is \$30, second prize is \$20 and third prize brings home \$10. There is a division for adults and youth, with the prize amounts the same for each group. Use gluten-free baking ingredients to create your own gluten-free bread, cookies, cakes or crackers.

On Wednesday, July

27, the State Farm Insurance Savory Family Favorites competition begins. First prize is \$75, second prize is \$50 and third prize brings home \$30. There is a division for adults and youth, with the prize amounts the same for each group. For more details, contact the Fairgrounds at (706) 896-4191.

Opening day on Wednesday, July 20, features free carnival rides from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Entertainment includes Country Music Legend Neal McCoy at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Power Play.

McCoy is followed on Day 2 by none other than Ronnie McDowell and the Oconee River Boys.

On Friday, July 22nd, Roy Clark brings his musical talents to Anderson Music Hall along with the Country River Band. On July 23rd, beginning at 11 a.m., the annual Georgia Mountain Fair Parade provides a day of highlights. The parade begins at the Bank of Hiwassee and ends at the Fairgrounds. The day also features Americana Roots & Music Day, a blend of Country Music, Bluegrass, Folk, Blues and Swing. Musical acts include Irons in the Fire, Nelson Thomas,

Bearfoot and the Waybacks.

The fair continues through July 30 with other musical talents including Atlanta Rhythm Section, the Georgia Mountain Fair Band, Mel Tillis, Pam Tillis and Joe Diffie.

This year's event also features the Water Ski Show and Bengal Tiger Encounters.

The event also features the ever popular carnival rides and the annual arts and crafts shows, held daily with real exhibitions of old time craft making.

The Georgia Mountain Fair started with humble beginnings in 1950 as an agricultural expo that lasted three days at the Towns County High School Recreation Field. Only 2,000 or so attended the first Georgia Mountain Fair. However, no one could have predicted the meager event would grow by leaps and bounds, adding rides and fun for children and arts and crafts for adults. By the mid-1970s, Hiwassee became a summer destination for more than 100,000 people looking to get in touch with rural roots and allowing their children to spend that hard-earned summer cash on 10 days of joyous pleasure.

## Williams...continued from page 1A

all over again," she said with a smile. "To come into this school system and work with these dedicated professionals, it's like being given the opportunity of a lifetime."

On Monday night, the Towns County community welcomed Williams into the fold at the Middle/High School Cafeteria. She graciously greeted each parent, educator and student like she had known them forever.

Melissa Williams smiled; she was finally home.

"I'm telling you, it's like I've known her forever," said Towns County Board of Education member Donna Hedden. "It's like she's an old friend that has come back home. You just get that kind of feeling about her from the first time you meet her."

Clint Hobbs, vice president for enrollment at Young Harris College, had met Melissa Williams before while on a student recruiting trip to Jenkins County.

"I think Melissa Williams brings a lot to the table," Hobbs said. "She has a tremendous resume; I know she did a great job in Jenkins County. I think she's going to be outstanding. She'll continue those important traditions of academic excellence and keep them in place at Towns County

Schools.

"As far as preparing students to be successful at Young Harris College, Towns County does a tremendous job," Hobbs said. "I can tell you that the students who come to Young Harris College from Towns County High School make some of the very best students at YHC academically speaking."

Towns County BOE Chair Emily Phillips said that she had no doubt that the Board of Education had made the right choice when they selected Melissa Williams.

"We're very pleased with the community coming out and supporting her tonight," Phillips said. "We're excited about her being a good fit in our community."

Myra Underwood said that her immediate impression about Melissa Williams is that she's humble, but confident.

"She carries herself very well," Underwood said. "She's a very confident person. I think she's going to fit in very well with the kids. She's interested in academics; she's interested in their sports. She makes the kids feel welcome."

BOE member Michael Anderson has a good feeling about the addition of Melissa Williams

to the Towns County School System.

"I think she's going to do a great job," he said. "She's hit the ground running. She's going to take her time, take a look at what can be done to improve the school system and what needs to be done. We're looking forward to the future."

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall came to greet the new school superintendent with his wife and granddaughter.

"I really believe we've got a good one," said Commissioner Kendall, himself a former Towns County Schools superintendent. "She's down to earth and already has a hometown feel about her."

When the evening came to a close, Melissa Williams had shaken every hand in the room.

"I see nothing in this school system that looks broken," she said. "The facilities are great, student achievement is great. My leadership style is that of servant leadership. I won't ask anyone to do something that I won't do myself."

"I believe we are a team here at Towns County and we'll work together as a team," she said.



New Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams is proud to be the first female schools superintendent at Towns County. "It feels special to be a part of history." Photo/Charles Duncan

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cool shade.

Mark Buttrill, who chaired the committee that helped raise the necessary resources to create the park, said the tribute was the least the community could do to honor two people who gave so generously in the development of the community we call Towns County.

"All of you being here today, make this a great day," he said. "We have two

reasons for you to be here, and they're sitting here with us. These two folks, Elois Anderson and Dick Paris are the reason we're here today. Over the years, they gave us more than we ever asked for.

"Today is a tribute to two great people and we appreciate everything that they have done," Buttrill said. "All that you see today is amazing to me and I

compliment each and every one of you who played a part in making this happen."

Anderson-Paris Pioneer Park will be a place to reflect on what Elois Anderson and Dick Paris have really meant to the Hiwassee and Towns County communities, while at the same time, providing a little enjoyment for folks who come to visit the Fairgrounds.



## Licklog Players' lighting & sound designer sheds light and boosts sound for South Pacific

Seventeen-year-old Emma Timson is the lighting and sound designer, as well as the lighting and sound technician, for *South Pacific*. This will be Emma's 10th show with the Licklog Players. "I am excited to be working with Director Nancy Davis again. She has allowed me many opportunities to learn my craft up in the booth. First, with the 58 sound cues in *A Christmas Story* this past December, and now with the lighting and sound design for this show."

The first thing Emma does to prepare for a show is to read the script. Then she writes in all the light and sound cues. A cue is like a picture frozen in time, but in a show they all flow together. Emma collaborates with the director to make sure the directors vision is seen and heard. For the lighting for *South Pacific*, she saw a vision in her head of how



Emma Timson

she thought it was supposed to look like and then she "made it look that way with all the lights and different colors". Emma used "yellow, pink and orange hues of light to create the look of being on a tropical island". To create the sounds, Emma uses CDs provided by the playhouse or she looks them up on the internet and

then sometimes she has to create her own sounds when she cannot find what she is looking for. Emma sums it up with this, "without the lights and sound the actors would be in the dark and there would be awkward silences."

Licklog Players will present their production of *South Pacific* July 28-31 and August 4-7 with performances Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are now on sale.

Get yours today for summer musical tickets sell out quickly, especially the Sunday matinees. General admission tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.

Tickets are available at the Peacock Playhouse box office Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 828-389-8632 or visit us at [www.licklogplayers.org](http://www.licklogplayers.org). NT(0420211)CA