

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

www.townscountyherald.net

Publication Number 635540 Volume 82 Number 37

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Clouds	87 67
Fri: Clouds	86 66
Sat: Clouds	85 66
Sun: Clouds	84 66
Mon: Clouds	84 64
Tue: Clouds	85 63
Wed: Clouds	83 62



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/20/11	
Lake Chatuge	1924.64
Lake Nottely	1778.31
Blue Ridge	1678.55

## INDEX

2 Sections, 20 Pages

Arrests.....	2A
Church/Obits.....	8,9A
Classifieds.....	2B
Editorial.....	4A
Calendar.....	4A
Legals.....	3B
Sports.....	13A
Television.....	6A

## Girls 12-U Softball Page 13A

## Youth Football Registration

The 2011 Towns County Recreation Department Youth Football Registration will be held at Frank McClure Stadium's field house from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., on Saturday, July 23rd, Youth Football Coordinator Jimmy Smith said.

Youth registration is \$60 and will continue on Saturday at Frank McClure Stadium.

The fee will cover each player's equipment and insurance to play. Returning players from last season will not need to bring birth certificates.

Newcomers will need to provide a birth certificate at registration.

The first practice will start July 25th and continue every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.



## DFCS has moved

Towns County's Department of Family and Children's Services office has relocated to 1620 US Hwy. 76 West, Suite 4 at Chatuge Place. They are located in the office suite formerly occupied by Georgia Vision Center near Mamasu's Brick Oven Pizza and Mossy Bottoms Café.



## TCES Open House

Aloha Open House week is scheduled at Towns County Elementary School on Wednesday, Aug. 3 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Henry the Hound will be on hand wearing his grass skirt. A hot dog social will also be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Fifth Grade Open House will be held in the Fifth Grade Hall.

# Williams: new job 'a dream come true'

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

Melissa Williams is humble, gracious and a dedicated educator. She's also a classy lady.

She is excited to be a member of the Towns County community; in fact, coming to live here is a dream come true.

She and her husband Steve have been frequent visitors to the community over the years. Their son Tyler was a member of the inaugural Young Harris College golf team.

They love the mountains, they love the climate, and most of all, they love the people here.

"My family has been coming to this area on vacation for 15 or 20 years," she said. "The community itself, just the sheer beauty of it, has been a serious

draw for us to Towns County. I never dreamed that the Towns County job would become available. When it did, my husband said 'go for it.'"

Melissa Williams applied to become the next Towns County Schools Superintendent. She told herself that she would never get the job. She prayed about it long and hard. Then late one night, she got a telephone call.

"It was about 11 p.m., the phone rang and I didn't hear it," she said. "My husband answered the phone and woke me, telling me I had a telephone call. The Towns County Board of Education had been in an extended work session. They told me they had made their decision and I was their choice.

"It was exciting, it was like I was being proposed to

See Williams, page 14A



New Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams is excited to be Towns County's new Schools Chief. She said the system is blessed with dedicated parents and bright students. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## TCMS leads state in four CRCT scores

Adequate Yearly Progress achieved for eighth consecutive year at TCMS

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

Towns County Middle School is among the state leaders following the release of Georgia Criterion Referenced Test scores, or CRCT.

TCMS was tops in the state in four categories in regards to pass rates. The school had three categories with 100 percent pass rates among its students: seventh grade English Language Arts, eighth grade Reading, and eighth grade English Language Arts. In addition, eighth grade Social Studies had the highest pass rate in the state at 97.9 percent.

"We're very pleased with the CRCT results," TCMS Principal Darren Berrong said. "We achieved Adequate Yearly Progress for the eighth consecutive year."

Towns County middle school students have come a long way since 2004, when



Towns County's Middle School Principal Darren Berrong says the school must find new ways to challenge itself after TCMS once again dominated in 13-county Region in CRCT scores.

the first tests were given. Over the first two years, out of 30 test categories, 11 of those tests combined were below the state average.

"That was the time I came over to the middle school as assistant principal," Berrong said. "Over the past four years, we've only had four subjects below the state average. Student achievement has dramatically increased in recent years."

See TCMS, page 14A

## TCES among Region leaders in CRCT scores

AYP achieved for eighth straight year at TCES

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

Towns County Elementary School students know how to read and they do it well.

In the recent Georgia Criterion Referenced Test scores, Towns County third graders were the best readers in the 13-county region. They led the region in passing and exceeding test performance.

TCES Principal Dr. Sandra Page said the school system is blessed with bright students.

"We have excellent families and our children are prepared for school," she said. "Our students are eager to learn. Our greatest challenge is improving each year. It's hard to improve when your students are already great.

"They are very high-functioning children," she said.

TCES third graders scored in the 99th percentile



TCES Principal Dr. Sandra Page says school system is blessed with talented children.

in meeting or exceeding the Reading test; 92 percent met or exceeding English Language Arts testing; 89 percent met or exceeded the Math test; 88 percent met or exceeded the standard in Science; and 81 percent met or exceeded the standard in Social Studies.

Towns County fourth graders scored in the 87th percentile in meeting or exceeding the standards of the Reading test; 85 percent met

See TCES, page 14A

## Community honors its icons

Anderson-Paris Park is open to the public; community turns out to support Elois and Mr. Paris



Elois Anderson and Dick Paris cut the ribbon at the dedication of Anderson-Paris Park at the Fairgrounds. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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

Dick Paris moved as fast as he could go toward the outdoor amphitheater for the ribbon cutting ceremony for Anderson-Paris Park at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Thursday.

He was excited and with good reason: he's looked forward to the opening of the Pioneer Park, a community tribute to he and Elois Anderson. Ever since he heard the news about it last November, he's been anxious for July 14, 2011 to arrive.

And what a grand park

it is, nestled on about three acres, features walking trails, a picnic area, an outdoor amphitheater, a gorgeous fountain and panoramic native plant life, and huge boulders to signify the mountains that attract so many to Northeast Georgia.

The recently constructed park was built within the Pioneer Village, located behind the general store. It's located between the lower level and the Antique Farm Exhibit.

Ultimately, this day, par to of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours, was a tribute to Dick Paris and Elois Anderson. It was the

community's way of honoring their lives, Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said.

"This is the perfect way to honor them," Thomason said. "Dick is one of the ones that helped get the Fair started.

"Elois has been a blessing for the Fairgrounds over the years," Thomason said. "Her husband, Bob Anderson was the president of the Fairgrounds at the time of his death in 1983. Elois and Bob have always cared so much about the Fair.

"We're proud to honor Elois and Mr. Paris with a lasting legacy to let future generations know what they really mean to us all," Thomason said.

The committee that organized the Anderson-Paris Day at Anderson Music Hall last November found a way to pay a lasting tribute to two community icons with the development of the Pioneer Park.

The park's design was the brainchild of The Plant Stand's Catherine Hansen. The park is best described as a quiet place with an inviting natural park setting within the Fairgrounds for guests to sit and enjoy live music at the amphitheater, or just relax and have a snack and a cold drink in the

See Park page 14A

## Georgia Mountain Fair starts on Wednesday

61st annual Fair features music, cooking contest and Parade

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

One of Towns County's most well-known faces will serve as the Grand Marshal in Saturday's Georgia Mountain Fair Parade.

Bradley Rogers, fighting the good fight to beat the odds of cancer, will do the honors at the Parade, said Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason.

"Jackie Jones Ford is providing a car for him to ride in on Saturday," Thomason said. "He'll be leading the Parade and I think it's great with all the problems he's had physically. It's a great honor having him lead this year's parade."

Almost two years ago, Rogers was finishing up cross country competition, training for the upcoming wrestling season and couldn't wait until soccer season. Today, the 15-year-old, who has been an athlete since age 4, is in the midst of the greatest competition in his young life. He's battling cancer and doing his best to win.



Bradley Rogers



Rides at The Midway

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

See Fair page 14A

