

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 89 Number 26

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

## All welcome at National Day of Prayer program

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Assistant Editor

The United States contains the largest population of Christians in the world, so it should come as no surprise that the first Thursday in May – the National Day of Prayer – holds special significance to many millions of Americans.

This year, the National Day of Prayer falls on May 3, and area residents can observe the occasion locally by attending a free prayer program held that day at 6:30 p.m. inside the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center.

Having a National Day of Prayer is an idea as old as America herself, and in 1988, U.S. Congress officially

designated the first Thursday in May to be set aside specifically for prayer.

Many residents have privately observed the occasion for years in Towns County, though it wasn't until 2014 that someone finally came up with the idea of celebrating the National Day of Prayer communitywide.

That someone was Kay Yandell, who envisioned an all-inclusive program for residents of Towns County and Clay County, North Carolina.

She formed a small committee a month before the big day, and after discussing it with then-Towns County Solicitor Commissioner Bill Kendall, organizers held their first event

at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center on May 1, 2014.

"The first program attracted 241 people, even though there was a small charge to pay for the food," said Yandell. "Commissioner Kendall saw the opportunity for this to grow and offered the use of the large meeting area."

And the event has grown ever since, with last year's National Day of Prayer program bringing in more than 700 people.

Each of the past events has featured morning prayer observances, which is where the 2018 National Day of Prayer observance will differ in a major way – it'll be the first

See Prayer, Page 6A



The Jordan's Bridge quartet will be performing at the Third Annual North Georgia Sing on Saturday, May 5, at 6 p.m. inside McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Hiawassee.

## Operation Clean Sweep a tremendous success in county



Photo by Mark Novak

Operation Clean Sweep organizer J.C. Berrong with Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw, Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales and representatives of the Cub Scouts cleanup team.

By Mark Novak  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Thanks to the participation of numerous churches, civic groups and individuals in picking up 240 bags of garbage from local roadways during Operation

Clean Sweep in April, the streets of Towns County are much cleaner.

To honor those who picked up the most trash, cleanup organizers held the 2018 Clean Sweep Celebration at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center on Tuesday, April 24.

"We found a lot more trash than I anticipated," said local Resident and Clean Sweep Coordinator J.C. Berrong. "I humbly say we've got the best-looking county of any contiguous county around the area."

Added Berrong: "Thanks See Clean Sweep, Page 6A

## Volunteers gather to package meals for kids, families

By Mark Novak  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

More than 220 residents volunteered over the weekend to package 50,420 meals to benefit Towns County children over the summer school break.

The Lake Chatuge Rotary Club joined the Meals of Hope organization in holding the event at the Towns County

Recreation and Conference Center on Saturday, April 28.

Volunteers were fast at work early Saturday morning, packaging all the meals in a little over two hours.

The meals will be distributed throughout the summer for when the children are not in school and meals are not available to them.

"We are targeting the 500

kids in Towns County schools that are on the free school lunch program and the 150 kids that are part of the backpack program," said Rotary Club Vice President Kerry Clem. "Each one of the 8,400 packets that we designed is six servings and we designed to go home and do a meal for a family."

"We wanted to get this See Meals, Page 6A



Photo by Mark Novak

A view from above of the April 28 gathering of more than 200 volunteers to package more than 50,000 Meals of Hope.

## Lady Indians Soccer advances to Sweet 16 at state

By Todd Forrest  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

DALTON – The Towns County Lady Indians soccer team is on its way to the Class A State Sweet 16.

The Lady Indians punched their ticket on Thursday, April 26, by shutting out Christian Heritage 5-0 on a soggy evening in Dalton.

Towns County battled the rain, slippery conditions and a feisty Lions squad to a near-standstill in the first half.

The only goal of the half came in the 36th minute when Taylor Cornett sent the Lady Indians into the intermission with a 1-0 advantage.

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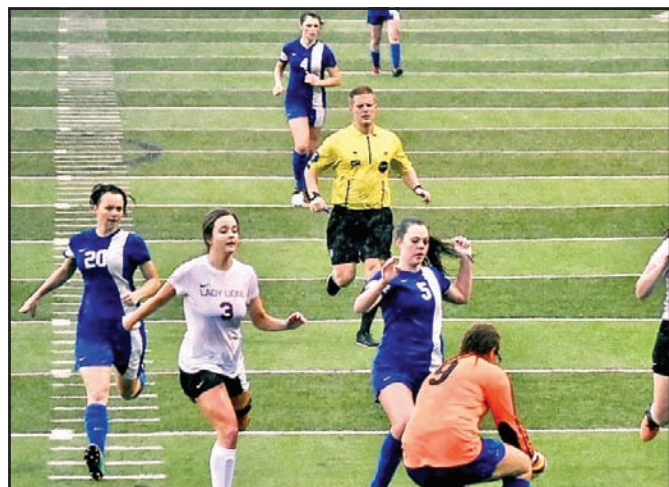


Photo by Todd Forrest

Congratulations to the Towns County Lady Indians, who have advanced to the second round of the 2017-2018 GHSA Class A Girls State Soccer Tournament.

## Early voting continues weekdays through May 18

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Assistant Editor

Early voting for the May 22 General Primary and Nonpartisan General Election began on Monday, April 30.

Every weekday between now and May 18, during the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., registered Towns County voters can cast their ballots at the Towns County Board of Elections and Registration Office.

The board office is located in Suite A of 67 Lakeview Circle in Hiawassee, and it will be open to voters even during lunchtime.

There is one weekend day set aside for voters at the board office, which will be Saturday,

May 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., for people too busy to vote during the scheduled weekdays of voting.

Since this is a primary, voters will need to declare a political party to receive a ballot, otherwise, voters will only be able to vote in the Nonpartisan General Election.

Election Day will be on Tuesday, May 22, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and that day, voters should report to the four pre-assigned Towns County voting precincts.

The Macedonia Precinct has changed from the campus of Towns County Schools to Macedonia Baptist Church.

Voters looking for absentee ballots will need to contact the board office, which is situated next to the Towns

County Courthouse, or call (706) 896-4353.

Tuesday, April 24, was the registration deadline heading into the election.

Each of the following candidates appears on the ballot of his or her respective political party:

For Governor, L.S. "Casey" Cagle, Eddie Hayes, Hunter Hill, Brian Kemp, Clay Tippins, Marc Urbach, and Michael Williams, all Republican; and Stacey Abrams and Stacey Evans, both Democrat.

For Lieutenant Governor, Geoff Duncan, Rick Jeffares and David Shafer, all Republican; and Sarah Riggs Amico and Triana Arnold James, both Democrat.

See Voting, Page 6A

## Confederate soldiers honored in celebration

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Assistant Editor

BLAIRSVILLE – Year after year, dozens of residents from around the region gather to recognize Confederate Memorial Day.

This year was no different, as guests joined local members of both the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy at the Towns County War Memorial Park on Saturday, April 28.

"The Sons of Confederate Veterans is an organization started in 1896, and it is a genealogical, patriotic historical association, plain and simple," said event emcee Scott Ledford, who serves as adjutant for the Sons of Confederate Veterans David W. Payne Camp 1633.

Continued Ledford: "We See Confederate, Page 6A



Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Members of the local Sons of Confederate Veterans and United Daughters of the Confederacy joined area residents on April 28 in recognition of Confederate Memorial Day. Pictured here reciting the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance.

## January Term 2018 Grand Jury Indictments cont'd

The following individuals, who are presumed innocent until proven guilty, were indicted during the January Term 2018 of the Towns County Grand Jury, which met for a second time in April:

Gregory Kyle Dean, making a false statement; sexual assault of an inmate or person in custody.

Tam Thanh Mai, criminal damage to property in the second degree.

Marco Antonio Rangel, possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug-related objects.

Rachel Joy Franklin, AKA Rachel Joy Ewing, aggravated assault, Family

Violence; simple battery; criminal trespass.

Steven Doucette, aggravated assault; battery, Family Violence.

James Harrell Moore III, possession of methamphetamine; possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony; possession of drug-related objects.

Randy Barnes Jr., theft by taking; terroristic threats; obstruction of an officer.

Christopher Cody Wiggins, criminal attempt to commit a felony; aggravated assault; aggravated assault, Family Violence; aggravated battery.

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Lake Levels  
Blue Ridge 1,684.87  
Chatuge 1,924.18  
Nottely 1,774.09



Girls Soccer  
SWEET 16

Tuesday May 1st

@ Walker (Marietta) 5 PM

CoderED

Sign up days  
May 1 & 8

TC Courthouse  
1 PM to 4:30 PM

See page 6A

Add your  
Veteran's  
Name  
to Monument

See page 7A

GEORGIA  
MOUNTAIN  
FAIR PARADE  
JULY 21ST  
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