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State Champions!!

Indians win Class A Public State Championship

**By Jerry Kendall
Towns County Herald**
The ultimate but rarely reached goal of most high school basketball teams of winning a state championship was achieved by the Towns County Indians last Saturday in the Macon Centreplex in Macon when they took a 64-60 victory over Hancock Central High School of Sparta, which is located about halfway between Macon and Augusta.

The Indians had a huge crowd of supporters at the game and many more viewing the game on the internet and were at their best from the beginning in carrying out their duties throughout the game. All supporters of the Indians far and near could not be more proud of their accomplishments, not only in this state championship game, but throughout the season under the stress and uncertainties of postponed and canceled

games due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Indians entered the game with a 24-3 record which was four games short of what would have been allowed if a full schedule had been possible, but cancellations, including the annual Battle of the States Tournament held since 1994, due to the pandemic prevented completing every permissible game. Fortunately, they did play a nearly full schedule as supported by Hancock Central, as the Bulldogs were limited to just sixteen games entering the game due to many cancellations in their area of the state.

Perhaps the biggest concern for the Indians from your reporter's view prior to the game was the possibility that they might be overwhelmed by playing for the first time in the massive Centreplex venue which seats 9,000. On the other See *State Champions, Page 2B*



Congratulations to the 2020-21 Towns County Indians Basketball Team, which won the first basketball state championship in school history March 13 in Macon. Residents lined the streets of Downtown Hiwassee Saturday evening to welcome the boys home after their historic victory. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Livingston to fulfill dream, play soccer for Shorter U.



The Towns County Girls Soccer Team joined their teammate Kenzie Livingston for a special signing ceremony last week. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

**By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer**
Towns County High School Senior Kenzie Livingston celebrated the next step in her life's journey March 10 with an athletic scholarship signing to play soccer at Shorter University in Rome, Georgia.

The student-athlete has been playing soccer since she was 5 years old, having only missed a single season after suffering an ACL injury her first year as a High School Lady Indian.

"From the moment I started playing, I have always loved it," Livingston said at

the School Media Center last week. "I love being on a team and having teammates. It was something that I was naturally good at it, and it felt good to have something that I enjoyed doing."

"It has been hard because of my injury my freshman year. See *Livingston, Page 5A*

King to run for YHC, pursue psychology degree



TCHS Senior Liam King, center, was joined last week by Coach Tim Rosser and father Daren King for an event celebrating his signing to run cross country for Young Harris College. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

**By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer**
On Wednesday, March 10, Senior Liam King with Towns County High School gathered with family and friends to commemorate his signing to run cross country for Young Harris College.

King started his journey as a runner in middle school and has improved throughout his high school career, leading to a scholarship opportunity at the collegiate level and his accomplishment as the first male athlete from Towns County to sign for cross country.

Two of the main forces

driving King to be successful have been his father, who has encouraged him every step of the way, and his mother, who passed away recently after an extended illness.

"I wanted to quit after my eighth-grade year, and my dad told me to try again in high school. See *King, Page 6A*

Matheson recovering, thankful for 'overwhelming' support

**By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor**
HAYESVILLE, N.C. – More than two dozen volunteers gathered at Catalytic Church Friday, March 12, to box over 700 barbecue plates and 100 hamburger plates for a fundraiser benefiting one of the church's founding members, Crystal Matheson, who survived a shooting in January.

"I'm thankful for everybody that had a hand in it," Matheson said of the effort, which involved plate orders from residents in Cherokee and Clay counties of North Carolina, as well as Union and Towns counties of Georgia.

Matheson attended the fundraiser to visit with members of her church family and to thank her many supporters, heading over to the event after a physical therapy session at Chatuge Regional Hospital Rehabilitation & Wellness Center in Hiwassee.

She is not only a patient at the wellness center but works there, too, though she is currently on medical leave as she strives to regain her



Supporting survivor Crystal Matheson is grateful for the support of people like Clayton Reeves and the more than two dozen volunteers who made possible the March 12 barbecue fundraiser benefitting her. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

strength and stamina after being shot eight times while on shift Jan. 26.

Miraculously, she has fared surprisingly well considering the number of times she was shot with a 9 mm handgun, with all eight bullets missing bones, tendons, and major organs aside from a patched-up colon.

Matheson still has two bullets lodged in her body, one

in her hip area and another in her back muscle, plus some leftover bullet fragments, through the doctors don't believe it will cause long-term harm.

She spent about a month in the hospital and had to use a walker for a while but said she has recovered about 75 percent and is readying herself to head back to work soon.

"I consider it a miracle. See *Matheson, Page 6A*

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC names Glidewell new GM

**News Special
Towns County Herald**
YOUNG HARRIS – Directors for the Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation announced in their Tuesday, March 9, Board Meeting that Allan Glidewell has been selected as general manager.

When Glidewell joins the EMC March 22, he will be bringing with him more than 23 years of experience in the utility industry working primarily in electric cooperatives.

He will be taking over from Interim General Manager Erik Brinke, who has led the EMC since former general manager Jeremy Nelms left in September 2020 for Flint Energies in Warner Robbins.

"Glidewell's knowledge, experience, longevity and leadership within the electric cooperative caught the attention of our Board," Board President Ray Cook said. "Our board and legal counsel spent several weeks interviewing and vetting the candidates, and we feel we have an excellent choice as our general manager who will lead the co-op successfully into the

future.

"We look forward to having Mr. Glidewell as a part of the BRMEM family. On behalf of the board, we want to especially thank Interim General Manager Erik Brinke for his leadership during the search for our new general manager."

Glidewell currently serves as branch manager for Fisher & Arnold, Inc., a multi-discipline architecture and engineering firm in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He is responsible for planting and growing the private organization's venture into the Chattanooga and Birmingham markets.

During his tenure as vice president of operations and engineering at Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation, he managed daily operations of the 50,000-meter co-op, including safety, engineering, operations, information technology, maintenance and member services.

He oversaw the deployment of a state-of-the-art AMI, outage management and SCADA system, as well



Allan Glidewell
as the construction of a fiber network to connect co-op facilities, substations and commercial accounts.

Furthermore, Glidewell accepted a couple of positions within the Tennessee Valley Authority working as manager of applied line services and then as transmission system manager.

See *Glidewell, Page 6A*

2 Sections 12 Pages
Lake Levels
Blue Ridge 1,675.82
Chatuge 1,918.57
Nottely 1,762.86

Inside	
Arrests	2A
Chamber	5A
Church	3B
Classifieds	5B
Opinion	4A
Legals	5B
Obits	4B
Sports	2B

SPORTS
BASEBALL
2/19 DOUBLE HEADER
vs. Social Circle 5 PM
SOCCER
2/19 vs. Washington Wilkes
5 & 7 PM

Byers Creek Road Temporary Closure
See page 2A

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates
See Page 1B

Riley Green Tickets on Sale Friday
See page 6A