

Qualifying...from Page 1A

county office candidates only, excepting state court judge candidates, who also qualify locally. Candidates for federal and all other state offices will need to qualify this week in Atlanta with the Secretary of State's Office.

Paperwork for qualifying can be found on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ga.gov.

Once there, click on the Elections tab at the top, then

hover over the Candidate Info tab, and in the dropdown menu that appears, click on 2020 Qualifying Packet.

On the very next screen, click on the "CLICK HERE" link to access the packet, which contains explicit qualifying instructions for each office.

Information for individuals wishing to qualify for federal and state office can also be found within the qualifying packet.

A complete list of qualifying candidates for the various public offices will be made available by the Board of Elections on Friday afternoon.

For more qualifying information, or to find out how else to obtain qualifying paperwork, contact the Towns County Board of Elections at 706-896-4353.

Pick up a copy of the March 11 edition of the Towns County Herald for coverage on qualifying candidates.

Robotics...from Page 1A

and Bentley Floyd earned their chance to advance the state competition after a solid Third-Place finish in the North Georgia League Tournament on Jan. 18.

They then joined 180 robotics teams from across the state to face off in 2-v-2 competitions that had their robots moving yellow blocks onto a foundation before returning to starting positions. Points were scored by completing tasks in the right order in under two minutes, McConnell said.

And right away, the team jumped out to a great start to advance to the semifinals.

"We ended up getting pitted against the No. 1 seed that won the whole state competition," McConnell said.

All told, Dragons & Tiaras ended the tourney with a 3-3 record and a Top 15 placement among 180 teams. And though it was definitely a terrific finish, only the Top Seven teams advanced further, so the Towns team must wait until next year to try again for the World Tournament.

The task shouldn't prove too difficult for the young engineers, as Dragons & Tiaras members start every season with the mindset of competing in the World Competition,

pushing for success every year, McConnell said.

And now that the current batch of students have competed in the state tournament together as a team, each individual knows what to expect in 2021, McConnell added.

"We've taken a lot of this into consideration," McConnell said. "We're going to start messing with some new metals, start looking at different objects and materials - maybe some different strategies - and kind of shoot for a little bit higher of a standard than what we did this year, and make more changes to our robot as we go through the season."

Towns County High started its robotics program in 2013, and McConnell said this is the team's fourth trip to the state tournament.

"This year, we had to get blocks and put them on a tray and build them up," McConnell said. "Next year, we'll get a new challenge."

With all but one team member returning next season, who will be the team's lone senior in Ledford, McConnell said they should excel for years to come.

"We're going to be very good because we know each other very well," Floyd said. "We already got 15th, so we

weren't too far off."

McConnell said the team used artificial intelligence for the first time this year, which was a big part of their success. The team reached out to a Google employee, who gave the team some advising.

The team did the programming themselves, but McConnell said it was challenging, so hopefully now, with a year of experience working with artificial intelligence and competing at the state level, they will be able to advance to the World Tournament next season.

With the season over, McConnell said the team will be busy evaluating their robot, though they'll most likely build a new one in September when they receive the new challenges.

At the beginning of each new season every September, McConnell said teams get the specific details of the next competition, and once they know what their robot has to do, they can start the process of designing the type of robot they feel would be best for the challenge.

Students have six weeks to build a fully functional robot, basically from scratch, McConnell said, with the robot they design in September having to stand the test of several competitions throughout the year.

Enotah Garden Club Celebrates Arbor Day 2020



On Thursday, February 27th, Enotah Garden Club celebrated Arbor Day and Young Harris being a Tree City for 25 years. Each year the club plants trees at Cupid Falls and other locations in the city. Gayle Nichols, read the proclamation of Young Harris as a Tree City which was signed by Mayor Andrea Gibby. Tony Harkins of the Georgia Forest Service spoke to the members about the importance of trees as aids to reduce erosion, reduce heating and cooling cost, and supply oxygen to our planet. He distributed bare root trees to club members to plant at their homes in honor of Arbor Day. NT(Mar4,Z14)CA

We are Towns County Schools

Rachel Surles: Grew up: Mechanicsville, IA then Indian Rocks Beach, FL (graduated from Seminole HS). Dept.: English/Language Arts, HS; Yearbook Advisor.

Previous experience: Worked in newspaper publishing (advertising & design/journalism) in North Carolina for a few years; earned a Master's in Secondary English Education and taught HS in Wilmington, NC x 11yrs; Literary Coach x 1 yr; ELA Instructional Coach for several yrs; taught Intro to Writing and a Freshman Seminar class part-time at University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Family: Married to Stephen for 6.5 yrs; 1 son, Henry (4); 1 daughter, Ruby (1); Boxer, "Rosie"; 2 cats, "Stella" & "Jade"; father-in-law owns Michael's Mountain Honey and is a retired, professional beekeeper.

Fun facts: Loves to garden, cook, read, tent camp & hike, spend time with family & friends; collects antique glass paperweights.

Best thing about her job: forming relationships with students and being able, then,



Rachel Surles to advocate for them on a personal level.

Favorite Books/Movie: To Kill A Mockingbird, Kite Runner, and Charlotte's Web; The Last of the Mohicans.

What does TCS do well?: "We're cohesive--we work together as a team and it's all about student success."

The Towns County Board of Education, in an effort to familiarize our community with our staff, will submit a spotlight of an employee each week to share the exceptional caliber of people we have at our school. Selections will be made randomly as we value our employees equally.

TM(Mar4,G3)SH

Towns County Head Start Application/Pre-K Registration

The Towns County Head Start and Georgia Pre-K Program began taking applications on March 2, 2020 for the 2020-2021 program year. The Towns County Head Start/Georgia Pre-K program is a high quality early childhood program that is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and is Day Care Licensed. The program was awarded 3 out of 3 stars from Georgia's Quality Rated and Improvement System.

To complete an application for the Head Start Program call the Head Start Office to schedule an appointment. A child must be age three or four by September 1, 2020. The following information is needed to complete a Head Start application: 1) Proof of child's age. 2) Proof of Income. Helpful information includes the following: Copy of Medicaid, Peach, or insurance Card and Immunization record (Form

3231.) Head Start service is provided for all children who qualify, regardless of race, sex, creed or religion. Head Start also serves children with disabilities.

Georgia Pre-K: Slots will be filled by lottery drawing April 1, 2020. (Parent/guardian will be contacted on day of drawing to verify acceptance.) No appointments necessary. Georgia Pre-K waiting list is on a first come basis after April 1, 2020.

Registration began on March 2, 2020 at the Head Start/Pre-K Center located in the Towns County Elementary School. A child must be age four by September 1, 2020. No transportation provided.

For more information please call the Towns County Head Start/Pre-K Office at (706) 896-4131, option 4. Mary Beth Moss - Head Start/Pre-K Center Director. Pam Dailey - Head Start Family Partner. TM(Mar4,F1)SH

Apply now for TCREA Education Scholarships

Towns County Retired Educators Association (TCREA) is committed to excellence in education for Towns County and is pleased to announce the availability of two scholarships - one scholarship for Towns County college students and one for current educators to help further their careers and fulfill their potential. College students who are legal residents of Towns County currently enrolled in an accredited education program who will be at least a junior in the upcoming academic year and have at least a 3.0 GPA are eligible for the TCREA Emerging Educators Scholarship. The amount of the scholarship varies.

Educators who are already certified and teaching, live or work in Towns County, and are enrolled in or accepted into an accredited advanced degree program in education are eligible for the TCREA Advanced Degree Scholarship.

Lindsey earns DPT from Arcadia

Elizabeth Lindsey, a resident of Hiawassee, earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree from Arcadia University at a Commencement ceremony on January 19. In total, 254 members of the Class of 2020 earned degrees that day. TM(Mar4,F1)SH

Acting classes continue at the Peacock

A third series of acting classes is being offered on Saturdays at the Peacock Performing Arts Center in Hayesville. The 5-week course begins March 21 and continues through April 18, 1 - 3 p.m. in the upstairs rehearsal hall. The class is open to anyone 18 and older, with or without previous acting experience and is being taught by David Weber, Adjunct Instructor at Young Harris College.

This course will focus on contemporary drama and tuition is \$15 per student per class. Contact the office 828-389-2787 to register.

The Peacock is an equal opportunity employer and provider. NT(Mar4,Z9)CA

The Peacock goes Vintage



Vintage Vixens

Come experience the Vintage Vixens, 7 PM Saturday, March 28th at the Peacock Performing Arts Center in Hayesville, NC.

When a career booking agent with a love of the great sounds of the 60s picks up a bass guitar and learns to play all her favorites, what happens? She surrounds herself with talented, like-minded, ladies and—voilà—the Vintage Vixens are born!

Rockin' that retro sound, the all-female Vintage Vixens include Amy on guitar/vocals, Janet on keyboards, Carol on drums, Vanessa on lead vocals and Linda on bass. Talk about "Flower Power"!

Inspired by 60s fashion, on stage these ladies look like

the music—groovy, funky, hippie! The Vintage Vixen playlist includes covers of the biggest hits from Motown, The Mamas & the Papas, Turtles, Beatles, Rolling Stones, The Drifters, Creme, Young Rascals, The Kinks, CCR, and more including some 70s favorites, too like 3 Dog Night and Sly & The Family Stone. It's a happy 60s hit fest of good time, sing along music! Peace, Love, and Vintage Vixens!

Tickets are available online at www.thepeacocknc.org, at the box office 301 Church St, Hayesville NC, by calling the box office at 828-389-2787 or at Tiger's Dept. Store on the Square in Hayesville NC. \$29 Adults; \$25 Students. Doors open at 6:30 PM. NT(Mar4,Z8)CA

Gene Higginbotham Memorial Scholarship available to local seniors

American Pest Control, a local family owned and operated company, introduced the Gene Higginbotham Memorial Scholarship in May 2016. Gene Higginbotham founded American Pest Control in 1971. He valued family, education, and community as top priorities for his company. Mr. Higginbotham passed away August 30th, 2015 and the scholarship was created in his honor by family and employees to continue his legacy.

American Pest Control will continue to offer this scholarship through schools in their wide service area across Northeast Georgia and parts of South Carolina. Applicants must have been accepted to an accredited college or university and have a 3.0 or higher GPA. Students can contact their high school counselor for information and applications. American Pest Control encourages all graduating 2020 seniors to apply! NT(Mar4,Z4)CA