

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, August 2, 2017

Students, teachers ready for classes to start on Thursday

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

It seems that only yesterday school was letting out for the summer months but now, with fall just around the corner, it's time to say farewell to the sweet days of summer, because school is back in session this week.

Come Thursday, Aug. 3, homeroom bells throughout Towns County Schools will be beckoning all students to dust off their binders, gather their backpacks and head back through those big double doors for another year of learning and sharing in Indian pride.

Open House for all Towns County Schools will be Tuesday, Aug. 1, from 5

p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday morning will be full of emotions—excitement from parents, anticipation from those returning students and slight uncertainty from young students stepping into school for the first time.

Going into the 2017–2018 school year, Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong and the entire school faculty and staff are ready for another great year of learning, growing and sharing in Indian pride.

“We have projects coming up next summer,” said Dr. Berrong. “We’re getting the roof and everything accomplished from the SPLOST that we passed and this year is going to be a lot of

preparation for those projects that are going to be coming up.

“We’re looking forward to another great school year. We got a lot of good student achievement scores back. The high school made a lot of gains and our middle school is looking really good.”

“So, we’re looking forward to just continuing that.”

To further the academics at Towns County Schools, the school system teamed up with Young Harris College to offer synchronous learning at the Towns County High School campus.

High school students also can take classes at several other colleges in the area, though

only Young Harris College classes are offered on campus at TCHS.

Basically, high school students can take college level courses to receive credit before graduating high school; something that will further set them on the path for success post-graduation.

“Of course, at the high school we have students who are taking classes at Toccoa Falls (College) and Young Harris College is coming to our school,” said Dr. Berrong. “We’re actually offering classes at our school from Young Harris like we did last year.”

“So, we will continue to do that again.”

See School, Page 6A



Dr. Darren Berrong, Towns County Schools Superintendent

BRMEMC nominates candidates ahead of September elections

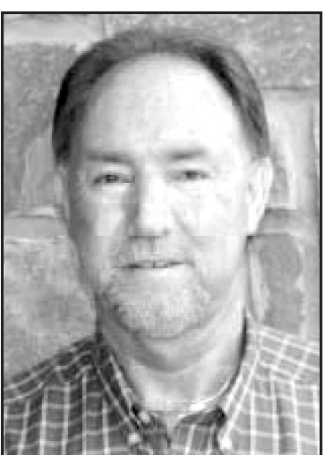
By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
Editor

Two incumbents will face the Board of Directors ballot of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC's elections in September.

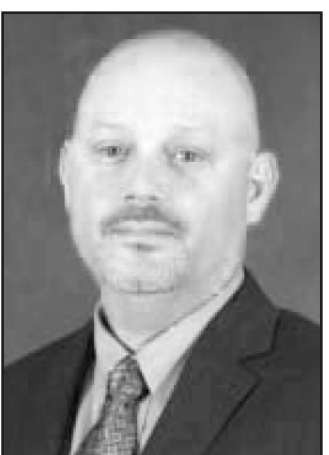
And Jason Waldroup, a 15-year resident of Towns County, will run unopposed in the seat that Vice Chairman Steven Phillips resigned from for personal reasons.

Danny Henson will seek to unseat Incumbent Charles Jenkins as one of the Union County representatives on the BRMEMC board, and Jeff Ledford hopes to unseat Incumbent Chris Logan as one of the Clay County, North Carolina, representatives on the BRMEMC board.

Henson was a board



Jeff Ledford
Clay County, NC



Chris Logan
Incumbent
Clay County, NC



Jason Waldroup
Towns County, GA



Danny J. Henson
Union County, GA



Charles Jenkins
Incumbent
Union County, GA

member for a short while in 2015. The BRMEMC Board of Directors disqualified him at the time because of a business partnership with then-fellow

board member Greg Owenby. Henson had been appointed to replace Union County board member Bob Ensley, because of Ensley's

failing health. He made the board aware of his business relationship with Owenby before he was appointed.

“I didn't try to hide

anything,” Henson said. “I guess the board members thought that everyone had done their due diligence. The ball was dropped somewhere, however.”

Henson gained enough petition signatures to run for the seat in 2015, but opted not

See BRMEMC, Page 6A

Advanced Digital Cable bringing manufacturing to Towns

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Advanced Digital Cable will begin manufacturing five major product lines at its Hiawassee facility by Jan. 1, 2018, bringing up to 15 new jobs to Towns County.

“We're just overly busy at the Hayesville facility,” said ADC Vice President Cory Payne. “Too many different products, too many different materials, too many different setups. So, we're freeing up capacity there by moving it to Hiawassee and focusing on some of the more high-end cables, products that require more detail and attention.”

ADC bought the 65,000-square foot Mohawk Building back in 2011, the same year it purchased the old Applewood Doors & Windows building at

See ADC, Page 6A



Advanced Digital Cable Inc. in Hiawassee. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Cochran crowned 2017 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Each year a lucky young lady has the honor and privilege of being crowned Miss Georgia Mountain Fair and this year one of Towns County's finest earned that title—Eryn Cochran.

Cochran was chosen to be Miss Georgia Mountain Fair from among 13 other intelligent and talented young women at Anderson Music Hall on Monday, July 24.

“This is amazing,” said Cochran. “It's such an honor. I've grown up in this community and the past Miss Georgia Mountain Fairs, I'd always looked up to them. To be part of that and part of the tradition is amazing and surreal.”

When the evening See Cochran, Page 8A



2016 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Amaira Barrett crowning 2017 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Eryn Cochran. Photo/Lily Avery

Ordiales to leave Hiawassee City Council to run for mayor

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

During the Hiawassee City Council work session on Monday, July 24, Mayor Pro Tem Liz Ordiales announced that she would be running for mayor during the upcoming fall elections.

“I've decided to run for mayor,” said Ordiales. “But I'll still be around to help out and the office can call me with questions if they need to.”

Following Ordiales' announcement, Hiawassee City Attorney Thomas Mitchell explained that, since Ordiales will be running for an elected position, she will no longer be allowed to continue to hold her city council member seat which, in turn, means she can no longer serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

“The law requires that if Ms. Ordiales qualifies for the Ms. Ordiales must step down from her council position,”



Hiawassee Mayor Pro Tem Liz Ordiales. Photo/Lily Avery

said Mitchell. “Therefore, she must also vacate the duties of Mayor Pro Tem.

“She had a conversation with the superintendent of elections and she has indicated that in order for Post 5 to be

on the ballot in November, it does not require any special elections in March of 2018 to fill that position. Ordiales will actually need to vacate her current position two Mondays

See Ordiales, Page 6A

Towns County Indictments

Staff Reports
Towns County Herald

theft by deception. Darren Ray Carter, two counts flee/attempt to elude a stolen officer, theft by receiving, stolen property in another state. See Indictments, Page 6A

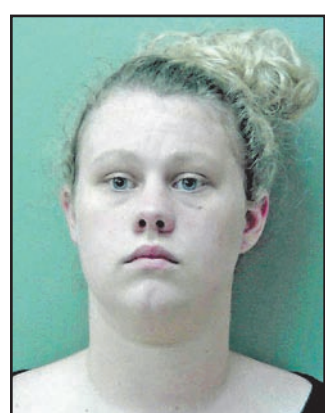
The following people were indicted by the July Term of the Towns County Grand Jury:

Clyde Jason Ball, crossing the guard line with contraband, possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana, less than an ounce, flee/attempt to elude law enforcement, suspended driver's license, fail to maintain lane, drugs not in original container, no insurance, seatbelt violation, failure to maintain brake lights in good working condition.

Tammy Kay Leonard, trafficking illegal drugs, possession methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, less than an ounce, possession drug-related objects, open container, failure to stop at a stop sign.

Gerald Dean Littrell, two counts terroristic threats, two counts possession of a controlled substance. Shannon Denise Allen,

Blairsville woman charged in Child Development Center investigation



Kristen Goodwin

By Charles Duncan
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com
A former Towns County Child Development worker faces a 13-count indictment



Charles Parris Shelton

handed up by a Towns County Grand Jury. Kristen Goodwin, 19, See Investigation, Page 6A

2 Sections 16 Pages

Lake Levels

Blue Ridge	1,684.72
Chatuge	1,923.96
Nottely	1,773.35

Inside

Arrests	2A
Chamber	3B
Church	4B
Classifieds	6B
Opinion	4A
Legals	7B
Obits	5B
Sports	2B

Football Scrimmage
Trinity Christian
Friday, Aug 4th 7:30 PM

Landscaping with Native Plants
Hamilton Gardens
Friday, August 4th

See page 5A

TOWNS COUNTY Farmers Market
Entrance to the Beach Area on Hwy 76

See page 7A

Coast Guard FREE Boat Inspections August 12th

See page 3A