

# Towns County Herald

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## Woodard crowned Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Queen in 2019

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Six talented young women competed for the title of 2019 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Queen in August at Young Harris College in August to pursue a degree in nursing.

Woodard also took First Place in this year's talent show, performing a lyrical dance to "You Say" by Lauren Daigle. Woodard loves music and dancing, she said. She has played guitar for four years and has danced for almost 10 years.

As 2019 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Queen, Woodard will serve as an ambassador for the Fair during select events in the coming year, and she will return next year to crown the 2020 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Pageant winner.

"Being crowned Miss Georgia Mountain Fair has so many great opportunities," Woodard said. "I will forever remember this experience and getting to know each of the

girls. I enjoyed getting to spend time with them, and I know they are going to go on and do great things."

Woodard added, "This is the first pageant I have ever entered, but winning tonight, I will get to compete in another pageant later this year in South Carolina."

Joining Woodard as contestants that evening were Kelly Davis of Murphy, North Carolina; Cydnee Thoreson of Lumpkin County; Jamison Wood of Towns County; Rylee Kitchens of Towns County; and Sophia Shook of Towns County.

Pageant Emcee Jennifer Holloway has been the Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Pageant for several years and is a former Fair pageant Queen herself, having won the crown in 1988.

Winning this year's Miss Congeniality and \$25 in prize

money was Rylee Kitchens.

Thoreson, Woodard and Kitchens competed for the Talent Award, though their routines didn't affect the final decisions of the judges, acting instead as extra credit.

For her part, Thoreson performed the song "My Redeemer Lives" by Nicole C. Ruddle using sign language, while Kitchens sang "Jesus Take the Wheel."

"I was surprised when I heard that I won the talent show because Cydnee's sign language performance was amazing and Rylee did so well," Woodard said.

Adam Penland, Janet Cosby and Holly Flake were the judges for this year's 2019 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Pageant.

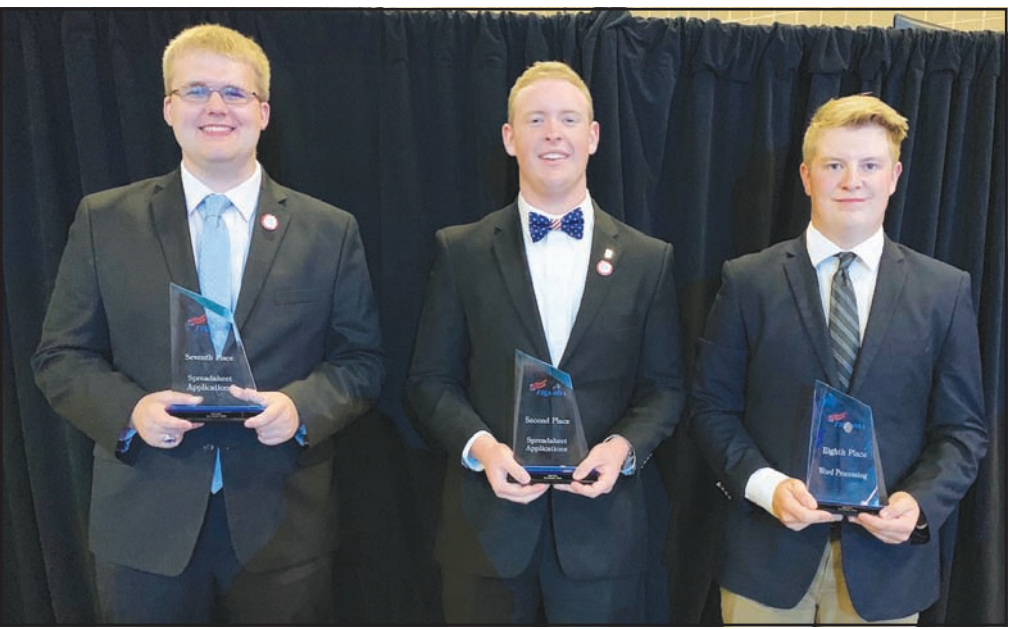
After the three young ladies completed their talent performances, Holloway called

See Fair Pageant, Page 8A



2019 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair Queen Carly Woodard with her grandfather, John Ray Parker, who demonstrated board splittin' in Pioneer Village for years as part of the Georgia Mountain Fair. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

## Towns FBLA students compete well at nationals; three finish Top 10



2019 National FBLA winners Kendall Floyd, Chase Rogers and Chase Crawford.

News Special  
Towns County Herald

SANANTONIO, TEXAS – Over 12,000 of America's best and brightest youth gathered in San Antonio recently to showcase their talents as future business leaders and compete for a chance to make it to the national award stage and the opportunity to win over \$150,000 in cash awards.

Future Business Leaders

of America, the largest and oldest business student organization, held its National Leadership Conference in San Antonio from June 28 to July 2. Participants from around the country were in attendance for this conference to sharpen their core business skills, expand their networks, and compete in more than 60 business and business-related events.

Towns County FBLA

proudly represented Georgia with 12 competitors who advanced as state winners to earn their place there: Kendall Floyd, Chase Rogers, Emily Williams, Chase Crawford, Danny Reagan, Nick Bradley, Chase Reece, Jamison Wood, Maci Walls, Remington Parker, Gage Denton and Jessica Taylor.

These young business See FBLA, Page 8A

## Schools to showcase renovations with Community Open House August 7

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong has scheduled a Community Open House for Wednesday, Aug. 7, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to allow members of the community to see all the recent upgrades at the schools.

Two years ago, the school system applied for state modernization grant funds totaling \$3.3 million and ended up qualifying due to the age of the buildings on campus.

After the 2018 graduation, the schools began construction on the first phase of modernization projects, replacing the middle/high school roof and replacing the heating and airconditioning systems throughout the school.

Construction last summer took a few weeks longer than scheduled, resulting in a delay to the start of the 2018 school year.



A view of the new artificial turf field at Towns County High just prior to the final brushing of sand and rubber inlay over the weekend. Photo by Chad Stack

"The construction this summer is moving along nicely, and it looks like everything will be finished as scheduled," Berrong said. "The final fire marshal inspection is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 2."

Several modernization projects are just days away from being finished before the start of the 2019-2020 school year on Thursday, Aug. 15.

Projects this summer included new flooring throughout the schools, fresh See Schools, Page 6A

## Georgia Mountain Fair says 'goodbye' until 70th anniversary in 2020

By Jarrett Whitener  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The 69th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair came to an end on Saturday, July 27, after nine full days of family-friendly fun in the North Georgia Mountains.

And even though rain put a slight damper on parts of the Fair, it was still a huge success, bringing many thousands of people out to the Fairgrounds.

"We had two days of rain this year, and that made two days that people couldn't really come out," said Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason. "There was rain on the day Pam Tillis was here, and there was heavy rain when Ricky Skaggs was here, and that's where the difference was at."

Always a popular attraction at the Fair was the Pioneer Village and the various demonstrations available there, showcasing how crafting worked in less modern times.

Harland Fisher demonstrated blacksmithing techniques and how people worked with iron and other metals before factories were commonplace.

"At one time, the blacksmith was like the repair shop," Fisher said. "The households depended on the blacksmiths to put hinges on the doors, make cooking implements and wagon parts that they needed to get around."

"The Industrial



Pioneer Village is a classic part of every Georgia Mountain Fair that focuses on the preservation of old mountain ways of life. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Revolution came along and started manufacturing all these products, so the blacksmith became like automobile garages and repair."

Blacksmithing stayed prominent in the Appalachian area because electricity did not come to the mountains for a while.

"This area was late getting electricity," Fisher said. "A lot of farms had their own blacksmith shop for repairs and sharpening plows. For plows, instead of grinding them sharp, you would hammer them sharp so you wouldn't lose the metal."

Having the Pioneer Village is important to the

Fairgrounds because it teaches people the history of the area in an interactive way.

"The demonstrations and the Pioneer Village are something that is part of our heritage," Thomason said. "It's educational for people to see, and as time goes on, we lose some of these people that do demonstrations, so we are always looking for people to continue these demonstrations and keep this heritage going."

An old schoolhouse sits in the Pioneer Village showing what attending school was like in the early 19th century.

"I think it's important for people to see the schoolhouse See Fair, Page 6A

## Crissy Figg on 4-H: 'Project Achievement really sets us apart'

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County's 4-H Club Director Crissy Figg spoke to the Mountain Fiddlers and Shakers on Friday, July 26, at Sundance Grill.

4-H is a youth club sponsored by a university of Georgia Extension, providing a range of activities for students in fourth through 12th grades.

The 4-H Club offers complete hands-on projects in several focus areas of Agriculture, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Healthy Living and Civic Engagement.

Students compete against other 4-H'ers from other counties in the state through in-school and afterschool programs, community clubs, project work and 4-H camps.



Towns County 4-H Director Crissy Figg Figg is in her first year as a County Extension Program Assistant after taking over for Andrew Smith. Before Figg started See 4-H, Page 6A

## Young Harris traffic stop results in arrest of drug suspect

News Special  
Towns County Herald

YOUNG HARRIS – The Towns County Sheriff's Office continued to make good on its pledge to arrest drug suspects throughout the county following a recent traffic stop on King Cove Road.

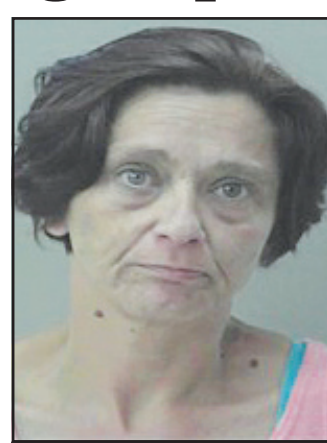
On Tuesday, July 23, a Towns County deputy stopped a Toyota truck at the intersection of King Cove and Gumlog roads in Young Harris.

After initiating the traffic stop and upon further investigation, the deputy arrested Stephanie Nicolette Phillips, 40, of Marble, North Carolina.

Phillips was taken into custody on charges of possession of methamphetamine, driving on a suspended license, tampering with evidence, possession of drug-related objects, and two counts of defective equipment, including no brake lights and having a busted windshield.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office says it will continue its hot pursuit of drug suspects in the area, and that additional arrests will be forthcoming.

The above cases will be forwarded to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution. All suspects are presumed innocent



Stephanie Phillips until proven guilty in a court of law.

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