

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Towns County Youth Football League signups begin this weekend

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Calling all football fans – Towns County Youth Football League signups begin Saturday, June 24, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the old Towns County Rec Building.

Interested young athletes new to the league and their parents should bring a copy of the child's birth certificate at signup, as it will be provided to the Smoky Mountain Conference as proof of age.

Kids who played last year will not need to provide copies of their birth certificates at signup.

For all players, a one-time payment of \$90 will be required at the time of signup in order to cover costs of playing during the season, including insurance, a game jersey that kids will get to keep at the end of the season, and a trophy at the end-of-year banquet.

Athletes can also sign up on the following Saturdays: July 8, July 15, July 22 and July 29 at the old rec center between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Team practices begin on July 31, and Aug. 12 will be the



cutoff date to sign up for one of the teams.

Towns County Youth Cheerleading will be signing up participants alongside football players on Saturday, June 24,

and Saturday, July 8.

Again, in order to be accepted on one of the teams, parents of new players will need to provide a copy of their child's birth certificate at the time of

signup, along with the \$90.

Teams are broken down into categories according to age: Pee Wees are 5 and 6-year-olds; Termites are 7 and 8-year-olds; Mites are 9 and 10-year-

olds; and Midgets are 11 and 12-year-olds.

This year will be Youth Football Director Jimmy Smith's 21st and final year directing the Towns County

program, as well as the county's fourth year in the Smoky Mountain Conference.

"I've had a ball doing this," said Director Smith. "There just comes a time when it's time to go. I've enjoyed every minute being with the kids. I'm sure I'm going to miss it."

"I've had great kids over the years, with great support from parents and the community. It became part of my life and I'll never forget it, but it's just about time to move on and let somebody else take over."

After this season, the Towns County Rec Department will be heading up the youth football program, and Director Smith said he feels good about Towns County Recreation Director Matt Youngblood leading the youth football charge in 2018.

2017 Towns County Youth Football kicks off its regular season on Saturday, Aug. 19, in a home game against the Cherokee Braves out of North Carolina, to be played at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center at Foster Park.

All youth games begin at 9:30 a.m., starting with the Pee Wees.

Chatuge Shores Ladies Golfers are eclectic



The ladies listen as Judy Schmitt goes over the ground rules.

From the 17th century Greeks, we get the word "eclectic," with ek meaning "out" and legein, meaning "choose." In other words, ancient philosophers could choose from various doctrines before deciding what they believed to be best. In a similar way, the ladies of the Chatuge Shores Golf Course, who play at 8:45 every Tuesday morning, will have the opportunity to choose their best score between two rounds of golf, the first of which was played on June 13th.

For many high-handicappers, it's difficult to keep

the ball right down the middle of the fairway for 18 holes. Inevitably, the wheels come off somewhere in the round, sending the golfer back to the cart shaking her head and posting a score seldom seen on the LPGA tour.

But the Eclectic Tournament is the high-handicappers friend, allowing the golfer to choose her best score over two weeks of play.

With all the rain, the course is in excellent condition. For those who can read their many breaks, the greens are firm and fair.

One tip for playing the

rough: don't. If you miss the fairway, grab a wedge and get back into the middle. The warm and wet conditions have the rough waiting to grab the club of any unsuspecting golfer who finds herself in the weeds.

Hopefully, by being eclectic, some lucky ladies will report career rounds next week.

The Ladies Golf Association always welcomes newcomers. If you're interested in joining, or would like to come play for the day, contact Judy Schmitt at (828) 389-7095.

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Brasstown Bald celebrates Appalachian Trail Day



"Georgia to Maine--a footpath for those who seek fellowship with the wilderness" reads a plaque at both ends of the trail. Union and Towns counties are home to 70 miles of America's longest hiker-only footpath. Every year thousands of hikers and volunteers carry on the spirit of the Appalachian Trail. Head up to Brasstown Bald for "A Day in the Life" of the AT where you can meet thru hikers and see what they carry, hike 0.6 miles through 14 states on our mini-AT, learn Georgia AT history, and find out what it takes to get out on the trail.

Join us for a special showing of Emmy nominated, historical documentary "Trail Magic: The Grandma Gatewood Story" at 11 AM in our Mountain Top Theater. Appalachian grower Emma Gatewood was 67 years old in 1955, had 11 kids, and survived a brutal 30 year marriage when she decided to set out and hike the entire Appalachian Trail alone. At the time, only a few others had hiked the newly advertised trail and she became the first woman. True stories and truly inspiring! Arrive early for a seat. Free with park entry. June 24, 2017, 11 AM - 4 PM.

VFW Golf League

The VFW Golf League plays each Thursday at Chatuge Shores Golf Course. It is open to all members of the VFW and American Legion regardless of post affiliation. This week's competition was won by Ray Ide, Mel Halfon, Harvey Vanadoc and Dave Macbride. They posted a score of 66 to win by 1 stroke with an amazing 6 strokes under par. Congratulations team!

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TCHS Football fundraisers

Towns County football is currently in the process of raising money for the upcoming season with a couple of summer fundraisers.

The "Shopping Boss" is a phone app rewards program that several big time companies (Nike, Under Armour, Chilli's, Home Depot and more) have agreed to return a certain percentage of each purchase towards a reward account.

The football program is also hosting its second annual

BBQ plate sale on Saturday, July 1 on the Town Square. Plates are \$8 for BBQ and three sides.

Indians football is also raffling off two YETI coolers, two free lunches from Asiano's, a four hour pontoon free rental from the Ridges, a \$25 gift certificate to Hog Wild BBQ, a set of Corn Hole Boards, and a new tool from Hiwassee Hardware.

The raffle tickets are \$5 a ticket and every fifth ticket is free. The raffle will be drawn at the BBQ lunch at 2:30pm.

MUSA Fall Registration



Mountain United Soccer Association's fall soccer

registration is open for boys and girls ages 4-16.

You may register online at www.mountainsoccer.org. Registration deadline is Aug. 9. Players registered after deadline will incur a late fee and will be placed on roster waiting list.

Volunteer coaches also are needed. Questions: email: musa.soccer@gmail.com



Brannon Jones Memorial Football Camp

When: July 15, 2017; 10am-3pm (registration at 9)

Where: Mike Colwell Memorial Stadium (Union County football field)

Who: Any athlete that wants to improve their skill

How much: \$20 for pre-registered athletes. \$30 for day of athletes

(pre-registration ends July 1)

*Every athlete that pre-registers with payment will receive a t-shirt, everyone else will receive a water bottle.

**Snack lunch will be provided

This camp will be coached by current and former NCAA football players alongside coaches from the surrounding area.

Must have paperwork and copy of insurance to participate

Contact Luther Jones at (706)897-7041 or email acs76377@uga.edu to receive paperwork