

STARS...continued from Page 1A

to college," said Perren.

"The two STAR teachers were great selections and they really work hard with all the students," said Perren.

Chinnici said, "I am honored to be selected as one of the STAR students. I chose Coach Floyd as STAR Teacher because he always made learning fun, was always enthusiastic about what he taught, and his class was always a lot of fun."

Chinnici, daughter of Jane Chinnici of Hiawassee, is currently dual-enrolled at Young Harris College and Towns County High School.

"This semester I am taking Public Speaking, Anatomy II, and English 1102 at Young Harris College. I am also taking Economics at the high school. After graduating, I plan on going to UGA to pursue a major in Chemistry and a minor in Russian," said Chinnici.

Chinnici is in Beta Club, FBLA, HOSA and on the United Community Bank's Junior Board of Directors.

"I enjoy reading, riding horses, and I'm on the swim team in Blairsville," said Chinnici.

Floyd said, "We are very proud of having two very deserving STAR students this year at Towns County High School. I offer my congratulations to both Jennifer and Dillon and I am very honored to be selected by Jennifer as co-STAR teacher this year."

"Jennifer is an awesome student and I have had the privilege to serve as her teacher in Government, U.S. History, and World History classes." Floyd said. "She works hard, always asks insightful questions, and tries to expand her learning even beyond the material in the classroom."

"She is the kind of student who challenges me as a teacher," Floyd said. "She is a gifted writer with a great vocabulary, extremely creative, and a joy to have in the classroom."

"I look forward to watching this young lady as she begins her college career. I am confident that she will represent Towns County well in all future endeavors," said Floyd.

Diehl, son of Laura Diehl

and Greg Diehl, both of Hiawassee, said, "I was very excited and honored when I learned that I had been selected STAR student along with Jennifer."

"I chose Mrs. Frizzell as STAR Teacher for multiple reasons. I have had her as a teacher all four years of high school and I have taken five science classes with her," said Diehl.

"I have always gone to her if I had a question about anything, especially things that were math or science related," he said. "Mrs. Frizzell is not only one of the friendliest teachers, but also one of the most knowledgeable. Although some of her classes are difficult, she takes it slow and makes sure everyone understands concepts, makes everything fun no matter how boring, and will answer any question, no matter how dumb it may sound," said Diehl.

After graduation, Diehl plans to pursue a career in mechanical engineering at either Georgia Southern University or the University of Georgia.

Diehl is a member of FBLA, FCA, Beta Club, Towns County Leo Club, United Community Bank Junior Board of Directors, and Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.).

Diehl also is very active in sports at TCHS.

"I play shortstop and pitcher for the varsity baseball team and was named All Conference last season as a junior," said Diehl.

Frizzell said, "To be named STAR Teacher is one of the most rewarding honors that can be given to an educator."

"I have had the blessing of having Dillon as a student in five of my science classes," she said. "He is truly a remarkable young man with strong academic ability and much potential for success."

"I am so blessed to have been able to teach such wonderful students and I am very thankful for this honor," Frizzell said.

Chinnici and Diehl along with their STAR teachers will be honored by the Towns County Lions Club on Monday, Feb. 25th, at Anderson Music Hall in Hiawassee.

Homecoming...continued from Page 1A

basketball, cross-country, tennis, soccer, FBLA, SADD and Leo Club while Moss plays basketball and baseball.

Perren then introduced the next sophomore representatives Kayla Davis with her escort Grayson Carver.

Davis participates in cheerleading, HOSA, SADD, FBLA, and Beta Club while Carver plays football, soccer and participates in HOSA.

The final representatives for the sophomore class were Mia Manto escorted by Cory Ellis.

Manto participates in cheerleading, golf, FBLA, SADD, Beta Club, Leo Club, FCA and is the sophomore class president while Ellis plays soccer and football.

These young ladies were stunning in their formal wear and the guys looked very proud.

Next, Perren moved on to the first of the junior class representatives of McKenzi Moss escorted by Garrett Bradshaw.

Moss participates in soccer, basketball, FBLA, FCA, SADD, Beta Club and is on the All A Honor Roll.

Bradshaw plays basketball, football and tennis.

The next couple representing the junior class was, Cadi Olin and Aaron Dodson.

Olin is involved in cheerleading, FBLA and FCA while Dodson plays basketball and tennis.

The next junior class couple of Bailey Sutton escorted by Cesar Bustamante.

Sutton plays soccer while Bustamante participates in soccer and football.

The final underclassmen representatives from the junior class were Makayla Underwood escorted by Stetson Hedden.

Makayla Underwood plays soccer and participates in the Academic Bowl team and Beta Club while Hedden plays basketball.

The floor at the Kendall Gym never looked better as these representatives posed for pictures and waited as the votes were tallied to announce the underclassmen royalty.

The 2013 freshman King and Queen were Sterling Hedden and Taylor Underwood.

The sophomore King and Queen were Cory Ellis and Mia Manto while the junior class King and Queen were Aaron Dodson and Makayla Underwood.

Congratulations to the underclassmen King and Queen selections.

The underclassmen representatives then cleared the



The Queen and her court. The 2013 Towns County High School Basketball Homecoming Queen Erin Westberry. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

floor as Perren moved on to the highly awaited announcement of the senior class representatives and their King and Queen.

First there was introduction of the men's Homecoming Court representatives and their escorts, followed by the ladies and their escorts.

It was really done well with the beautiful young ladies being saved for last.

The first young man was Johnny Arrowood escorted by mother Adelle Arrowood.

Arrowood participated in wrestling and Cross Country while attending TCHS and is a member of the FFA, FBLA and FCA.

Next was Wesley Bloodworth escorted by his mother Debbie Cox and his sister Ashley Bloodworth.

Bloodworth participated in football, wrestling, baseball and tennis.

He is a member of FBLA and was voted Most Athletic by his senior class.

Luke Parker was the next representative of the senior class and his mother, Middle School girls basketball Coach Lana Parker escorted him.

Luke Parker participated in football and baseball with one year in basketball. He is member of FBLA, SADD and the United Community Bank's Junior Board of Directors.

Adam Plott was next for the senior class and his mother Meschell Rigby escorted him.

He played soccer all four years of high school and basketball for one year.

He is a member of the Leo Club and was voted Most Handsome and Best Hair by his

senior class.

Austin Wood was the final representative of the senior class and his mother Teresa Wood and his grandmother Claudine McClure escorted him.

Wood played on the basketball team for three years and is a member of FBLA, FCA and is a FBLA officer.

At this point Perren recognized the senior men's Homecoming Court and announced that Bloodworth was the 2013 Homecoming King and would wear the big, blue crown.

The guys left the floor and made way for the pageantry and beauty of this year's senior girls' Homecoming Court and the grace and beauty of the TCHS senior class girls was unbelievable.

The first young lady to represent the senior class was Dadrion Blythe and her father Danny Blythe escorted her.

She plays basketball, soccer and runs Cross Country. She is a member of FBLA, FCA, HOSA, Beta Club, and SADD as an officer and FFA as their secretary.

She also is Senior Class President, a member of the United Community Bank Junior Board of Directors and chairs that organization, A/B Honor Roll and was voted Miss TCHS by her senior class.

Next was the lovely and talented Brittany Boyer escorted by her grandfather Dr. Jim Hale.

Boyer was a member of the 2012 softball team, which recorded the most wins in the history of TCHS softball and

was a trumpet soloist for the TCHS Marching Raider Band of Blue. She is a member of Beta Club, FBLA, and Notoriety. She also was recognized for making a perfect score on her writing test as a junior.

The next young lady representing the senior class was Maggie Lusk escorted by her mother Becky Lusk.

Maggie Lusk participated in varsity cheerleading for two years and is a member of HOSA and FBLA.

Kayla Olin was the next young lady to represent the senior class and her father Kevin Olin escorted her.

She has participated in cheerleading and tennis and is a member of Notoriety, FBLA and FCA.

The final young lady representing the 2013 senior class was the actual queen for 2013, Erin Westberry.

Her father Jonathan Pyle escorted her. Erin is the video manager for basketball and is a member of FBLA, HOSA, FCA and the National Society of High School Scholars.

She plans to attend Lee University after graduation and pursue a degree in biology.

The crowd went crazy as her name was called and Bloodworth took his place by her side to become the new basketball King and Queen for 2013.

Last years queen, Courtney Farmer, was introduced to the crowd to place the crown on Westberry's head and the ceremony was complete.

Congratulations to the new King and Queen, Wesley Bloodworth and Erin Westberry.

Emergency...continued from Page 1A

by the recent blast of severe weather that swept through the area on Wednesday, Jan. 30th.

The storms caused power outages, downed trees, broken power poles, road debris, and flash flooding.

On Groundhog Day, Mother Nature's wrath was at it again as 5-6 inches of snow blanketed the area making many area roads impassable and created hazardous conditions for the emergency workers that spent innumerable hours ensuring the safety of area residents.

The hardest hit areas during the storms were Fodder Creek, Hog Creek, and Owl Creek.

Alisa Richards, Towns County Commissioner's Office, updated the group regarding "county assessment of damages."

Richards noted estimated damages to fall in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 range.

Damages included replacing a seven-foot culvert on Garland Road and an eight-foot culvert on Bud Walt Road.

They also replaced a culvert on Plotttown Connector Road, and put in a new culvert on Cross Creek Road, including gravel, rip rap, and base.

Several roads were closed including Sanders Road,, Gander Gap Road, Johnnie Lane, Garland Road, and Cross Creek with many other roads in the county described as 'having problems' including Ruby Lake, Scataway, Spring Wood, and Settlement Road.

Flooding was reported on Upper PlottTown Road, Bear Meat Creek Village, and Koneheta Village.

"We came close to losing the whole road in Tate City," said Mike West who has been trained in damage assessment.

"I want to compliment every man and woman here. We were well prepared and we're going to be better prepared. I want to thank everyone for all they did," said EMS/EMA Director Rickey Mathis.

Mathis also commented on what a great job the TC Sheriff's Office, Road Department, and Blue Ridge Mountain EMC did during the severe weather.

"Gary Holcomb with the Georgia Department of Transportation called and offered his assistance," said Mathis.

Michael 'Bear' Christopher, Wastewater Superintendent for the City of Hiawassee, reported a power outage due to a tree falling across the main power feed at the treatment facility.

He reported that

BRMEMC responded quickly and power was restored within three hours.

No untreated wastewater was discharged from the plant.

Thanks to the coordinated efforts of Sally Varao of the American Red Cross with the EMA, potential shelter was scheduled to be set up at the Towns County Schools if needed.

Towns County Fire Chief Mitch Floyd said, "all fire stations were staffed with minimal staff."

"Everybody was covered. In an effort to be better prepared in the event of another disaster, the team present discussed what worked, what didn't, and how to improve services."

WebEOC, a web-enabled crisis information system that provides secure real-time sharing to help managers make sound decisions quickly, was utilized to report, track, and respond to incident reports as they came in.

Towns County began using WebEOC about a year ago.

"We need to get everybody that doesn't have access to WebEOC established. We have 35 positions that have been assigned. Currently we have eight positions assigned," said Mathis.

Needs identified include more phone lines, improved Internet access, flat screen TVs on wall to have radar up, to be able to see what's coming and plan accordingly; a generator large enough to run 911 Mapping in the event of a power outage; additional kits for damage appraisers; and mobile based radioes to replace hand-held.

"Internet got extremely low. We need to possibly get fiber optic from EMC. Without internet access, EOC is useless. We need to increase to twelve megabytes or more," said Marty Roberts, 911 Mapping/Towns EMA.

The possibility of using ancillary services that could be provided by the Community Emergency Response Team and the DNR's Critical Action Team was discussed.

These services are available at no cost to the county.

"We are in an isolated community. It helps to have any available resources," said Buddy Sumner.

Commissioner Kendall said, "I want to comment on how professionally everything was handled and to just say thank you for a job well done. It's not a one-pony show. It's a group effort and everybody did a great job."

Gardens...continued from Page 1A

tireless effort over the past two years preparing the gardens for this special program. I hope everyone will stop by the gardens to enjoy these wonderful display gardens," said Paul Hansen.

By participating, Hamilton Gardens will be able to display the flowers and plants with excellent garden performance that have been declared AAS Winners in the past five years.

Garden visitors can see these varieties in the new display located off the main trail

and greenhouse/retail area.

All-America Selections works with the world's most prominent breeders to trial their best new varieties anonymously and have them rated by independent horticulture experts who volunteer their time as AAS judges.

"After a rigorous trialing, only the best performers are declared AAS winners," Paul Hansen said. "The flowers, plants and vegetables you see in the AAS Display area are available at your local garden retailer or from your favorite

online seed source."

The Hansen's also are very excited about the prospects of the rhododendron blooming season this year with the return of the Rhododendron Festival after seven long years of being absent from the arts scene in North Georgia.

The festival will be held beginning Friday, April 19th and continue each weekend through Sunday, May 12th.

Specialty selected vendors will be offering a variety of handcrafted garden arts and crafts in the upper parking

level at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

"Admission and parking to 'crafters row' is free," said Catherine. Hansen. "The yearly tradition of strolling through the magnificent and rare beauty of more than 400 rhododendrons in an explosion of colors and varieties has just been made even more wondrous with the return of the Rhododendron Festival," said Catherine Hansen. "After a long cold winter, nothing says 'spring is here' quite like the blooming of the rhododendrons at Hamilton Gardens."

Watershed...continued from page 1A

quirements, cost-share schedules, and what to look for when detecting septic problems," said Fuller.

"These door hangers will be distributed in targeted areas throughout the watershed where the most nutrient reductions are anticipated to have a big impact on water quality," said Fuller.

The coalition has provided a list of symptoms to help residents determine if they have a septic problem.

Sewage backup in drains or toilets; slow flushing toilets

or drains which drain much slower than usual despite the use of a plunger or drain cleaning products; surface flow of waste water or noticeable liquid seeping along the surface of the ground near septic tank which may or may not have an odor.

Lush green grass over the drain field, even in dry weather is an indicator that an excessive amount of liquid from the septic system is moving up through the soil (instead of downward, as it should).

The presence of nitrates and bacteria in well water which

indicate that liquid from the system may be flowing into the well through the ground or over the surface. Water tests available from the Towns County Health Department will indicate if you have an issue.

A build-up of aquatic weeds or algae in lakes, ponds, or streams adjacent to residences may indicate that nutrient-rich septic system waste is leaching into the surface water. This may be both inconvenient and a possible human health concern.

Lastly, an unpleasant

odor around the residence often associated with improperly vented or failing systems.

Fuller urges residents that are the recipients of the 'door hangers' to read the packets carefully, determine if they have a septic issue, and contact her at (706) 970-9069 if they have a question.

"A limited amount of funding is available. Targeted areas will have the first opportunity for funding," said Fuller, "however, funding may be extended to areas of lower priority."