

# Prayer...from Page 1A

time that organizers hold one in the evening, and there will be water available but no food.

"It has been decided that it would be more convenient and better attended to have the meeting at 6:30 p.m.," said Yandell.

The theme for this year's event is "Unity," and Yandell and her 2018 National Day of Prayer Committee - husband John Yandell, Al Fickle, Alisa Richards and Pastor Bradley Thomas - have invited a variety of church and community leaders from Towns and Clay counties to pray publicly.

Pastor Thomas will kickstart the May 3 observance with words of welcome and an invocation, and members of the North Georgia Honor Guard will present the colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Teresa Conner will sing "God Bless America," and Pastor Ricky Rogers will recognize all pastors and clergy present for the evening.

Thomas will once more address those gathered, this time recognizing veterans present, and Chief Deputy Terry Conner with the Towns County Sheriff's Office will recognize all public safety officials.

Alan Kendall will perform a number of songs during the prayer service, with



Photo by Lowell Nicholson  
**Pastor Bradley Thomas at the 2017 National Day of Prayer event in Towns County.**

Jim Wood, Chris Rumpfelt, Ryan Wilson and the Macedonia Youth also giving musical performances.

Other prayers that evening will be led by Donnie Jarrard, Sam Hamby, Evan Berrong, Todd Flanagan, Kendall Floyd, Raburne Wilson, Johnny Foster, David Berrong and Danny Byers.

"This is a wonderful county, the people are fine people, and it just does your heart so good to see so many people come together to pray," said Yandell.

The Towns County

Recreation and Conference Center is located at 150 Foster Park Rd. in Young Harris, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Residents are also encouraged to attend the Third Annual North Georgia Sing, which will kick off at 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 5.

The free event will be held at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Hiwassee, and will feature the musical talents of Jordan's Bridge, Dixie Echoes, Children of the Promise, the New Dove Brothers, the Troy Burns Family, and the Open

# Clean Sweep...from Page 1A

to you folks for your efforts in trying to keep our county clean."

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw joined Berrong and Grace Howard of Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge in presenting checks to the groups that picked up the most trash.

Of the three group categories, McConnell Memorial Baptist Church volunteers concentrated their efforts around Bearmeat Road, Highways 17 S, 75 N, 66 and Young Harris Mountain East Side, to collect a total of 64 bags of garbage.

Pastor Steven Taylor was on hand to accept the \$200 award for the church that picked up the most trash.

The City of Hiwassee teamed up with the local Cub Scouts and picked up 38 bags of trash from the city streets.

Mayor Liz Ordiales, Councilwoman Amy Barrett and the group of Cub Scouts attended the April 24 celebration to receive the award of \$200 for picking up the most trash in their category.

In an incredible act of kindness, Henry Chambers donated his \$200 award to the Cub Scouts for leading the individual category by picking up 31 bags of trash on Owl Creek Road.

Bradshaw was grateful for all the effort put in by the groups and the difference in the appearance of the county for the residents and visitors of the county.

"I want to thank everybody that's been involved with this," said Bradshaw. "All of you that donate your time

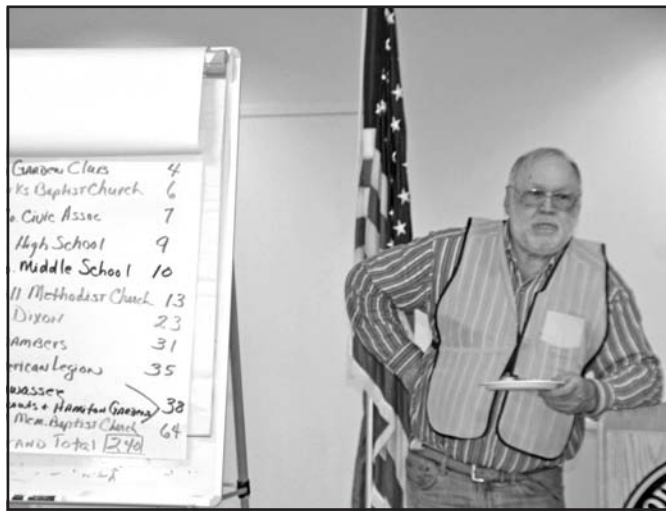


Photo by Mark Novak  
**J.C. Berrong showing everyone the list of people and organizations that helped pick up a total of 240 bags of trash from Towns County streets during the cleaning week.**

and your hard work, I mean, it takes time. I went out with Liz Saturday morning and we picked up trash, and to see these kids out picking up trash, it's amazing."

On behalf of the county, Bradshaw presented J.C. Berrong with a certificate of appreciation for his hard work and service organizing Clean Sweep.

"The time and effort, the phone calls, coming to all the county meetings, doing all the speaking - it takes a special person to do it," said Bradshaw. "J.C. is a friend of mine, just like all of you are, but he is a very special man and we love him to death."

Upon accepting the certificate of appreciation, Berrong shared a few words about his motivation to help the county in this way.

"I don't do any of this

out of personal desires or anything," said Berrong. "The good Lord has blessed me, and I thank Him every day."

Bradshaw has asked that residents help in keeping the county clean, and he believes that educating people rather than fining them is the answer to a cleaner environment for everyone to enjoy.

"We all have to stop and get gas, and there's trash cans at every gas station," said Bradshaw. "When you stop to get gas, empty the trash."

Free pizza and soft drinks were provided by the commissioner's office for everyone who attended the celebration.

Those looking for free trash bags to put in their cars can stop by Hiwassee City Hall to pick them up.

# Confederate...from Page 1A

exist to uplift, protect and defend the names and reputations of those who wore the gray during the American Civil War. It's a noble calling. We defend soldiers who can't defend themselves anymore, and they need it now more than they ever needed it."

Confederate Memorial Day has been celebrated in Georgia and much of the South since the spring of 1866, when the Ladies Memorial Association of Columbus (GA) passed a resolution setting aside a single day every year, April 26, to pay tribute to fallen Confederate soldiers.

Since 2016, however, Confederate Memorial Day has been excluded in name from the official list of Georgia holidays, being marked instead by a meaningless "State Holiday" designation.

This year's "State Holiday" observance occurred on Monday, April 23 - the nearest Monday to the historically recognized Confederate Memorial Day - and local observers of the holiday chose April 28 as their day to gather in remembrance.

However, those who came together at the War Memorial that Saturday were not there to celebrate "State Holiday."

They gathered to honor the lives and sacrifices of their Confederate ancestors, who joined with their Northern brethren in a bloody war that cost nearly 700,000 American lives.

The keynote speaker for the SCV David W. Payne Camp 1633 Memorial Day event was Compatriot Gregory White, who told a number of stories about Confederate men who died fighting for causes in which they believed.

According to White, political correctness is to blame for the modern-day backlash against Confederate symbols and dates such as Confederate Memorial Day.

"How much longer will Confederate Memorial Day exist?" lamented White that Saturday.



Photo by Lowell Nicholson  
**A cannon salute to the Confederate dead in Union County War Memorial Park on Saturday, April 28.**

"For those of us with Confederate soldiers in our ancestry, the burden is on each of us - not the state and federal government or the public school system - to teach and remind our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews that they are the heirs of an unparalleled American legacy."

The Memorial Day celebration included men and women dressed in period clothing who carried out a variety of tributes to honor the Confederate dead.

Along with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance led by Camp Cmdr. David Junghans, those gathered also pledged their allegiance to the Georgia flag and held a salute to the Confederate flag.

Camp Lt. Cmdr. Robert McTureous delivered the customary reading of the Charge of Confederate Lt. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, followed by the placing of a wreath at the Confederate Monument in War Memorial Park by members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy Smith's Legion Chapter 2699.

Also part of the program, Junghans and McTureous led a symbolic removal of the Confederate Battle Flag from the monument, and Compatriot Mike Kirkland fired a three-

volley cannon salute to mark the occasion.

Savannah Levi, 13, played "Amazing Grace" on her fiddle, with assistance from 12-year-old Emma Pittman, who held her sheet music down that windy day.

Camp Chaplain Russell Shreeve opened the Memorial Day ceremony with an invocation, and he closed it with a benediction, thanking God for the opportunity "to commemorate those who fought for their cause and for our freedom."

Local Confederate graves were also marked with Confederate flags in honor of the occasion.

In early April, the sole commissioners of both Union and Towns counties signed proclamations in recognition of Confederate Memorial Day.

SCV David W. Payne Camp 1633 and UDC Smith's Legion Chapter 2699 enjoy membership in Union, Towns and Fannin counties in Georgia, and Clay and Cherokee counties in North Carolina.

Local UDC members are in the process of starting up a local chapter of the Children of the Confederacy, and people looking for more information should contact Ann Atchison at TARA62860@aol.com.

# Voting...from Page 1A

Democrat.

For Secretary of State, David Belle Isle, Buzz Brockway, Josh McKoon and Brad Raffensperger, all Republican; and Josh Barrow, Dee Dawkins-Haigler and Rakeim "RJ" Hadley, all Democrat.

For Attorney General, Incumbent Chris Carr, Republican, and Charlie Bailey, Democrat.

For Commissioner of Agriculture, Incumbent Gary Black, Republican, and Fred Swann, Democrat.

For Commissioner of Insurance, Jim Beck, Jay Florence and Tracy Jordan, all Republican; and Janice Laws and Cindy Zeldin, both Democrat.

For State School Superintendent, Incumbent Richard Woods and John Barge, both Republican; and Sid Chapman, Sam Mosteller and Otha E. Thornton Jr., all Democrat.

For Commissioner of Labor, Incumbent Mark Butler, Republican; and Richard Keatley and Fred Quinn, both Democrat.

For Public Service Commissioner District 3, Incumbent Chuck Eaton; and Lindy Miller, John Noel and Johnny C. White, all Democrat.

For Public Service

Commissioner District 5, Incumbent Tricia Pridemore and John Hitchins III, both Republican; and Dawn A. Randolph and Doug Stoner, both Democrat.

For U.S. Representative in 116th Congress from the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, Incumbent Doug Collins, Republican; and Dave Cooper and Josh McCall, both Democrat.

For State Senator from the 50th District, Incumbent John Wilkinson, Republican.

For State Representative in the General Assembly from the 8th District, Incumbent Matt Gurtler and Mickey Cummings, both Republican.

For District Attorney of the Enotah Judicial Circuit, Incumbent Jeff Langley, Republican.

Appearing on the Nonpartisan General Election Ballot:

For County Board of Education Post 1, Incumbent Robert C. Williams and Steve Green.

For County Board of Education Post 2, Tamie Bradley and Brandi Rutan.

For County Board of Education Post 3, Incumbent Stan Chastain.

For Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia, John Ellington and incumbents Michael P. Boggs, Britt Cagle

Grant, Harold D. Melton and Nels Peterson are all running unopposed.

Incumbents Charlie Bethel, Stephen Dillard, Amanda H. Mercier, M. Yvette Miller, Clyde L. Reese III and Brian Rickman are all running unopposed for Judge, Court of Appeals Georgia.

Ken Hodges and Ken Shigley are running against one another for Judge, Court of Appeals Georgia, to succeed John Ellington.

Raymond E. George and N. Stanley Gunter are both running unopposed for Judge, Superior Court of the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

# Soccer...from Page 1A

Midway through the second half, Towns County put Christian Heritage away for good with four goals in an eight-minute span.

Sara Beth Hobbs and Cornett finished with two goals apiece while Brooke Barrett added one.

Up next for the Lady Indians was a visit to Marietta's Walker School on Tuesday, May 1, which occurred after press time.

See the Sports Section in this week's paper for further details on the April 26 game, and check back next week for more state tournament coverage.

# Meals...from Page 1A

done before the end of the school year, when people are getting into the summer months when the school lunch program is not available."

The meals will be distributed by the Towns County Food Pantry and the North Mt. Zion Church of God Food Pantry throughout the summer, using information provided by the schools about students who qualify for the program.

Clem was introduced to the Meals of Hope Program at a Rotary International Convention in Atlanta last year that he attended with Rotary Club member Shane McIntosh.

"Our objective in doing this is, rather than having a Rotary Club event, we wanted it to be a Rotary sponsored community event," said Clem. "Where we could get as many organizations and individuals in the county involved so that we could have a turnout like this."

The Meals of Hope mission involves "communities coming together to end hunger," and members of the organization believes it is their job to feed people.

There are more than 15,000 volunteers who assist Meals of Hope to achieve its mission, according to MealsofHope.org.

Meals of Hope Event Coordinator Teddy Tripp drove up all the way from Augusta to assist the Towns County

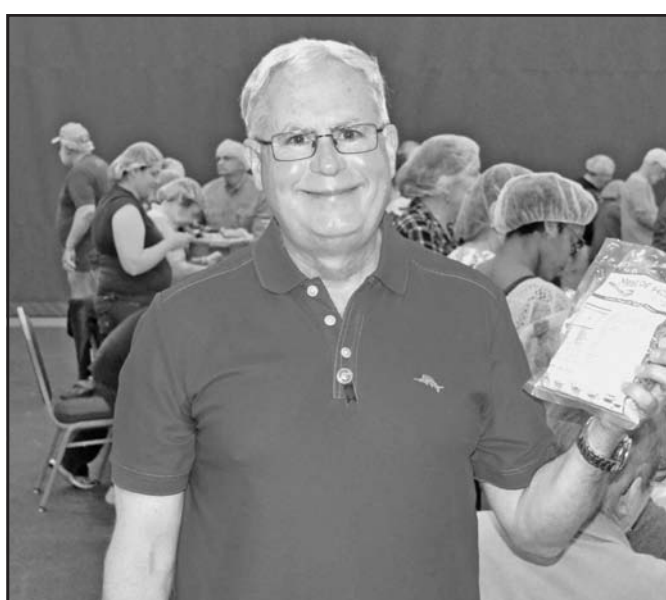


Photo by Mark Novak  
**Event organizer Kerry Clem holding one of the many Meals of Hope.**

volunteers in preparing the meals for the children and their families.

"What we hope to accomplish today is meeting the needs of hunger in the county," said Tripp.

McIntosh was in Naples, Florida when the Meals of Hope Program started with the help of the Rotary.

"A kid in our club went to the Bahamas on a vacation, and he saw another organization that was packaging meals and he thought this was wonderful," said McIntosh. "He came back, and they started a 501(c)3 corporation, and the Rotary Club of Naples sponsored it.

"They have done a little over 15 million meals throughout the country since they started."

Lake Chatuge Rotary Club spent a little over \$11,500 on the meals, \$6,500 of which it collected from many individuals and businesses that sponsored the event.

Organizations or individuals interested in holding an event to assist in feeding families and children are encouraged to contact Tripp by calling (706) 373-8405, or by emailing him at Teddy@MealsofHope.org.