

School...from Page 1A

Not even a month into the school year, the students will have the opportunity to witness a once in a lifetime event, the Great American Eclipse on Aug. 21.

While the Towns County Board of Education has held some debate on what would be the best option for the students, as of right now, all Towns County Schools will be in session for a half-day on the

Monday of the eclipse.

"Our plans continue to change because the issue is no one really knows what's going to occur," said Dr. Berrong. "We're originally going to do a half day but in our board meeting on Aug. 7 we're going to make a final decision on what we're going to do."

The school will notify all parents as soon as final decisions have been made.

With so many wonderful opportunities and experiences in store for the coming year, Towns County Schools are right on track for a year just as successful as the last, if not even more.

Students are once again going to be gearing up for a higher level of learning, gaining knowledge and life experiences, and the teachers are more than ready to guide them along the way as they head into another school year.

ADC...from Page 1A

the Blairsville Airport Regional Industrial Park to start its manufacturing operation in Union County.

"We've been using the Hiawassee facility for surplus storage, but at this point, we're starting to use it for manufacturing," said Payne.

ADC's Hiawassee manufacturing project has been in the works for quite some time, and is certainly a positive economic indicator for the county, state and beyond.

Gov. Nathan Deal's office announced last month that ADC will be adding up to 65 new jobs over the next three years with a \$15 million facility expansion in Blairsville.



Advanced Digital Cable is a cable manufacturing company founded in Hayesville, North Carolina, in 1997. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Both the Hiawassee and Blairsville manufacturing expansions are clear signs that the North Carolina-based cable company is confident in the pro-business environment of the North Georgia mountains.

Payne said that ADC will be hiring from the Tri-County area for its new Georgia jobs, meaning Towns and Union counties will benefit directly from the expanded facilities.

Not all jobs will be available right away, said Payne, so stayed tuned to the company website at www.adcable.com.

As previously reported, Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw has been in regular contact with ADC over its plans to bring manufacturing into the county, and he is excited to welcome an expanded operation.

Over in Union County,

the 100,000-square foot expansion project has already begun, and will likely be completed sometime in the next six or seven months.

Once ADC Blairsville gets its newly expanded facility fully up and running, the company will be able to make more of every product line that it produces, including cables for electronic and industrial use, controlling traffic signals and much more.

"The renewables and solar market have been one of our leading growth industries, and that's what is driving our need for this expansion," said Payne. "We're going to grow our stock program to have wire on hand for our distributors."

In his July 18 announce-

ment of the \$15 million expansion, Gov. Deal expressed appreciation for the economic goodwill that has been forged between Advanced Digital Cable and the state of Georgia.

"Georgia continues to attract and retain prominent manufacturing companies such as ADC with our business-friendly climate," said Deal. "ADC will continue to hire from Georgia's deep talent pool while using our robust transportation infrastructure network to efficiently serve a growing customer base. We look forward to strengthening our partnership with ADC as the company invests and expands in Union County."

BRMEMC...from Page 1A

to run at that time. This time, Henson was nominated by the EMC's Nominating Committee to again earn a seat on the Board.

The BRMEMC bylaws prohibit board members from serving if they have a business partnership with another board member.

The board apologized to Henson that his appointment was not vetted before he was appointed to the board in 2015, stating that it "was nothing personal, it was just the bylaws."

Henson said he harbored no ill will.

"The rules are the rules, and I'm not a rule-breaker," he said at the time.

Today, Henson is back, ready to seek another seat on the board.

"I opened my own business, Henson & Associates Inc., in 1989, and through years of hard work have built it into a successful enterprise," he said. "My business philosophy has

always been that you are only as good as your people.

"Employee morale is a main concern and one that I will focus on at BRMEMC. If elected, I will keep the membership and its wellbeing at heart, and strive to advance the goals of BRMEMC and enrich this community through service."

Jenkins rode the wave of petition ballot winners in 2014. He has almost completed his first term as a board member.

Waldroup wasn't the only person seeking to represent Towns County.

Bert Rogers also sought that seat, but, as the North Georgia News and Towns County Herald newspapers have learned, he was rejected by the BRMEMC Board of Directors for not being a member in good standing because he had been late on utility payments in the past.

However, there is no such mention of that rule in the bylaws, the newspapers have

learned.

In fact, there was no true definition for "member in good standing" when the decision was made to reject Rogers' nomination.

Meanwhile, Ledford, a life-long resident of Clay County, North Carolina, is currently the Used Car Manager at Ware Chevrolet in Blairsville. He has over 30 years of experience in new and preowned vehicle sales and is skilled in negotiating transactions with customers to close on deals and increase sales.

Ledford has proven leadership skills that help team members achieve individual sales, enhance customer service, and drive business goals. He has dedicated his career to delivering high-quality service and building relationships with his customers.

Logan, also elected by way of petition ballot in 2014, presently serves as treasurer of the BRMEMC board, chairman of the Finance Committee, and he serves on the North Georgia Network Board of Directors.

Ordiales...from Page 1A

before qualification."

Qualifying for the upcoming elections ends on Aug. 21, 22 and 23, so Ordiales will need to step down from her current position as soon as possible, leaving the council with another empty seat and the task of selecting a new Mayor Pro Tem.

After stepping down from her position, Ordiales will no longer be functioning in any official government capacity for the city, though she is going to be on hand to answer questions that may arise, but she will not be financially compensated for any guidance she offers during that time.

"The four remaining council members will need to select a new Mayor Pro Tem," said Mitchell. "That person will have to take on the duties and obligations of the mayor. Depending on what happens during qualifications, depending on what happens during that period, it may not be that long. But I will not know that until after qualifications."

"There will be some hard deadlines that will fall during that time period, but EMI is handling most of those types of things. So I don't think that anything is going to fall through the cracks, even if it's someone stepping in that isn't as familiar with the day-to-day as Ordiales has been."

Whoever the council selects as the new Mayor Pro



Hiawassee Council Members Anne Mitchell, Kris Berrong and Rayette Ross. Photo/Lily Avery

Tem will serve until either a new mayor is elected or, if Ordiales is the only candidate who qualifies come Aug. 23, until after qualifications and the write in period that follows.

If Ordiales is the only candidate that will be on the ballot, she could potentially move forward into assuming the position as official mayor for Hiawassee, though this would be entirely situational.

Due to the looming qualifying deadlines, the council decided to select a new Mayor Pro Tem during the Tuesday, Aug. 1 council meeting, during which time Ordiales will officially step down as Hiawassee

councilwoman and Mayor Pro Tem.

While the council has more difficult decisions to make, all present members last Monday were very clear that their intention is to continue moving forward with progress to make the city a better place to live, work and play.

"Well, I think that we surely don't want to allow ourselves to regress," said Councilwoman Rayette Ross. "We want to at least maintain what has been accomplished and what has been in the works and hopefully continue to progress in these coming months."

One child was bruised about the arm and neck, and the Center's video showed the child had been grabbed by the arm and the face, the indictment shows.

The investigation determined that there were four victims, who suffered physical and mental anguish allegedly caused by Goodwin, according to indictments.

In an unrelated case, a man with power of attorney, allegedly bilked more than \$1 million from a Towns County resident.

Charles Parris Shelton, 85, of Hiawassee, allegedly over a period of time, transferred almost \$1.4 million into his personal financial account, the 28-count indictment shows.

According to the indictment, Shelton's alleged crimes were investigated by the Towns County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Secret Service, and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Forensic Audit Unit.

Most of the money was recovered, according to authorities.

Investigation...from Page 1A

Blairsville, who was relieved of her duties at Towns County Child Development Center, faces six counts first-degree cruelty to children, four counts simple battery, and three counts battery, Towns County Superior Court records show.

According to the indictments, Goodwin was rough with the victims, with ages ranging between 2 and 3 years old.

The investigation of Goodwin began after one of the victims came home with bruises. A review of the videotape at the Center showed that there would be more than one

victim.

According to indictments, Goodwin allegedly caused harm to a 2-year-old by grabbing the child by the arms and forcefully slamming her face into a cot. Also, she is alleged to have forcibly placed the child in a chair, and then shoving the child and chair under a table, causing the child's torso to strike the table.

In another alleged incident, Goodwin allegedly picked up a young boy by the wrist and carried him approximately six feet, the indictment shows.

Indictments...from Page 1A

suspended driver's license, use of license plate to conceal identity, no proof insurance, defective windshield, improper brake lights.

Kevin Shane Sutton, possession of methamphetamine, possession drug-related objects.

Paula Gail Wright, aka Paula Wright Ivester, Paula Wright Mercer, Paula Wright Snow, Paula Wright, first-degree burglary, two counts theft by deception, fourth-degree forgery, deposit account fraud.

Jennifer Marjorie Golenski, aka Jennifer M. Golenski, two counts Violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act, two counts first-degree cruelty to children, two counts reckless conduct.

Justin Lee Braselton, theft by taking, theft by deception.

Dustin Blake Parker, theft by taking.

James Michael Dickert, five counts aggravated assault, second-degree criminal damage to property, battery.

Christopher Michael Wiggins, two counts aggravated assault, possession methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession methamphetamine.

Melissa Sue Arrendale, aka Melissa Sue Christiansen, two counts making a false statement, first-degree forgery, unauthorized practice of law.

Autumn Dawn Martin, hindering apprehension or punishment of a criminal, making a false statement, obstruction of an officer.

Ricky Lynn Wade, hindering apprehension or punishment of a criminal, making a false statement, obstruction of an officer.

Stephen Douglas Anderson, criminal solicitation.

Joshua Stanley Brown, possession of methamphetamine, possession of less than an ounce of marijuana, possession drug-related objects.

Jodie Nicole Johnson, possession of methamphetamine, possession of less than an ounce of marijuana, possession drug-related objects.

Jacob Hogan Guffey, two counts aggravated assault Family Violence, terroristic threats, two counts battery Family Violence, criminal trespass.

Holly Leigh Kuykendall, driving under the influence (less safe; alcohol); failure to maintain lane, two counts obstruction of an officer.

Tevon Marcelko Wiley, terroristic threats, battery Family Violence, battery, two counts third-degree cruelty to children.

Ferrell Joseph Adams, two counts aggravated child

molestation, two counts aggravated sexual battery, four counts child molestation.

Clinton James Silvers, possession of methamphetamine, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, suspended driver's license, possession of drug-related objects.

Alicia Ann Garrett, possession of drug-related objects.

Robert Stephen Crisp, aggravated assault.

Chad Lewis Garrett, first-degree burglary, theft by receiving stolen property, criminal attempt to commit a misdemeanor.

Kristen Goodwin, six counts first-degree cruelty to children, four counts simple battery, three counts battery.

Becky Sue Luce, first-degree burglary, three counts aggravated assault, battery.

Paul Richard Lucas, violation of RICO Act, three counts possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, recidivist.

Jessica Rae Chastain, violation of RICO Act, three counts possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute.

Charles Parris Shelton, 14 counts theft by taking, 14 counts theft by conversion.

Gregory Scott Stroud, aka Pete Stroud, three counts identity fraud, two counts financial transaction card fraud, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

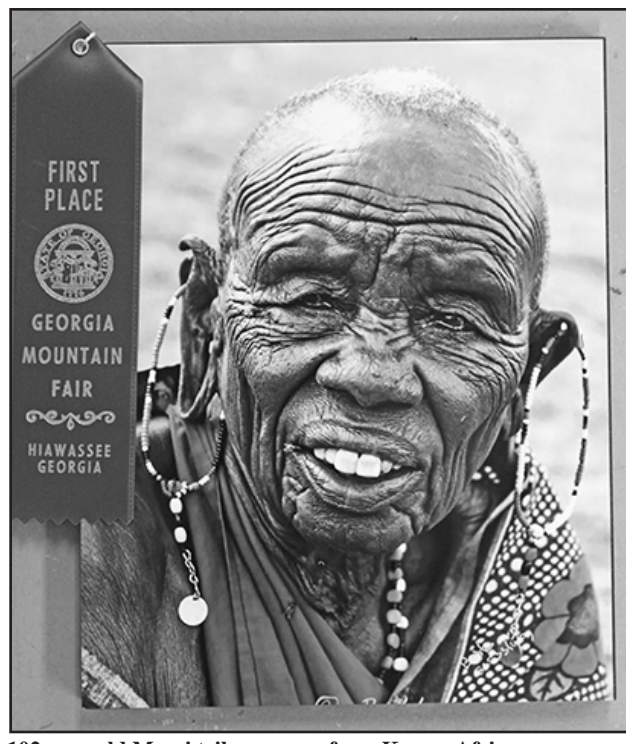
Georgia Mountain Fair Photography Contest results

The total prize money of \$1,075 was awarded this year at the annual Photography Contest at the Georgia Mountain Fair in Hiawassee, GA.

31 winners included:

\$200 - 1st Prize: "102 Year-Old Kenyan Masai Woman" by Bette Goessling, Belleair Bluff, FL; \$100 - 2nd Prize: "Sleeping Glass Frog" by Alan Olansky, Hayesville, NC; \$75 - 3rd Prize: "Rebecca, GA Perspective - Grain Silos along Railroad Tracks" by Robert Wagner, Hiawassee, GA; \$35 - 4th Prize (ten winners): Blairsville, GA - Henry von Staden; Cleveland, GA - Al Bell; Ellijay, GA - Mark Hyde; Stockbridge, GA - Brian Roberts; Hiawassee, GA - Kathy Ketterer, Judy Bundy, & Eileen Oberzut; Hayesville, NC - Ingo Dere; Murphy, NC - Joseph Alesniki & Theron Clore; \$25 - 5th Prize (18 winners): Blairsville, GA - Deborah Larsen & Charlie Krick; Cartersville, GA - Courtney Du Bois; Clayton, GA - Lisa Simmons; Covington, GA - Nancy Greene; Helen, GA - Jennifer Creteau; Hiawassee, GA - Emily Blair, Joni Thompson & Mickey Wilson; Young Harris, GA - Jim Bryant, Wendy Luca, Patrick Mahon, Jessica Tulba and Diane Williams; Hayesville, NC - Ingo Dere; Murphy, NC - Lee Brockman, Aaron Crawford and Kelly Kennon.

Photo Show Director Clara Franklin wishes to thank all the photographers for their participation and hard work, which made the show a great success! She encourages all the exhibitors this year and everyone who loves taking pictures to enter their best ones in next year's contest. She and the Georgia Mountain Fair always welcome new participants. There were 25 courageous first-time contestants this year, all with excellent pictures to display. The judges had tough decisions! Watch for notices and contact the Fairground's office in the beginning of May 2018 for how to enter the contest. Guidelines and Registration Form will be on the Fairground's website and paper copies in the office.



102 year-old Masai tribeswoman from Kenya, Africa.



Sleeping Glass Frog, Atlanta Botanical Gardens.



Grain Silos Along Railroad Tracks in Rebecca, GA