

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

www.townscountyherald.net

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

Publication Number 635540 Volume 89 Number 27

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Floyd makes the cut for Governor's Honors Program

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

The Towns County Herald congratulates rising senior Kendall Floyd on his recent selection to represent this school and county in the prestigious Governor's Honors Program from June 17 to July 14.

Floyd was nominated in the subject of social studies by educators at Towns County High School, and after an initial application process and subsequent in-person interview, he was selected by a state committee to join the program.

When he travels to his monthlong educational experience, he will be the first student in recent memory to represent Towns County in the

Governor's Honors Program, or GHP.

"I'm looking forward to doing some independent studying in history," said Floyd. "At the high school level, and even at the college level, with the classes that I've taken, I only get so much time to focus in that subject, because you've got the other three - science, math and English.

"But I'm going to have the entire summer to do history and social studies-based stuff, so I'm really looking forward to that. I like American history, and I am also interested in Georgia history, particularly with Towns County."

Three of Floyd's fellow junior classmates also received GHP nominations earlier this semester, recognized by the teachers of Towns County High for their academic prowess

and boundless enthusiasm for learning: Chase Rogers for computer science and engineering; Vannah Chastain for literature; and Trevor Bradley for agricultural science.

"While it is always difficult to get from a pool of nearly 4,000 down to a few hundred, we have four outstanding nominees who can hold their own against anyone," said Ken Camp, who teaches science at the high school, coaches the Academic Team and advises kids for GHP.

Continued Camp: "All of them have some very unique individual talents, driven personalities, and they are just altogether great kids."

GHP is sponsored by the Georgia Governor's Office,

See Floyd, Page 2A



Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Towns County High School juniors Chase Rogers, Kendall Floyd and Vannah Chastain. Not pictured: Trevor Bradley. All four students were local nominees for the 2018 Governor's Honors Program.

Young Harris approves sign ordinance resolution in meeting

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

YOUNG HARRIS - Members of the Young Harris City Council conducted a variety of business in their regular city meeting on Tuesday, May 1, including the designation of a sign enforcement officer.

According to City Attorney Marvin Harkins, the city's sign ordinance states that it should have a sign enforcement officer.

However, until that meeting, the city had not appointed someone to fill that role, which is why Harkins had prepared a Sign Enforcement Officer Resolution for approval by the council.

The purpose of the resolution was to appoint the chairman of the city's Planning Commission as the officer



Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby in the May 1 regular city council meeting.

to unilaterally approve sign permits within city limits, and the council approving the resolution that evening.

Also in the meeting, City

Clerk Shirley Jarrard informed the council that the 2017 audit would be ready for presentation to the council at the June 5

See Young Harris, Page 2A

City council unanimously approves water leak insurance

By Mark Novak
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

It's official - ServLine will provide leak insurance to City of Hiwassee water customers.

Members of the Hiwassee City Council voted to approve the leak protection in their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 1, at Hiwassee City Hall.

For a cost of \$1.80 per month for residential customers and \$2.50 per month for commercial customers, people can now protect themselves from a high water bill in the event of a water leak between the meter and their home or business.

All City of Hiwassee water customers will be receiving notifications in the upcoming months in their water



Photo by Mark Novak

Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales in the May 1 regular meeting of the Hiwassee City Council.

customers will also receive information on how to opt out should customers choose not to have this protection.

Customers will also

to upgrade their coverage to include repairs to broken pipes and sewer lines.

See Hiwassee, Page 3A

National Day of Prayer observed at Foster Park

By Mark Novak
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Numerous clergy members from around the area came out to pray for unity concerning local communities, churches, governments and people across America on Thursday, May 3.

Area residents gathered at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center at Foster Park in Young Harris to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the official designation of the National Day of Prayer, always the first Thursday each May.

Pastor Bradley of Macedonia Baptist Church welcomed the group with an invocation that evening, which was followed by a presentation of the country and state's colors by the North Georgia Honor Guard.

"It's so good to be gathered here tonight," said Bradley. "In here so, we're celebrating not only our constitutional rights, but



Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Towns County students took part in the local National Day of Prayer event at the Towns County Conference and Recreation Center on Thursday, May 3.

we're celebrating the freedom that we have as Americans to gather.

"We're so thankful that each and every one of you

took time out of your schedule to be here. It's so good to see so many friends that we have here in our community from

all different churches. This isn't a one church deal - this is the Body of Christ capital 'C'

See Prayer, Page 3A

Early voting continues ahead of May primary

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

Early voting for the May 22 General Primary and Nonpartisan General Election is well underway.

Every weekday between now and May 18, during the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., registered Towns County voters can cast their ballots at the Towns County Board of Elections and Registration Office.

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

As of Friday, May 4, there were 131 people who had voted early, and more than 20 absentee ballots had been requested for mailout.

There is one weekend day set aside for voters at the board office, which will be this Saturday, May 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., for people 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 Macedonia Baptist Church.

Voters looking for

See Voting, Page 3A

School renovations to begin after May 18 graduation

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

As soon as classes let out for the summer, the Towns County School System will embark on a major renovation project.

The middle school, high school, and elementary school gym, which together make up the original 40-year-old buildings at the center of the Towns County Comprehensive School campus, are in dire need of renovation and improvement.

In order to better serve the needs of students, the older school buildings require new HVAC systems, total roof replacements and a complete upgrade of the existing wiring to accommodate, among other things, communications and



Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong

high-speed internet, said Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong.

To illustrate the point, Dr. Berrong gave an example of two middle school classrooms trying to conduct labs at the

same time - the electric load of 30 computers in each classroom would quickly trip a breaker.

The above example is something that has actually occurred at the middle school, and Dr. Berrong said that fixing the problem is not as simple as just installing a few new outlets.

That's why the Towns County Board of Education feels that a total upgrade is imperative, and fortunately, these buildings qualify for a modernization grant under Georgia guidelines because they are 40 years old, said Dr. Berrong.

Last year, the school board voted to apply for a modernization grant based on a \$3.3 million cost estimate from the architectural firm Robertson Loia Roof.

See Schools, Page 2A

Firewise holds successful Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

By Mark Novak
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

People who properly prepare their land and home against the threat of wildfire are better safeguarded from losing everything they have obtained throughout the years.

And that was the main take-away of the recent Wildfire Preparedness Day event on the Hiwassee Town Square.

Joining forces to spread this message on Saturday, May 5, were the Towns County Firewise Citizens Coalition, Towns County Fire/Rescue, Towns County Fire Corps, the Georgia Forestry Commission and national sponsor State Farm Insurance.

"This is the fourth year that we have had this event,

See Firewise, Page 2A



Photo by Mark Novak

GFC Ranger Justin Davenport displaying a firefighting bulldozer on the Hiwassee Town Square for Wildfire Preparedness Day on May 5.

4 Sections 24 Pages

Arrests 2B
Chamber 5B
Church 4C
Classifieds 4D
Opinion 4A
Legals 5D
Obits 5C
Sports 2C

Inside

Lake Levels

Blue Ridge 1,685.66
Chatuge 1,924.69
Nottely 1,775.38

Operation PUP
Methy's Day
Flowers on
The Square

Friday and Saturday
May 11 & 12

See page 2B

4-H Rabies
Clinic
May 12th
TCHS Parking Lot

See page 2B

S.A.F.E.
Kid's Fishing
Derby
Sat. May 19th

See page 3C

MILITARY
OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA
MEETING

See page 3D