

# Towns County Herald

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## BOE touches on Title I Rewards, baseball field and school safety

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Assistant Editor

Congratulations are in order for Towns County High and Elementary Schools, as both have earned the distinction of being named 2018 Title I Reward Schools.

In recognition of their successes, Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong presented TCHS Principal Dr. Connie Hobbs and TCES Principal Dr. Sandy Page with Title I award banners in the April 16 regular meeting of the Towns County Board of Education.

"The Department of Education recognizes schools in a couple different categories, Highest Performing and Highest Progress, on their achievement on the End of Course Tests and End of Grade Tests throughout

the state," said Dr. Berrong. "We had two of our schools recognized this past year as 2018 Title I Reward Schools."

"The first is Towns County High School with Highest Progress, and they had some of the highest gains in the state of Georgia over a three-year period on those tests."

"Secondly, Towns County Elementary School was named a Title I Reward School for having the highest performance on the standardized test over a three-year period."

In his Superintendent Report, Dr. Berrong said that the school system finally has a plan to tackle the soggy baseball field, the outfield of which has been saturated with water since before the start of baseball season.

"I feel better that we have a vision of what we're going to

do," said Dr. Berrong. "Starting (this week or next), we will be having a drainage system put in the whole outfield of the baseball field."

"It'll be a herringbone-type pattern, with one main drain running through the center of the outfield, with fingers coming in from all directions of the outfield to that pipe. It will run over to the football field and down to one of the main drainage pipes at the football field."

"We had to run it in that direction to get enough fall for the water to actually travel into it, so that's why it's running in that direction. The hope is that will get most of the water off the field."

After the new drainage system is in place, Dr. Berrong said all the topsoil will need to

See BOE, Page 10A



Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Left to right: Laura Banister, Dr. Sandy Page, Dr. Darren Berrong, Dr. Connie Hobbs and Jerry Taylor holding Title I Reward School banners for the elementary and high schools.

## Students dance the night away during Prom 2018



Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Towns County High School 2018 Prom Queen Sarah Bastian and Prom King Aaron King.

By Jarrett Whitener  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County High School students danced the night away for Prom 2018, which took place at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center.

Students put on their best suits and dresses to show up and celebrate this high school milestone, and they all cheered loudly as they danced to both modern and classic songs that ranged from slow songs couples could dance to, or fast songs for all to form a large crowd and dance together.

While the students danced on and enjoyed their night, helpers and coordinators were working around them to make sure everything went as smoothly as it possibly could.

Hanging above the DJ was a projector screen



Photo by Lowell Nicholson

The prom took place at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center at Foster Park. The prom displayed pictures taken through the evening. These pictures helped the

students see what took place with everyone around them and made them laugh as they made memories together. For those who were not See Prom, Page 6A

## Commissioner Bradshaw proclaims May 5 'Wildfire Preparedness Day' in county

By Mark Novak  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

It's official – Wildfire Preparedness Day is Saturday, May 5.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw signed a proclamation making it so in his Tuesday, April 17, regular county meeting.

He was joined by members of the Towns County Firewise Citizens Coalition, including Coalition Chair Marsha Elliott, as well as Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council Executive Director Frank Riley.

Wildfire Preparedness Day is a nationally recognized day throughout the country, and Elliott and the Coalition

See Wildfire, Page 6A



Photo by Mark Novak

Ann Atchison, Liz Ordiales, Marsha Elliott, Michael Courey and Frank Riley in the April 17 county meeting, holding a sign for last year's Wildfire Community Preparedness Day.

## Early voting April 30 through May 18

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Assistant Editor

See Sample Ballots on Page 7A

Early voting for the May 22 General Primary and Nonpartisan General Election begins on Monday, April 30.

Every weekday between April 30 and May 18, during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., registered Towns County voters will be able to walk into the Towns County Board of Elections and Registration Office to cast their votes.

The board office is located in Suite A of 67 Lakeview Circle in Hiawassee, and it will be open to voters even during lunchtime.

There is one weekend day set aside for voters at the board office, which will be Saturday, May 12, from 8:30

a.m. to 4:30 p.m., for those who find themselves too busy to vote during the scheduled weekdays of voting.

Since this is a primary, voters will need to declare a political party to receive a ballot, otherwise, voters will only be able to vote in the Nonpartisan General Election.

Election Day will be on Tuesday, May 22, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and that day, voters should report to one of the four pre-assigned Towns County voting precincts.

The Macedonia Precinct has changed from the campus of Towns County Schools to See Voting, Page 6A

## Georgia Mountain Eggfest promises good eats at the Fairgrounds

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Assistant Editor

There's nothing you can't cook on a Big Green Egg – just ask the folks at the Eighth Annual Georgia Mountain Eggfest on May 18 and May 19.

The Eggfest takes place annually inside the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, and there's still plenty of taster tickets for \$25 available for people who'd like to try delicious breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert foods cooked in a Big Green Egg.

"An Eggfest is a gathering of Big Green Egg fans and experienced cooks from all across the country and Canada," per MountainEgg.com. "The cooks will be showcasing their skills and talents and will be preparing their specialty recipes all day long."

"The non-cooks (tasters)



Photo by Lowell Nicholson

A view from the 2017 Georgia Mountain Eggfest at the Fairgrounds.

are free to stroll through the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, sample and experience wonderful "Egged" food while talking to the cooks about their recipes and techniques."

Already, 125 cooks have

registered for the Eggfest, and more than 360 taster tickets have been sold for the main event on Saturday, May 19.

There's another way to get in on the fun, however, and

See Eggfest, Page 6A

## Park Sterling becomes South State

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Assistant Editor

Over the April 20 weekend, Park Sterling Bank transitioned to South State Bank.

The transition began on Friday with signage changes at the branch located at 20 S. Main Street in Hiawassee, and all former Park Sterling branches opened as South State banks on Monday, April 23.

South State has been serving the financial needs of customers and communities since 1934.

Today, South State is one of the fastest growing regional banks in the South, serving more than 700,000 customers throughout the Carolinas, Georgia and Virginia.

Customers now have access to more than 165 branches and 200 ATMs.

South State ATM's (NASDAQ: SSB) announced See Bank, Page 1B



Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Employees of the Hiawassee branch clapping during the April 20 unveiling of the new sign out front of the old Park Sterling Bank – welcome to Hiawassee, South State Bank

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