

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Clouds	82 55
Fri: Sunny	80 57
Sat: Clouds	79 60
Sun: Clouds	81 62
Mon: Sunny	83 66
Tue: Rain	84 66
Wed: Rain	85 65



Upstream Elevation Predicted 05/20/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,925.42
Lake Nottely	1,774.93
Blue Ridge	1,686.35

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SPORTS

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The Towns County Tax Assessors Office will be CLOSED May 19-21 for training and will re-open on Friday, May 22nd at 8:30 a.m.

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day Celebration May 25th at 11 AM Veteran's Park in front of Towns County High School

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Food Distribution Food Pantry May 26th 2-5 PM See Page 2A

N. Mt. Zion May 21st 10-Noon See Page 8A

OPEN HOUSE Chatuge Regional and Senior Behavioral Healthcare

See Page 5A

Shannon Moss named TCES assistant principal

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School math teacher Shannon Moss has been named assistant principal of the elementary school.

The decision was made Monday, May 11, in the monthly Towns County Board of Education meeting, and Moss will be replacing Dr. Connie Hobbs, who has spent the past year in the assistant principal role at the elementary school.

Dr. Hobbs was recently named as successor to Jonathan Gibson at the high school principal post starting the 2015-2016 school year.

Moss, a Hiawassee native and 1991 graduate of TCHS, showed interest in the position when it became open following Dr. Hobbs' selec-



Shannon Moss

tion as high school principal. He interviewed with TCES Principal Dr. Sandy Page, who agreed with Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong that Moss was the right choice.

"I consider myself to be a lifelong learner," said Moss. "I am an educator at heart. I still have a passion to help people. I am looking forward to going

to the elementary school and working with children of all ages, and I love children of all ages. I'm looking forward to helping those very good teachers over there with anything I can. I'm looking forward to going over there and being an asset to that school system and to those teachers, and to the students most of all."

Now in his 20th year as an educator, Moss obtained a bachelor's degree from Western Carolina University and took his first teaching job in Union County, where he taught math for six and a half years.

"I got the chance to come back here to my home, which I love, which is Towns County, and so I've been here, this is my 13th year at Towns County," said Moss. "Total, I've been

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Lady Indians win State



Left to right, Danielle Diehl, Kenzie Jenkins and Mia Manto are state champions. The trio claimed a state title by three strokes in Royston.

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Remember these names – Kenzie Jenkins, Mia Manto and Danielle Diehl.

These are the names of champions.

The Lady Indians golf team came in first place, winning by three strokes to clench the victory at the Class A Public School State Tournament at Victoria Bryant State Park in Royston, at the Highland Walk Golf Course, on Monday, May 18.

"Towns County has never won two state championships in the same season," said Towns County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Darren Berrong. "This year, we have

our Girls Cross Country state championship and the Girls Golf state championship. That's the first time in school history we've had two in one year in any sport."

The record stands at three Towns County sports in which teams have won state championships: the 1988 baseball team, the past three years in girls cross country, and now the 2014-2015 Lady Indians Golf team.

"We're absolutely tickled for those girls, and proud of what they've accomplished this year," said Dr. Berrong.

Indians Golf also competed in the Class A Public School State Tournament down in Commerce, but results were not available as of press time Monday.

Chatuge Health Fair a hit with locals

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Chatuge Regional Hospital held its annual Health Fair on Saturday, May 16.

The occasion gave the hospital a chance to show off its new renovations, as well as offer the community deeply discounted blood work and free health screenings.

"We do it every year to give people the opportunity to take advantage of reduced cost of lab and other services, and to give them an idea of the services available in the community," said Chatuge Regional Hospital and Nursing Home Administrator Lewis Kelley.

"The renovation has been great," said Kelley, who will



The 2015 Health Fair was a hit at Chatuge Regional Hospital.

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Lake levels in good shape

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Good news, summer fans, the Tennessee Valley Authority says that area lakes are on track to reach full pool by June 1.

On Wednesday, May 13, TVA conducted its Summer Lake Levels Recreation Webcast for news and media outlets.

"As of today, all of our 10 tributary reservoirs are looking really good," said David Bowling of TVA's River Management Group. "We're on target to reach June 1 target levels for the summer. Rainfall and runoff, as you can tell from your packet, is very close to normal for the first part of the spring.



"We did have good rain in March and April, which positioned us well coming into May to hit those June levels. Right now, of the 10 large tributary reservoirs, the only two that are not at or slightly above their guide levels are Cherokee and Nottely, and with anything like normal rainfall, we fully expect Cherokee and Nottely to be on target at June 1."

The June 1 target for Lake Nottely is 1,777 feet, and

See Lake, Page 10A

Melton named joint assistant principal at TCMS/TCHS

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Jim Melton is moving up in the Towns County's world.

In its Monday, May 11, regular meeting, the Towns County Board of Education approved the creation of a joint middle and high school assistant principal position, and named Assistant Athletic Director and Lady Indians Basketball Head Coach Melton to the position.

Also, Coach Melton is expected to take the reins as athletic director once Towns County High School Principal and current Athletic Director Jonathan Gibson departs for Rabun at the end of the school year.

The school system plans



Jim Melton

to create some type of assistant athletic director position for Coach Melton during basketball season, when his coaching duties will keep him busy.

"They did away with both of those positions back when the budget was an issue," said Dr. Berrong of the middle and high school assistant prin-

incipal jobs. "I'm starting to see that we're having an issue building stability within our school system because we don't have those assistant principal positions."

The position will contribute to stability within the schools by helping to encourage inter-system promotions.

"We're really training them to be the principal of the school, and what happens when you do not have that position and a principal leaves?" said Dr. Berrong. "We're trying to build a good school system for this community. It'd be really great if we could build it from within the system."

Also in the meeting, the board named the 2014-2015 Teachers of the Year.

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Green Eggfest a hit again

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Fifth Annual Big Green Eggfest was so crowded that tasters could hardly move between the booths to sample each grilled or roasted delicacy on Saturday, May 16, at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

An Eggfest is nothing more than a gathering of cooks who use the Big Green Egg grill. It's a time and place for those with the skills to showcase their talents, and for non-cooks, or tasters, to enjoy each new dish.

What is unusual about the fest at the fairgrounds is that it is widely regarded as the largest



The Fifth Annual Green Eggfest was as popular as ever. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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Henson ready for a challenge

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

One way or another, Danny Henson was going to be on the ballot for the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC board of directors for Union County.

Henson, who was appointed by the EMC Board of Directors to fill the seat of Bob Ensley, who resigned for health reasons, and later died, already had a petition to be on the ballot with more than 300-plus signatures.

"I'm looking forward to this election," Henson said. "It's always nice to give back to the people that have been good to you. This community has been good to me."

Henson was raised in the Belleview Community. He said he never had much growing up – "we were poor, but didn't know it."

"Dad was a carpenter, he worked in Atlanta and he



Danny Henson

had the only vehicle that we had," Henson said. "I remember getting groceries off the store truck. Things have really changed through the years."

Henson was one of three people interviewed to fill the Union County vacancy on the EMC board.

"What people don't know, I was the first one to turn in a petition to be on the

See Henson, Page 10A

Justus named TCHS TOTY

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Walter Justus has been named 2014-2015 Towns County High School Teacher of the Year.

Every year, teachers nominate from among their peers candidates for the honor of Teacher of the Year.

And every year, those candidates are voted on by these same teachers, a process of selection by a panel of peers.

The honor is not one to be taken lightly, as teacher of the year is someone who has demonstrated enough teaching prowess to impress his or her fellow educators.

"Typically, if it's close between two teachers, I'll have a runoff between the final two, which last year, that was the case," said Principal Jonathan Gibson. "This year, Walt won it with a landslide, which I think speaks volumes to Walt and his ability as a teacher and the impact that he has, not on



Walter Justus

his classroom, but the other teachers' classrooms that he works with."

Justus teaches various levels of coordinate algebra in the schools, and since he started teaching at TCHS two years ago, he has helped the students to achieve some of the highest scores in the Pioneer RESA.

"The year before Mr. Justus came, I think our coordinate algebra scores were second to

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Kelley to retire in June

Towns County Herald
News Special

Lewis Kelley, CEO of Chatuge Regional Hospital will retire effective June 2, a release from the hospital said.

Kelley will retire from full-time work.

Kelley began working at Chatuge when it was Towns County Hospital and Nursing Home in March 1991.

Kelley attended Young Harris College received a double major in Sociology and Psychology and a Masters in Social Administration from Georgia College and State University. He spent 4 years in the United States Navy.

He began working at Central State Hospital in Milledgeville while completing his education. He worked one year at Union County Middle School as Counselor and Assistant Prin-



Lewis Kelley

cial. Later with the assistance of Representatives Carlton Colwell

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

