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Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Homecoming Parade to roll through Hiawassee on Thursday By Chad Stack By Chad Stack By Chad Stack By Chad Stack

By Chad Stack Towns County Herald **Staff Writer**

Homecoming is always a special time of year when alumni return to their alma mater to watch the big game and witness the passing of the proverbial torch, or in this case,

And this year, Towns County High will wrap up a week's worth of Homecoming celebrations with the big Homecoming Football Game on Friday, Oct. 4, as the Indians take on Riverside Military Academy at 7:30 p.m. in Frank McClure Memorial Stadium.

Returning as high school principal in 2019 is Roy Perren, and returning with him for the enjoyment of students and community spectators alike is the annual Homecoming Parade

Perren said they used to hold the parade several years ago and that he's excited about community is invited to bringing the tradition back to Towns County.

The overarching theme for both the parade and week of celebratory festivities is "There's No Place Like Homecoming."

Student groups have been working on floats for the last couple weeks, and Wednesday, Oct. 2, will be the last day for the students to work on their floats to make the parade on Thursday, Oct. 3, at 6 p.m.

The parade will start at the Old Rec Gym and head east on US 76 to end at Zaxby's. Following the parade, students will gather for the annual Homecoming Bonfire at 7:30 p.m. in front of the high school, where concessions and

attend the Bonfire Thursday night, where all members of the Homecoming Court will be introduced, and there will be performances by the high school and middle school cheerleaders, as well as the high school band.

Also this year, alongside the seniors girls, the Homecoming Court will feature one girl each from the freshman class, sophomore class and junior class to include the whole school, Perren said. On Friday, students will

participate in a time-honored Homecoming tradition wherein the girls are treated to a special afternoon by the school before taking to the field at halftime See Homecoming, Page 6A



TCHS 2019 Football Homecoming Court

Photo by Chad Stack

Low member turnout for EMC annual meeting

By Shawn Jarrard **Towns County Herald**

YOUNG HARRIS-The Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation held its annual meeting last week, and as expected, the uncontested director elections at EMC headquarters resulted in the re-election of the three incumbents running.

Directors Gene Mason of Union County, Cory Payne of Clay County, North Carolina, and Ray Cook of Cherokee County, North Carolina, were the only members to submit nomination paperwork for the election, and all three were elected to second terms on Thursday, Sept. 26.

Following the close of the business portion of the annual meeting, the directors met privately to select from among their ranks board officers for the next year, and they chose to retain the same slate of officers that served in the immediate

Continuing in their board leadership positions will be Cook as president, Bert Rogers of Towns County as



Payne as board treasurer.

Appalachian Shriners to begin hospital

This year's annual See EMC Meeting, Page 8A

FAA says seaplane committed 'no violations' in Aug. 17 takeoff By Shawn Jarrard

Towns County Herald

On Aug. 21, the Towns County Herald received an emailed link to a video featuring the commercial seaplane owned by Wing-N-It Seaplane Adventures that regularly operates on Lake

In the video taken Aug. 17, the seaplane appears to correct course to avoid an oncoming boat during an attempted takeoff on Lake Chatuge, touching back down in the water before steering clear of a second boat and resuming its takeoff procedures.

At the time, several lakeside residents that have organized in opposition to the seaplane's operation witnessed the apparent failed takeoff



submitted it to the legal organ. internal safety inspectors for

After viewing the video, review. the Herald submitted it to the Federal Aviation Administration month after the Herald initially for authoritative guidance attempt, and one of them video before reporting on the matter, recorded the incident and and the FAA turned it over to

On Sept. 24, more than a reached out, the FAA officially responded to the newspaper's See Seaplane, Page 6A

Gov. Kemp announces three membership at co-op headquarters in Young Harris. nominees for Superior Court judgeship Photo by Lowell Nicholson vice president, Roy Perren of Towns County as secretary, and



Appalachian Shrine Club members with National Patient Ambassador Emily Mellish at Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville, South Carolina, in 2017.

By Shawn Jarrard Towns County Herald

Everyone knows the men wearing red fez hats and friendly faces collecting money

at local intersections. These men are Shriners with the Appalachian Shrine Club, and they are trusted members of the community volunteering of their time to raise money in the service of

And folks who donate to any of these men understand, when they give a donation to a Shriner, their money is going

toward a worthy cause. But how many people know what that cause is? How many people know that their donation - no matter how big or small – is helping to ease the pain and suffering of

The Appalachian Shrine

Club has faithfully served the communities and children of Towns and Union counties since 1987, when the Yaarab Shriners of Atlanta chartered the local organization.

Because Shriners are a close-knit fraternity that is generally committed to charity, fellowship, brotherly love, and the ethical principles of Freemasonry, they aid children both regionally and abroad by supporting a medical mission that reaches beyond their hometown community.

One of the main beneficiaries of the Appalachian Shrine Club's fundraising efforts is the Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville, South Carolina, which is the closest to Georgia of 22 Shriners Hospitals located in three countries: the U.S., discrepancies; curvature of the Canada and Mexico.

Shriners Hospitals for

Children provide fully-covered pediatric specialty care for children up to age 18 who suffer from conditions as varied as burns, spinal cord injuries, cleft lip and palate, congenital ear deformities, dog bites and other afflictions requiring reconstruction and rehabilitation.

The Appalachian Shrine Club has sponsored several local kids and teenagers over the years to receive treatment at the Greenville hospital specializing in orthopedic care for children, and also at the hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which treats young orthopedic patients as well. Orthopedic conditions

regularly treated at Shriners Hospitals include clubfoot; limb deficiencies, deformities and

See Shriners, Page 6A



Jeremy Clough

By Shawn Jarrard **Towns County Herald**

Gov. Brian Kemp announced last week that the Georgia Judicial Nominating Commission had submitted for his consideration three recommendations to fill the current vacancy on the Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior

The vacancy was created when Chief Judge N. Stanley Gunter decided to retire from his position on the court,



Buck Levins

effective Oct. 1.

After conducting interviews with each of the nominees, Gov. Kemp said he would "fill the vacancy from the recommendations provided," though state law does allow him to appoint any qualified person he chooses.

The names submitted for Gov. Kemp's consideration are Judge Jeremy D. Clough of the Enotah Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court; T. Buckley Levins, senior assistant district attorney of the Tallapoosa Judicial Čircuit;



Kerry Morris

and Kerry B. Morris, special assistant attorney general with the Department of Family and Children Services, and attorney with the Law Office of Todd

All three nominees have current or past ties inside the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

Clough got his start on the circuit in 2003, taking on various roles in the district attorney's office until being appointed as Juvenile Court judge in 2015.

See Superior Court, Page 6A

Judge dismisses 47 counts against Gowder, Heaton; trial starts Oct. 8

By Linda Erbele Towns County Herald

The federal prescription drug case of former hospital CEO Mike Gowder and Blairsville-based physician Dr. James Heaton is going to trial next week at the U.S. Courthouse in Gainesville.

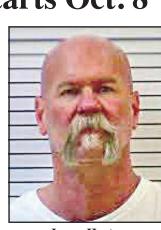
Jury selection in the criminal trial is set to begin Tuesday, Oct. 8. Court will close in observance of Yom Kippur on Wednesday, Oct. 9, and proceedings will resume on Thursday, Oct. 10.

Gowder and Heaton will be tried jointly on 103 counts alleging conspiracy to prescribe and obtain



controlled substances, with

Heaton facing 63 additional counts of prescribing controlled substances "outside the scope of professional practice and



James Heaton not for a legitimate medical

purpose."

In a surprise order dated Sept. 19, U.S. District Judge See Trial, Page 6A

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Oct 4 vs. Riverside Military 7:30 PM

HOMECOMING

Ninth District **Opportunity**

Energy Assistance Funds Available

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Festival Oct. 5

Health Georgia State **Clogging** Department Flu Shot See page 3B