

# Towns County Herald

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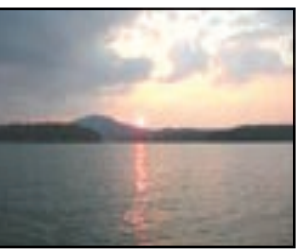
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Wednesday, May 29, 2013

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Sunny	83 58
Fri: Sunny	81 59
Sat: Sunny	81 59
Sun: Clouds	80 59
Mon: Storms	77 58
Tues: Clouds	80 59
Wed: Clouds	80 58



Upstream Elevation Predicted 05/29/13	
Lake Chatuge	1925.95
Lake Nottely	1777.03
Blue Ridge	1687.70

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2 Sections, 16 Pages

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## Sports Page 8A

## Chamber Yard Sale

Sat., June 1  
at the Chamber Office  
111 Jack Datyon Circle  
Accepting donations  
beginning May 25  
See page 5A

## TOWNS COUNTY Farmers Market

Grand Opening of 2nd Year  
June 15 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Market Hours for rest of the summer:  
Fri. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. or until produce is sold out  
See page 2A

## Red Cross June Blood Drive

Wed., June 12  
11:30am - 4pm  
College St., Young Harris

## Towns County Head Start/Pre-K Has Slots Available

There is No Cost!  
Call 706-896-4272  
See page 5A

## Help Oklahoma!

Disaster Relief Effort  
Please bring items by  
May 31 to one of the  
following locations:  
Eastgate Church,  
Towns County  
Courthouse, the Library  
or Benjamin Moore.  
See page 2A

## Class of 2013 walks into history

By Libby Shook  
Towns County Herald  
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

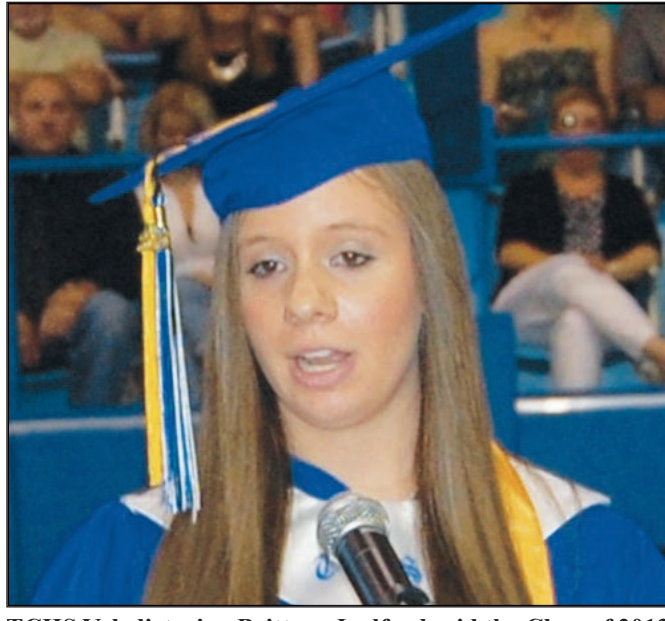
Friday night, May 24th, was a life altering and memorable event for the 72 Towns County High School seniors that walked across the aisle of the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium, waved to family and friends, took their seats, and waited anxiously for the big moment to begin.

The graduating Class of 2013 was ready to walk.

The auditorium was filled with proud parents, family members, friends, teachers, and administrators who were there to witness the momentous occasion.

Senior Class President Dadrin Blythe stepped up to the podium.

"I am honored to graduate with this group, my classmates," Blythe said. "Hard work, dedication, and determination brought us to this point. Tonight marks the end of one chapter. Tomorrow we open a new one and we will have to



TCHS Valedictorian Brittany Ledford said the Class of 2013 was ready to begin the next chapter in their lives. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

write that chapter for ourselves." The program opened with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance led by Claire Wilson followed by the National Anthem, which was flawlessly performed by Brittany Boyer.

Outgoing Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren proudly presented a recognition plaque to Valedictorian Brittany Ledford, Salutatorian

See Grads, page 10A

## Harrison takes Indians' gridiron job

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Blair Harrison and winning football programs are synonymous.

His career coaching mark is 89-45 with three high school programs. However, his biggest victory to date is his win over a rare form of lymphoma.

Harrison, 40, is the man tabbed to be the next head football coach at Towns County High School.

The University of Tennessee graduate replaces Kyle Langford, who left the Indians to take a position as an assistant football coach and baseball coach for Cook County so he and his wife could be closer to his ailing father and her family.

Harrison leaves Kingston



Blair Harrison

High School, which is located just south of Knoxville, Tenn., after just one season. Harrison led the previous perennial losers to a 7-5 record and a second round state playoff appear-

ance. Harrison and his wife Krissy and their two boys Blair and Brewton are moving to Hiawassee.

The Towns County Board of Education perused six dozen applications, coaches interested in turning the Indians' football fortunes around.

In the end it was Harrison that was deemed the best fit for the Indians' football program.

Harrison was in town last week to meet with the team and his coaching staff and all seems to be in order for him to get down to business beginning in August as the fall football season is only a few weeks away.

It was a tough job selecting someone to fill Langford's shoes. The former Hawkinsville coach is the winningest football coach in the history of Towns

See Coach, page 10A

## Perren says final farewell as principal

By Libby Shook  
Towns County Herald  
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Friday night, May 24th, marked the end of an era for Towns County High School as Principal Roy Perren completed his final graduation commencement.

"I am honored and feel very blessed to have served as the principal of Towns County High School for the class of 2013 and the eight classes that came before them. I am proud of each and every student and faculty member I have had the privilege and honor of working with. I will always look back on my time at Towns County High School with fond memories," said Perren.

Perren admits that he didn't get serious about college until the age of 34. He graduated from West Georgia College in Carrollton, in 1992.

His educational career



Roy Perren gets a clothes pin from Caden Smith on graduation night. Photo/Libby Shook

began in Paulding County where he served as a teacher, an assistant principal, and a middle school principal. He remained in Paulding County until he moved to Towns County in 2004 to assume the

position of principal at Towns County High School.

"I am most pleased by the high number of graduates we have," Perren said. "We

See Perren, page 10A

## Underclassmen celebrate TCHS

By Libby Shook  
Towns County Herald  
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Monday, May 20th, was a memorable event for Towns County High School's freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.

They walked proudly into the Ann Mitchell Auditorium in excited anticipation of being recognized and honored for their academic excellence and achievements throughout the 2012-2013 school year at the Annual Underclassmen Honors Program.

The auditorium was filled with proud parents, teachers, school board members, and administrators who were as eager as the students to get the Underclassmen Honors Program underway.

This was a night they would not soon forget as more than 200 awards were presented to these very deserving students.

All of these students had definitely earned the right to be sitting in the auditorium on this special evening due to their dedication to their course



Left to right, Jonathan Gibson, Kaila Reece, Courtney Marshall, Ansley Vardeman and Roy Perren. Reece, Marshall and Vardeman have the highest grade point averages among TCHS juniors. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

work and their enthusiasm for learning.

The ceremony was opened by Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren who welcomed everyone who had come out to honor the award recipients.

Perren welcomed everyone and said, "I'd like to welcome you tonight to the

2013 Honor's Program for our underclassmen. We are real excited to celebrate these honors with you.

"These are your achievements as well as you have instilled in these young men and women the importance of hard work, perseverance, good

See Underclassmen, page 10A

## 'Freedom isn't free'

By Libby Shook  
Towns County Herald  
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

Monday morning, May 27th, was a beautiful day at the Towns County Veterans Memorial Park.

The sky was blue; the sun was shining; there was a nice breeze in the air. It was a perfect day for a picnic, cookout, or a boat ride on beautiful Lake Chatuge on this beautiful Memorial Day holiday.

But the folks that came out to Veterans

Memorial Park were single-minded and of one accord.

They were there in honor and remembrance of those who had fought and served so bravely and valiantly, with no regard for self. It was a day to remember the fallen defenders of freedom.

The ceremony opened with the traditional Posting of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance. VFW District Chaplain Max Flaig provided the invocation.

See Freedom, page 10A



The Laying of Wreaths ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park on Monday morning. Photo/Libby Shook

## Eighth graders say good bye to TCMS



TCMS Principal Dr. Darren Berrong says farewell to his eighth grade class. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Libby Shook  
Towns County Herald  
libby.tcherald@windstream.net

Friday morning, May 24th, was an exciting day for the eighth grade students at Towns County Middle School as well as for their parents, teachers, and administrators as they held their annual Honor's Day Program in the Anne Mitchell Auditorium.

Everyone waited excitedly to see who would be the recipients of the many distinguished awards.

Parents could barely contain themselves as they sat proudly waiting for their son or daughter's name to be called in recognition of academic excellence and their dedication to their studies.

They had cameras in hand waiting for that special moment.

The program commenced with Jade Ledford and Rose-Jane Clinton leading their classmates and the visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a hearty welcome from students Kristen Henson and Hannah Green.

Following the reading of Robert Frost's poem, *The Road Not Taken*, by Emory Patton, Towns County Middle School Principal Dr. Darren Berrong stepped to the podium.

"In life, there are two paths available to each of us. Which path we travel is determined entirely by our own actions, our decisions, and our priorities," Berrong said. "It is decided by our character and the ability to make the right choice, even if it is not the easy choice."

Berrong told the students that traveling the narrow road takes a great deal of thought, concentration, and dedication.

He explained that this road was not for the selfish person, as it "involves giving of you for the good of others."

He challenged them to choose "the road less traveled," as this would be their source of happiness and fulfillment.

"It is my hope that when

the students of this class are standing at a fork in the road of their life, that they blaze a brand new path that will open up a world of new possibilities," said Berrong.

Academic Excellence awards were presented to students maintaining a yearly average of 90 or above and Achievement Awards were given to those students who had maintained yearly averages between 85 to 89.

Libby Hall presented the three-year A/B Honor Roll awards and Julie Thompson presented the three-year A Honor Roll awards. The list was extensive in both categories. Hall said, "Please join me in honoring these students for a job well done."

Thompson also awarded the Old Unicoi Trail DAR Citizenship Award.

"They asked us to choose someone based on honor, service, courage, leadership, and patriotism. It is my pleasure to present this award to Nicholas McConnell," said Thompson.

Tamie Bradley had the privilege of awarding the PTSSO Citizenship Award.

"The recipients of this award was chosen by teachers, based not on grades, but on character," Bradley said. "This year's honors go to Brody Graper and Makenna Cook."

Sherry Behrens presented Student Council awards to Hannah Green, Kristen Henson, Jade Ledford, Emory Patton, Kenzie Jenkins, Cadence Nichols, Rosa-Jane Clinton, and Madison Stroud.

CRCT Awards were presented by Dr. Berrong and the Eighth Grade certificated and awards were presented by the Eighth Grade Teachers and Dr. Berrong.

It was a good day to be an eighth grade student. Congratulations, Class of 2017.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

