

Towns County Herald

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Bradshaw, Clinton earn GOP nomination; Wilkinson wins landslide; District 8 runoff

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
Editor

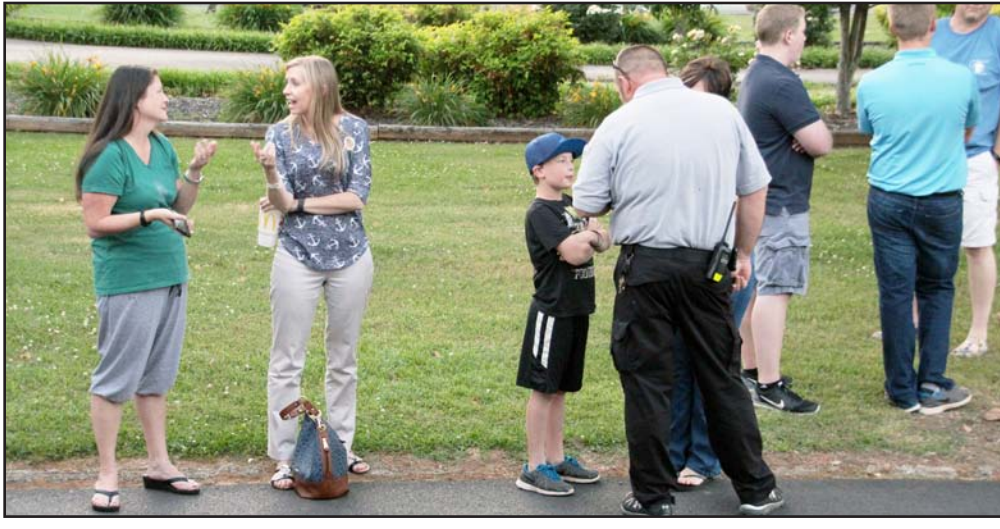
Republican Cliff Bradshaw and Democrat Nathan Hughes will battle it out in November for the right to become Towns County's next sole commissioner.

On the GOP side, Bradshaw took 1,418 votes, or almost 54 percent of the vote, to 644 votes for Steven Phillips, or almost 25 percent of the vote.

"We've worked very hard and we're very thankful," said Bradshaw after learning of his primary victory, and he's now looking forward to keeping things going to keep talking about our platform. We're going to run a positive campaign like we have been. We're going to stay focused on the issues and concerns of the taxpayers."

Steven Gerdes brought up the rear with 577 votes, or almost 22 percent of the vote.

On the Democratic ballot, Hughes defeated James



May 24th primaries were a spectator sport for many in Towns County as residents and interested parties gathered outside the Old Rock Jail awaiting results Tuesday evening. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Goodwin with 71.87 percent of the vote to 28.13 percent. That was a 281 to 110 vote count with Hughes claiming the win.

Hughes said he was overwhelmed and thankful for those who voted for him, and as for his opponent in November, he said he would see him

in church on Wednesday.

"I'm excited that the party rallied around me like that," said Hughes. "I think the Republicans turned out the right guy for their party. It's going to be a long battle, but I'm looking forward to it."

Another name expected to be on that commissioner's

ballot, Henry Chambers as an independent.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton claimed his Republican Party nomination over challenger Bobby Palarchio. Clinton took 1,727 votes to Palarchio's 857. That's a difference of 66.83 percent for Sheriff Clinton, to



Cliff Bradshaw

33.17 for Palarchio.

Sheriff Clinton is likely to face Independent Candidate Linda Curtis in November.

Another big winner on this night, E-SPLOST as Towns County voters voted 'yes' 1,676 times to 1,339 no votes. That's a tabulation of 55.59 percent in favor, to 44.41 percent against.

"I'm excited and all of



Sheriff Chris Clinton

our teachers are very excited," said Towns County School Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong upon learning the outcome of the E-SPLOST vote. "We're going to be able to do so many things at the schools, just with technology and the repairs."

"I'm just thankful for

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TCHS has prepared 68 to walk the aisle

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School celebrated its Class of 2016 with Senior Awards Day on Friday, May 20, in the Anne "Oliver" Mitchell Auditorium at the school.

Students wore their blue gowns with pride, arranged neatly on the stage as their fellow classmate, Meagan Corbin, hazzed all in rendition of the national anthem.

Shea Underwood, the 2016 STAR Student, was recognized during the ceremony, along with STAR Teacher Quilla Thomas-Bradley.

While the Valediction, Salutatorian and Historian were not announced due to a remainder of grades to be calculated, Shea Underwood, Kevin Reardon and Michelle Miller were recognized as the three contenders for the posi-



Towns County High School seniors were celebrated on Friday in the Anne Oliver Mitchell Auditorium as they prepare for their last rites of school - the Class of 2016 graduation. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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Chubby Checker coming to play The Hall on Saturday

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Chubby Checker knows a thing or two about giving dance lessons - he taught the whole world to dance, after all, with his 1960 smash hit "The Twist."

Checker will be performing in Anderson Music Hall at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 28. The 7 p.m. show will also feature the talents of the Atlanta-based vocal group The Tams, as well as longtime R&B vocalists The Checkers.

This will be Checker's first trip to Hiawassee, though he said recently that he's a big fan of Georgia and everything related to peaches.

"It's going to be a good time," said Checker, on the May 28 show. "Whenever we get together, and the band is playing and the music is going on, it's always the best. I just love to go out there - we come to town and burn it down and then we go home."

The industry has changed tremendously since Checker first stepped out onto the stage of "American Bandstand" in 1960 to revolutionize the way people moved to music together.

Music is now in many ways more of a personal experience than a shared experience, for instance, in that consumers oftentimes listen on their own devices with headphones rather than gather around a record player or the radio.



Chubby Checker

But Checker's contributions to the world of music are as alive and well today as they have been, still shiny and seemingly new.

"What do you say to a guy that's a singer, an entertainer, and when you look on the floor and you see them dancing to anybody's music, you see what you created is still there?" said Checker. "We are the creators of the dance floor - The Twist, The Pony, The Fly, The Shake, The Hucklebuck, what has become The Boogie."

"And if you have a song with a beat, you can't escape the boogie, so you can't escape Chubby Checker because I'm the Boogie man."

So for the man who changed the game altogether, things haven't really changed all that much - he still loves

See Twist, Page 6A

King Ford is No. 1 in customer satisfaction

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Murphy, NC - The Ford Motor Company has honored Chris King and his entire staff at King Ford with the prestigious President's Award, presented to dealers with the highest customer satisfaction ratings in the company.

Led by Regional Sales Manager Kevin Giacomini of Atlanta, the Ford Team visited King Ford in Murphy, North Carolina, on Thursday, May 19, to hand-deliver the award.

"It's the President's Award, which is given to our top-performing dealers across the country for superior sales and service and customer satisfaction," said Giacomini, who oversees 158 dealers in the region. "Fewer than 10 percent of our Ford dealers nationally earn this award."



Union County's Chris King holds a very cherished piece of hardware - King Ford in Murphy, NC has been chosen as No. 1 in Customer Satisfaction by Ford Motor Company. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

King King said he goes to those who work hard for him.

"The employees are the ones who earn it," said King. "We take care of our customer."

ers. It's not just the sale, we take care of them after the sale, too."

To commemorate the See King Ford, Page 6A

Towns County Schools No. 1 in Pioneer RESA

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Elementary School Assistant Principal Shannon Moss had some good news to share with fellow educators and the Towns County Board of Education during the board's regular meeting in May - according to the latest CCRPI results, Towns County Schools ranks No. 1 in the Pioneer RESA.

CCRPI stands for College and Career Ready Performance Index, and is a comprehensive school improvement, accountability and communication platform for all educational stakehold-



Shannon Moss

ers that will promote college and career readiness for all Georgia public school stu-

dents," according to the Georgia Department of Education website.

"The reason that (CCRPI) was created was so that we all had a good understanding of how our kids were being prepared for college, even all the way back to beginning in kindergarten," said Moss.

Results discussed in the May board meeting were the latest available, from the 2014-2015 school year, and these results can be viewed at the GaDOE website.

"The CCRPI includes four main components: Achievement, Progress, Achievement Gap, and Challenge Points," according to the GaDOE. "These components,

encompassing multiple indicators, are combined for a total CCRPI score on a scale of 0 to 100, with a possibility of 10 additional points."

Coming in at the top of the Pioneer RESA, Towns County Schools' aggregate score was 84.5. This score takes into account the individual scores from the high, middle and elementary schools.

Towns County outperformed the next highest scorer, White County, by 0.6 points, and the third place finisher in the Pioneer RESA, Dawson County, by 1.7 points.

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New holiday attraction coming to GM Fairgrounds

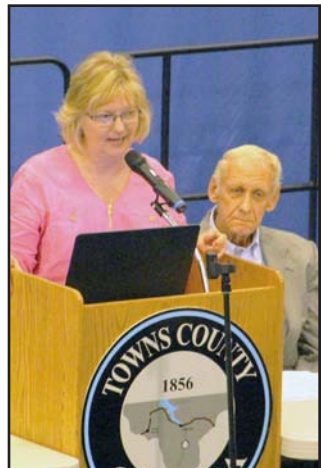
By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Exciting things are coming to Towns County, including a Christmas light show at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, and several new county services are now ready for public use.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall earlier this year asked the Towns County Convention and Visitors Board to look at how best to spend the \$150,000 in hotel/motel tax reserves being held by the county, and the board came up with the idea for a Christmas light show at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason introduced Greg and Lori Fulwood of Universal Concepts in the meeting.

The duo are responsible for starting the "Magical Nights of Lights" light show at Lake Lanier Islands, the light shows at Dollywood and Gatlinburg, as well as many other shows around the country, with more than three decades in the business.



Hilda Thomason

Mrs. Fulwood presented a mockup slideshow of what the Fairgrounds would look like as a Winter Wonderland, with lights depicting classic winter and Christmas holiday scenes - candy canes and snowmen and poinsettias, and all sorts of Christmas-lighted cheer.

One member of the audience asked whether or not they planned to include

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Fun Run

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MEMORIAL DAY
SERVICE

Monday, May 30, 2016
at 11 AM
Towns County Veterans
Memorial Park

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Graduation Ceremonies

Mountain Education
Charter High School
May 26, 2016
5:00 PM
Union County
Performing Arts Center

Towns County
High School
Friday, May 27
7 P.M.
Towns County
Recreational Center

