

# Towns County Herald

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## Grimsley, Hooper of TCHS Fishing Team headed to national stage in August

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Congratulations to Mitchell Grimsley and Adrian Hooper of the Towns County High School Bass Fishing Team for qualifying for the Bassmaster High School National Championship Tournament.

The team of two qualified after finishing Sixth Place at the Bassmaster Wildcard event at Lake Cumberland in Kentucky on June 12.

Last summer, longtime friends Hooper and Grimsley discussed the idea of putting a bass fishing team together to compete against other high schools in Georgia.

With their fathers Chad Hooper and Brandon Grimsley on board, and Athletic Director

Jim Melton in full support, Hooper and Grimsley were ready to get started.

The Indians' new fishing team kicked off its 2018-2019 season with a Sept. 15 tournament at Lake Seminole in Bainbridge, which they followed up with seven more events to finish the regular season in the Top 10% of the 204 high school bass fishing teams.

After finishing the regular season in the Top 10%, the Georgia Bass Nation invited the Indians to compete in the State Classic on June 7 and June 8 at Lakewood Park on Clarks Hill Lake.

There, Hooper and Grimsley fished against 103 Georgia high school teams but were unable to earn a spot to send them to Nationals.

However, the Indians had enjoyed great success during their regular season events, and Hooper and Grimsley's chances for Nationals were still in play, as they were invited to the Wildcard tournament on June 11 and June 12 for another shot at qualifying.

The two-man team traveled five hours to Lake Cumberland in Somerset, Kentucky, in hopes of keeping the season alive.

Hooper and Grimsley fished two days and took advantage of the opportunity to catch five fish totaling 13.3 pounds, giving them a Sixth-Place finish and earning them a spot in Nationals.

The winning weight in the Wildcard tournament was five fish for 18.3 pounds.

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Mitchell Grimsley and Adrian Hooper of the Towns County High School Fishing Team. Photo/Facebook

## Parade Committee reconvenes for updates ahead of July 20 Fair Parade

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The 69th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair Parade Committee met again on Thursday, June 13, for more planning ahead of the July 20 parade.

"I just wanted to update everyone on what we've got so far for the parade - we are still getting applications submitted almost every day," said Fairgrounds Manager Hilda Thomason, sharing that more than 20 area businesses have recently turned in parade float entry forms.

The theme for this year's parade is "Making Memories Since 1950," so the 2019 parade will honor mountain heritage and celebrate the everlasting memories that have been made in the community.

Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales submitted a float entry form for the city, as have other local organizations, like the Towns County Historical and the Lions Club.

Frank Riley, who is involved with the Towns County

Fire Department, the Firewise Program and the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council, submitted applications for all three.

The Towns County Soccer Booster Club will also be in the parade, and the Andrew Chastain Band, which won the Battle of the Bands contest earlier this year, will be performing on a float as it travels down Main Street.

"Lee Troy from the Peach Challenge is going to have about 20 Dodge Challengers, maybe more, that are going to be in the parade," Thomason said.

And committee members have been reaching out to local families and businesses to promote this year's parade, while Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong has been talking with high school organizations, including the Indian Ridge Marching Band.

Chatuge Gun Club Chief Ed Jones attended Thursday's meeting to express the club's interest in the parade.

"I don't think a float is an



Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason heading up the June 13 Parade Committee meeting. Photo by Chad Stack

option, but we certainly want to be involved, and my thoughts were one of two things," said Jones. "If you had a group from the school that wants to build a float, we could help them financially, or we would be willing to donate \$500 in prize money."

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## Banister leaves BOE for teaching position at Towns County Elementary

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Laura Banister has stepped down from the Towns County Board of Education after accepting a teaching position with the school system for the upcoming year.

Banister submitted her resignation in the June 10 regular board meeting with Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong, effectively ending her first term, which began in 2017 and was to run through 2020.

During her final meeting, the board appointed Member Stan Chastain to temporarily fill Banister's chairperson responsibilities as interim chair through December.

Starting the 2019-2020 school year, Banister will co-teach in the special education department at Towns County Elementary.

This will be her second teaching career, as she taught pre-K for seven years in Dawson County before moving back to Towns County when the facility housing the state-funded pre-K

classroom is closed.

Banister is from Towns County, having graduated Towns County High as a member of the Class of 1990, after which she attended the University of Clemson to earn a degree in accounting.

Later, she went back to college and earned a dual bachelor's degree in early childhood education and special education from the University of North Georgia, where she also attained a master's degree in early childhood education.

"After I had my first child, I realized how much I enjoyed watching her learn, so I decided to go to school for a teaching degree," said Banister. "I love teaching, and when I moved back home four years ago, I was interested in teaching, but at the time there were no teaching positions available."

"Darren and I spoke on the phone a few weeks ago, and I expressed my interest in teaching again, and he said that one of the teachers in the special education department just resigned."



Laura Banister

Kristen Boyer resigned in May as one of the elementary school individual education teachers after accepting a position in her home county at Union County Schools, so Banister applied for the job.

"I enjoyed my time on the board - it was a wonderful experience," said Banister. "Darren was always very approachable, and we discussed everything as a group that

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## Hamilton Gardens debuts 'Let's Get Growing' summer lecture series

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge hosted its first "Let's Get Growing" summer lecture on Friday, June 7, at the Paris Pavilion inside the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

Let's Get Growing is a six-part series of summer lectures that will take place on the first and third Fridays in June, July and August, starting at 11 a.m.

The inaugural speaker for the series was Tony Ward of the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, who spoke on invasive plants and how to manage them.

Ward's lecture included a PowerPoint presentation about native and invasive plants that highlighted the importance of plant life in the watershed.

"In the mountains, riparian buffers need native trees



Tony Ward of the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition giving a lecture on non-invasive plant species on June 7 at the Hamilton Gardens. Photo by Chad Stack

and shrubs to perform essential water quality functions," said Ward. "One of the biggest threats to newly planted trees

and shrubs in planters is non-native invasive plant species." Kudzu, which was

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## Flag Day front and center in Creel presentation to Movers and Shakers



Air Force Veteran Brandy Creel speaking on the importance of Flag Day with the Mountain Movers and Shakers at Sundance Grill on June 14. Photo by Mark Smith

By Mark Smith  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

June 14 was Flag Day in America, and the Mountain Movers and Shakers hosted retired U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Brandy Creel in honor of the occasion at their weekly meeting.

Iwo Jima Veteran Bud Johnson opened the occasion with an invocation, and Creel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

"Today, we're not just honoring a flag - its dyed fabric and thread - but the threads of our heritage," said Creel. "Just as this flag has threads that are intricately woven to represent our history, so is the zest of life to protect America."

"Flag Day is something that we are trying to get back into the schools. I know (students) are currently out of school on Flag Day. One thing that we would like to do, as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, is a program for them on May 1, which is actually Loyalty Day."

Loyalty Day was enacted by Congress in 1958, according to literature made available by Creel that morning.

She also handed out literature describing "Our Flag - Things You Should Know," which portrayed a visual evolution of the American flag since colonial times.

Additionally, the literature discussed flag

etiquette and the rules for proper display and use of the U.S. flag, as established by generally accepted custom and by law approved by Congress and signed by President Gerald Ford in 1976.

The Flag Code leaves penalties for misuse of the flag to be determined by the individual states and the District of Columbia.

Creel handed out specially printed cards to the group featuring the Pledge of Allegiance on one side and the American Creed on the other. Most people in the room didn't know there was an American Creed, authored by William Tyler Page, who won a national

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## Murphy, NC, man arrested in Young Harris stabbing incident

News Special  
Towns County Herald

YOUNG HARRIS - On Wednesday, June 12, Towns County Sheriff's Deputies, along with EMS and Fire Department personnel, responded to a King Cove Road residence in reference to a stabbing.

Upon arrival, deputies discovered that the victim - later identified as Robbie Morrow - had been transported to an area hospital by private vehicle. The scene was secured, and a search warrant was obtained for the residence.

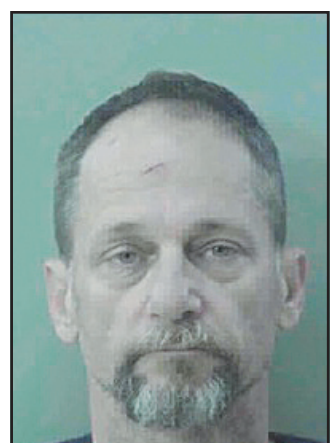
The person alleged to

be responsible for the stabbing was located for the stabbing.

Following execution of the search warrant and further investigation of the incident, including interviews with all parties involved, James Falvo, 53, of Murphy, North Carolina, was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and aggravated battery.

Falvo was being held without bond at press time.

The investigation is ongoing at this time, and the case will be forwarded to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution.



James Falvo

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Historian Jerry Taylor at Movers and Shakers June 21

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Blairsville Pro RODEO

www.BlairsvilleProRodeo.com

Union County Saddle Club Arena June 21 & 22

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Mountain Fling Arts and Crafts Show

North GA Tech June 22&23

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Register Now for Miss GA Mountain Fair Pageant

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