

Gibby...continued from Page 1A

knowledge of this community and his experience with our school system will serve to be an asset for the entire school system."

"I have been told how Mr. Bob is a true proponent for the children of Towns County and that one priority is at the preface for all his decisions," Williams said. "His character speaks for itself. I look forward to learning from his experience and his wisdom."

Gibby said being a board member comes with a certain

degree of energy and labor.

"There is a learning curve when one comes on the board of education, because laws governing schools change, and finance is different, but I am learning and happy to serve with a great group of board members," said Gibby.

"As you all know, one does not serve because of their love for the money," he said. "I, and the others, serve for this county, the schools, and the youth that will come through its system," said Gibby.

Fundraiser...continued from Page 1A

say 'what can I do for my community,'" said Langley.

Langley told the eager crowd that braved frigid temperatures to be a part of this special day that he sees law as a ministry, not as a job.

"Whatever you do, you are called to do it," said Langley.

He challenged the youth and the adults to challenge themselves in whatever they do.

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"Through the program and with Mrs. Garrett's help, I was able to gain many leadership and public speaking skills, as well as invaluable contacts that I am able to use on a daily basis," said Bradley.

"I can say from personal experience that the program provides experiences and skills that I believe cannot be learned anywhere else," Bradley said. "The skills I learned have made my transition from high school to college much easier. I couldn't be more thankful for the opportunity I had to be a part of the Towns County FFA."

"My challenge to the adults is to invest in young people and my challenge to the youth is to learn a skill; develop something you can do that others can't, something that sets you apart from the rest," said Langley.

"Once you gain knowledge and skill, no one can take it away from you," Langley said in his continued challenge to the youth present.

"We have all had someone who inspired us and were mentors to us during our formative years," he said. "Someone who helped us become the people we are today."

"Rest assured, the time and money spent here today will go toward a great cause," said Bradley.

Bradley is currently attending the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega, pursuing a degree in business.

Senate District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson expressed his regret for being unable to attend the event and said, "FFA is a valuable and worthwhile part of the public school system and I'm glad to see folks getting behind this program."

"We are here to mentor these young people and to help them along," he said.

Langley's speech was well received and the event was a total success according to Sam Fullerton who took to the stage on behalf of the Mountain Movers and Shakers to present another check to Towns County Agriculture Teacher/FFA Advisor Sabrina Garrett in the amount of \$1,150.

"The Movers and Shakers have declared 2013 as the 'Year of Our Youth' in Towns County," said Fullerton. "We have pledged our support to Sabrina and we have already donated \$1,250 making this a total of \$3,400 and we aren't done yet," said Fullerton.

"FFA gives the youth of Towns County the opportunity to serve as public officers, learn parliamentary skills, conduct meetings, travel, attend leadership conferences, and meet peers from around the state. They also get to learn about careers in agri-business which is the biggest industry in our state. Basically, it helps prepare them for whatever they decide to do after high school," said Wilkinson, Chairman of the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee for the state senate.

The many guests who attended had the opportunity to peruse the many donated silent auction items, place their bids, and hope no one overbid them.

Glen Greenwald of the VFW Post 7807 also presented Garrett with a \$100 donation on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

At press time, there had been a total of \$4,000 in combined donations and hopes of more money yet to come.

Garrett humbly accepted the donations and said, "Thank you all for coming out today and for what you are doing for these kids."

"All the money raised will go to purchase needed supplies and materials for them to use in the classroom, shop, and greenhouse. It's all going back to the kids," she said. "We try to teach skills that the students can use after they leave high school. Something they can build on, make a living with, and go on to advance their skill at a college or technical school if they choose to."

They also indulged in the huge array of main dishes, finger foods, and desserts available, enjoyed live music provided by The Minette's, Matt Griffith, and DJ Cool Poppa, and kept their fingers crossed hoping to be a winner of one of the many door prizes given away every 15 minutes throughout the event.

A total of 73 local businesses and community members, too numerous to be mentioned, but greatly deserving of appreciation and recognition, supported this fundraising effort with their donations of time, silent auction items, door prizes, and monetary donations.

Former TCHS student and FFA President Jeannie Bradley was there to attest to the possibilities that the Agri-business program and FFA involvement can offer.

"Thank you in advance for supporting the FFA program today," said Bradley. "I was an FFA officer for seven

years with Sabrina Garrett. I won the State Extemporaneous Speaking competition and went on to place sixth in the nation.

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Appointments...continued from Page 1A

In other business, Kendall appointed B.J. Peters to the Towns County Fire Board in the position previously held by the late Archie "Bubba" Reece.

He joins Fire Board members Chairman Clint Hobbs, Vice-Chairman Bud Dyer, Hugh Howell, and Marty Roberts.

Video...continued from Page 1A

was without audio.

"I guess it was in 2006 that they showed the original centennial program. There was no audio and people were just talking, explaining, and identifying as they could. So later Lynne (Marshall) got David Sellers to copy it on DVD and had Steve Holmes, Howard Cunningham, and me come to this studio and taped us telling what we could about it and he added the sound to it," said Taylor.

A highlight of the video was Miss Centennial Betty Brown (Young Harris) who shared the honors with Miss Towns County Claudine Presley (Hiawassee). They rode in the parade accompanied by their 'Ladies of the Court,' Etie Sue Hunt of Young Harris,

Janice Wilson of Hiawassee, Janice Eller of Titus, and Joeda Taylor of Presley.

In an excerpt from the *Towns County Herald* (July 13, 1956), Fiddlin' Howard wrote, "It is extremely difficult to find words to show my appreciation to every person who helped make the Centennial celebration a success."

Cunningham gave credit to many.

"My hat is off to our beloved editor, Rev. J.K. Hutchins who has published column after column in his newspaper to promote this celebration, to Mr. and Mrs. E.N. Nicholson who have worked with me constantly and whose ability is widely recognized due to the success of the Georgia Mountain Fair, to the honorable Mayor H. H.

Lady Indians...continued from Page 1A

the first round of the state tournament last Tuesday, Melton was given a plaque in honor of his passing Dion Eller last year for the coach with the most career wins in basketball at TCHS with 273 and he was presented a trophy for the 300 career wins by the Lady Indians and TCHS Athletic Director Jonathan Gibson.

With the 2013 season still in progress at this writing, Melton has 302 wins after his Lady Indians added the Region 8-A Tournament Championship with a win over George Walton Academy on Feb. 16th and the first round state tournament victory over Calhoun County on Feb. 22nd.



Lady Indians' fans celebrate a playoff win. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

His teams have averaged an astounding 20.1 wins per season for his nearly completed 15 years at the helm at one of the smallest and competitive public schools in the state.

The Lady Indians have won 20 or more games in each of the last seven seasons and a total of nine times overall under Melton's direction.

The win over the Lady

Cougars set the stage for a home court Elite 8 showdown with the Lady Indians facing Claxton High School on Tuesday, with the winner of that game qualifying for the State Final Four round against the winner of a Tuesday game between Gordon Lee and Seminole County.

With the state tournament schedule and arrival of the *Towns County Herald* to readers not

always conducive to learning of games in time to attend them, advance details about potential match ups will continue as in last week's newspaper.

Meanwhile, five of the Calhoun County's losses came at the hands of fellow Region 1-A foes Randolph-Clay, Mitchell County, and Seminole County, with those three teams and the Lady Indians combining

as half of the teams remaining for the Elite 8 round of the Class A Tournament.

The other three losses for the Lady Cougars in addition to the region foes and the Lady Indians, came at the hands of higher classification opponents including Lowndes, Dougherty, and Early County.

The Lady Cougars also claimed victories over Dougherty and Early County during the season and fell by just 2 points in one of two games played against Top Seed Randolph-Clay.

The Final Four game featuring the winner of the game between the Lady Indians and Claxton will be held on Friday, March 1, at 4 p.m. at Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, located some 25 miles south of Macon.

If victorious over Claxton and in the semi final round at Fort Valley State University, the Lady Indians will qualify for the Class A Public State Championship game at 3 p.m. next Thursday, March 7, in the Macon Coliseum.

Taylor...continued from Page 1A

book.

"The family sketches are arranged in alphabetical order allowing descendants of Towns County pioneer families ease of access in utilizing the book as they trace their families back for several generations," said Taylor.

Taylor says he's been asked by a lot of folks if there are any plans for a second volume of *Hearthstones*.

Taylor's answer: 'yes.'

He already has a lot of material on hand for a *Hearthstones of Home, Volume II*.

"After this reprint effort, I will begin work in earnest toward a Volume II," says Taylor.

This could very well be your last opportunity to own this part of Towns County History according to Taylor.

"This reprint will be the last for Volume I. I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is for the present generation to understand the importance of preserving their copy now as a family heirloom to pass down through the generations," Taylor said. "Also, please let your relatives not living in the

area know about this rare opportunity."

The 336-page reprint is a hard bound, collector's edition with rich, gold-stamped cover, closely matching the first printing. Pre-orders will be taken through March 15th and the anticipated delivery date is June 2013.

Taylor, a many-generational native of Towns County, is a retired history teacher who dedicated 32 years of service to the Towns County School System. He currently serves on the Towns County Board of

Education.

In 1999, then Towns County Sole Commissioner Jack Dayton honored Taylor with the distinguished title of Towns County's official historian.

To verify exactly which families are included, you may preview a copy of the original book located in the Towns County School Library, or the Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris or Hiawassee.

For more details, call Taylor at (706) 379-3150, or e-mail him at br686@windstream.net.

Recruits...continued from page 1A

primary search, and escaping a hostile environment.

Lt. James Free of Hall County was in charge of overseeing both the written and skill-based testing.

Evaluators on site were Capt. Terry Parker, James Coward, Brian Hollingshead, and Jonathan Wilson.

The Towns County Fire Department currently has a total of nine instructors.

The new recruits have also completed eight hours of instruction on Hazardous Materials Awareness Level (Hazmat) and have taken their National Hazardous Materials Awareness Test.



Marty Roberts makes it through the wall. Photo/Libby Shook

Doug Mills, division chief of Training, said, "We strive to get the same level of professionalism and training for our volunteer firefighters as a paid full-time fire department."

"Not all volunteer fire departments require the NPQ1 training for their volunteer firefighters. We are running 1,400-1,500 calls per year. We want

our firefighters as well prepared as possible," said Mills.

"Being a firefighter is a passion and a lifestyle," said Mills who has worked as a firefighter in Hall County for almost 30 years.

Mills has "brought his vast knowledge to Towns County" according to Coward, who also works with the Hall County Fire Department, volunteers with the Towns County

Fire Department, and Towns County EMS.

In fact, Coward was serving as an evaluator on what was supposed to be his day off.

According to Mills, the new recruits will begin a 40-hour Hazardous Materials Operations class and an Emergency Medical Responder class, which will be coming up the end of this month.

Towns County currently has 57 volunteer firefighters on roll, including dive instructors and support firefighters.

Volunteers meet training requirements monthly and "are coming to training meetings every couple of weeks," said Mills.

"This recruit class performed very well and will be an asset to Towns County," said Mills.

Senate Bill 100 breathes new life into Commission

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
libby.tcherald@windstream.net



Sen. John Wilkinson

The Georgia Senate passed Senate Bill 100, sponsored by District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson, to reestablish the Career and Technical Education Advisory Commission by a vote of 47-2 last week.

Sen. Wilkinson, who represents Towns County in Senate District 50, said the Career and Technical Education Advisory Commission has been successfully reviewing the conditions, needs and challenges of career and technical education programs in Georgia.

visory Commission, which was originally enacted in 2006 and expired on Dec. 31.

The Commission would include four House Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, four Senators appointed by the President of the Senate, three non-legislative members appointed by the Governor, and three non-legislative members appointed by the State School Superintendent.

All members will serve

two-year terms coinciding with the legislative term. The Commission will meet at least once, but no more than four times, annually.

The Department of Education will report annually to the Commission regarding Georgia's career and technical education program.

Based on this information, the Commission will periodically review the program and issue an annual report to the General Assembly recommending any necessary action or legislation related to its findings.

Also last week, state senators approved a measure to allow Georgia's ginseng crop and an extra two weeks to mature before harvest under Senate Bill 81.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources believes SB 81 will help sustain the state's ever popular ginseng crop.

Ginseng grows wild in the North Georgia mountains, where it's harvested for the

medicinal value of its roots.

Dried ginseng roots can fetch almost \$400 a pound.

Old timers say it takes about 200 or so plants to make a pound, so there's quite a bit of work involved in the cultivation of wild ginseng.

Harvesters must make sure the ginseng is mature.

Also, they must plant ripe berries taken from the ginseng at the same location where it was picked from.

Current law allows ginseng to be gathered beginning Aug. 15. The proposed SB 81 would change that to Sept. 1 to allow more time for the berries to ripen. Ginseng may be harvested through New Year's eve.

A federal permit is required to harvest Ginseng. SB 81 would keep Georgia in line with federal regulations.

Sen. Wilkinson said SB 81 now goes to the House for consideration.

It passed the Senate on a 43-3 vote, Sen. Wilkinson said.

"This information has been reported back to the General Assembly for seven years," said Sen. Wilkinson. "They've done an outstanding job, and Senate Bill 100 will allow them to continue to perform this vital task."

SB 100 repeals the sunset provision for the Career and Technical Education Ad-

visory Commission, which was originally enacted in 2006 and expired on Dec. 31.

The Commission would include four House Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, four Senators appointed by the President of the Senate, three non-legislative members appointed by the Governor, and three non-legislative members appointed by the State School Superintendent.

All members will serve

Hunter who has traveled mile after mile with me at his own expense, to our Ordinary Hon. Claude Swanson, to our Sheriff Ed Barnard who generously provided horses for many and so ably led the parade, and to Walter Brown who presided over the program."

Cunningham acknowledged that there was not enough space in the newspaper to recognize every person "who contributed to the success of our centennial."

According to Cunningham, the idea behind this event was "To have a Centennial celebration that would honor our ancestors and to show the world that we, of today, are truly proud to be a part of Towns County."

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