

Towns County Herald

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Walsh crowned 2018 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Five talented young women competed for the title of 2018 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair inside Anderson Music Hall on Monday, July 23, and the title went to Katie Walsh of Cherokee County, North Carolina.

"I am very surprised and very excited," said Walsh after claiming her title. "I think this next year is going to be really fun. I'll be working closely with the Fair to promote the (Georgia Mountain) Fairgrounds, to really just get more people involved."

Walsh is a graduate of Robbinsville High School, and she attends the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she is pursuing a degree in finance.

She said this experience will help her with her people skills, which will lead to better, stronger relationships.

"Thank you," said Walsh, speaking to Towns, and the Georgia Mountain Fair. "There's a great group of girls this year, and I'm really excited for what this next year is going to hold for us."

Walsh will represent the Georgia Mountain Fair in community events and compete among the state's fair queens in the 2019 Miss Georgia Fairs Pageant.

Joining Walsh as contestants that evening were: Kirsten Ledford of Towns County; Madison Crisler and Brianna Ross of Clay County, North Carolina; and Cyndee Thoreson of Lumpkin County. A crowd of over 200

people attended the pageant.

Crisler and Ledford tied for Miss Congeniality 2018. The co-winners decided to split the \$50 award for this honor rather than have a runoff.

However, Pageant Meece Jennifer Holloway added \$50 dollars out of her own pocket to the pot so that each Miss Congeniality contestant received the full \$50 award.

Thoreson, Ledford and Ross competed for the Talent Award, though their routines didn't affect the final decisions of the judges, acting instead as extra credit.

For her part, Thoreson performed a sign language routine to the song "My Redeemer Lives," by Nicole Mullen.

Ledford performed a first for the Miss GMF Pageant: a speed painting demonstration.

Ross won the Talent Award with her performance of a self-choreographed lyrical piece named "To Rise Up," by Andrea Day.

Ledford won First Runner-Up in the pageant. She is a graduate of Towns County High School who hails from Young Harris, and she plans on going to veterinary school and business school so she can open a veterinary clinic.

"It's an honor, because I want to represent this town in the best way possible, and I feel like this is a good way to show off my kindness and be a better person for this town," said Ledford.

Thoreson won Second Runner-Up in the pageant, and she, too, is a graduate of Towns County High School.

See Fair Queen, Page 8A



2018 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Katie Walsh being crowned by 2017 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair First Runner-Up Emma Kate Ledford. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

BRMEMC announces board of director candidates

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

The Blue Ridge Mountain EMC has finalized the list of candidates who will appear on the ballot in the upcoming election of three new members to the BRMEMC Board of Directors.

Seven member candidates have been nominated and qualified to run for three director seats up for election this year, one each in Union, Towns and Fannin counties.

John Batts, Larry Flegle, Richard Hyer and Jack Lance Jr. will be vying for the Union County board seat.

Incumbent Roy Perren and Jason Waldroup have qualified as candidates to run for the Towns County seat that's up for grabs.

Gayland Trull is the sole candidate running for the Fannin County seat on the board of directors.

Every year, three of the nine board seats become available for election by the membership. Each director's term lasts three years, and the board is composed as follows:

Three seats are held by representatives of Union County. Those seats are currently occupied by Board President Mickey Cummings, Danny Mickey Cummings and Gene Mason.

Cummings' seat is up for election this year, and he has decided not to run again.

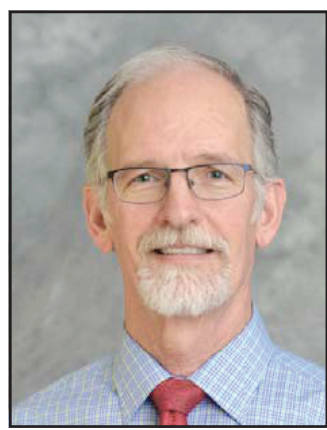
Towns County enjoys two seats of representation on the board, and those are currently held by Board Secretary Perren and Bert Rogers.

Fannin County has one board seat, which will be vacated by Larry Williams at the end of the Sept. 8 annual meeting to be filled by Trull.

The remaining board seats not up for election this year are held by Cory Payne and Jeff Ledford of Clay County, North Carolina; and Ray Cook of Cherokee County, North Carolina.

Members of the Nominating Committee met on June 26 to make their final nominations of candidates, and petition nominations were due by July 16.

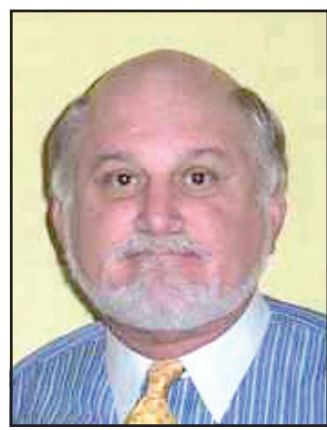
Last week, the Credentials and Elections Committee met



John Batts



Larry Flegle



Richard Hyer



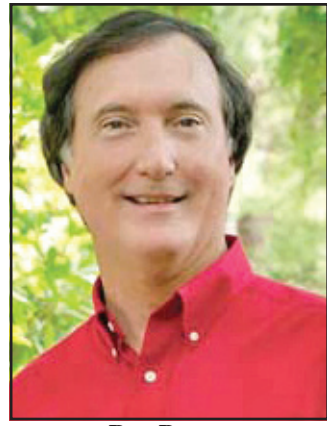
Jack Lance, Jr.

on July 24 to finalize the slate of all July 24 to finalize the slate of the EMC has since announced those candidates.

Election packets complete election notices, ballots and voting instructions will be mailed to members the week of Aug. 6, and mail-in ballots must be received back by Sept. 6.

Online voting will open the week of Aug. 6 and will close on Sept. 6 ahead of the annual meeting.

See BRMEMC, Page 6A



Roy Perren



Jason Waldroup



Gayland Trull

Hiwassee's Main Street to get left turn arrow at Bell Creek Road

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Finally, the left turn lane on Main Street at Bell Creek Road in Hiwassee is getting a left turn arrow, thanks to Mayor Liz Ordiales and Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw.

And according to the Georgia Department of Transportation, the new turn arrow should be operational in a few months' time.

Ordiales has been requesting the turn arrow ever since she first got elected as a Hiwassee City Councilwoman nearly three years ago, and Bradshaw has been lobbying GDOT for the same essentially since the start of his term as commissioner in 2017.

The two have even met jointly with GDOT about the



The busy intersection of Main Street and Bell Creek Road is getting a left turn arrow in a few months.

possibility of a turn arrow at Georgia 2/Main Street and Georgia 75/Bell Creek Road.

"If you're coming from Blairsville and you're wanting

to make a left there, there are times when you sit there for two or three rotations of the traffic light," said Ordiales.

See Turn Arrow, Page 6A

Governor Deal appoints Parks to Enotah Judicial Circuit

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Chief Judge Joy R. Parks of the White County Magistrate Court is joining the Enotah Judicial Circuit as a Superior Court judge.

She will serve alongside Chief Judge N. Stanley Gunter and Judge Raymond Geuge on the Superior Court of the Enotah Judicial Circuit, which covers Union, Towns, White and Lumpkin counties.

Gov. Nathan Deal announced her appointment on July 18.

"The Honorable Joy R. Parks will fill the vacancy in the Enotah Judicial Circuit created by the resignation of the Honorable Murphy C. Miller," according to Gov. Deal. "Parks is the Chief Magistrate Judge of the White County Magistrate Court and owns her own firm.

"She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and a law degree from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. Parks and her husband, Robert, have one child and reside in Cleveland."

Miller is the former Superior Court chief judge who stepped down from the bench effective July 1, at which point Gunter assumed the title of Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior Court Chief Judge.

"Judge Parks will be well-served by her 25 years of experience in the legal profession, including her service as Magistrate Court judge and in the private practice of law," said Kenneth B. Hodges III, president of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia.



Judge Joy Parks

"With her acceptance of this appointment, Judge Parks demonstrates her ongoing commitment to serving the public and the justice system. We wish her well in this new capacity of judicial leadership."

Thirteen travel to FBLA Nationals; Rogers places fourth

News Special
Towns County Herald

BALTIMORE – Over 12,000 of America's best and brightest youth gathered in Baltimore, Maryland, last month to showcase their talents as future business leaders in competing for a chance to make it to the national award stage and the opportunity to win over \$150,000 in cash awards.

Future Business Leaders of America, or FBLA, is the largest and oldest business student organization, and students attended the FBLA National Leadership Conference between



Chase Rogers finished Fourth Place in the nation for Word Processing in the 2018 FBLA National Leadership Conference.

See FBLA, Page 6A

July Term 2018 Towns County Grand Jury Indictments

The following individuals were indicted during the July Term 2018 of the Towns County Grand Jury.

Denna Robin Beasley, aka Dena R. Beasley, Dena Robin Beasley, possession of methamphetamine; possession of marijuana, less than an ounce; possession of drug-related objects.

Steven Clint Berry, influencing a witness.

Adam Rhett McCombs, two counts serious injury by vehicle; two counts driving under the influence; reckless driving; driving on the wrong side of roadway; failure to maintain lane; failure to wear

seat safety belt; improper tires.

Bobby Gene Stuman, aggravated assault; public drunkenness; disorderly conduct; criminal trespass; terroristic threats.

Daniel Lee Rittenberry, two counts obstruction of an officer.

Angela Michelle Capozzoli, two counts aggravated assault; fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; two counts interference with government property; obstruction of an officer; two counts hit and run; operating a vehicle without insurance.

Terry William Henderson, burglary in the

first degree; criminal damage to property in the second degree; theft by deception; theft by receiving stolen property; criminal attempt to commit a felony; theft by taking; hindering apprehension or punishment of a criminal; making a false statement.

Zachary William Hart, obstruction of an officer.

Joshua Emmett Robertson, terroristic threats; hindering an emergency telephone call; possession of methamphetamine.

Emily Ann Anderson, possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug-related objects.

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