

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Thur: Cloudy | 84 62 |
| Fri: Cloudy | 72 54 |
| Sat: Cloudy | 74 54 |
| Sun: Sunny | 83 59 |
| Mon: Showers | 86 63 |
| Tue: Storms | 86 64 |
| Wed: Storms | 86 62 |



| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Upstream Elevation Predicted 05/30/12 | |
| Lake Chatuge | 1924.61 |
| Lake Nottely | 1773.47 |
| Blue Ridge | 1673.12 |

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Farmers Market

The Towns County Farmers' Market will debut on Saturday. You will be needed to be a part of this new adventure for the county. Beginning on the Saturday the old tennis courts on Highway 76 West will be used for anyone in the county who has grown vegetables, fruits, plants, or honey and wants to sell the overflow crops with only a \$5 entrance fee. Come to the Extension Office in Hiawassee, located in the lower part of the Senior Center, and get an application and Market rules any time from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or call (706) 896-2024 for details.

Banners and signs will be put up ahead of time, the road down to the fenced area will be graveled, and one side of the fence will be rolled back so vendors can drive in and park. Big wooden cable spools will be used as tables. We hope you will plan your garden with this outlet in mind and get the whole family involved—children won't mind hoeing weeds if they know they will share in making some money for their efforts.

Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall is making this area temporarily available. We will be looking for larger property as this grows. See you there to buy or sell on Saturday, June 2, at 8 a.m.

Yard Sale

The annual County-wide Yard Sale will be this Friday and Saturday, June 1-2. Fire Corps will be one of the many non-profit organizations that will be participating, but only on Saturday from 8 a.m. Look for us on the square at the corner by Andersons. All monies raised will go directly to the Towns County Fire Department.

Towns County says good bye to Class of 2012

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

Friday night was a life altering and memorable event for the 58 Towns County High School Seniors that walked across the aisle of the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium, waved to family and friends, took their seats, and waited anxiously for the graduation ceremony to begin.

Everyone stood and cheered this very bright and deserving group of young men and women—the Graduating Class of 2012.

The program opened with the traditional Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the National Anthem which was performed by Courtney Farmer.

Ali Bleckley welcomed and acknowledged her fellow classmates, family, friends, teachers, faculty

and staff.

"I want to welcome everyone in celebration of this milestone we have reached. We've made it," Bleckley said.

Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren stepped up to the podium.

"We want to welcome you tonight for what will be a night we will always remember. Seniors, we will miss you here at Towns County High School," Perren said.

Perren recognized the academic achievements and great honors earned by Historian Kristie McConnell, Salutatorian Jessica Rogers, and Valedictorian Jeannie Bradley.

"These students are very deserving of this honor. They've worked hard to be at this point in their lives," Perren said.

McConnell stood to address her fellow class-



Jeannie Bradley

mates. "I am honored to stand before you as your Historian. I've known each of you for the past 6 years; that's been a blessing on its own," she said. "Time is the most powerful entity that we possess. We will always be to the utmost grateful for memories that time cannot take

away from us.

"The time that has passed led us to our senior day," she said. "We now have the opportunity to create our own paths. Take advantage of opportunities and dreams that come your way."

Rogers was up next to the podium to present her Salutatory Address.

"This is the day we have waited for all our lives, graduation! We are at a crossroad of our lives. We have many happy memories of yesterday and many hopes and dreams of tomorrow. Family, friends, faculty, and staff members, we are very blessed; thank you for everything," said a very humble Rogers.

"Spend time wisely while still taking time to enjoy life. The goal is to make sure that the lives we live is one that we won't mind waking up to," Rogers con-

cluded.

The time had finally come when Jeannie Bradley would address her fellow classmates as Valedictorian of the Class of 2012. "We have all reached a milestone here tonight, but the journey is just beginning. We will walk away from here tonight ready to face any obstacle. I challenge you to accomplish your goals; take what you know and apply it. Enjoy the journey, not just the destination," said Bradley.

The culmination of the night's events was the presentation of the Class of 2012 by Principal Perren. He stood before the students and boldly proclaimed, "Well, here you are! This is your special day."

"While this is a very small class, it's also a very

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Hiawassee man drowns in Nottely

By Charles Duncan
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Blairsville - The search for Jamie Ian Worley came to a close on Monday when divers with the Georgia State Patrol Dive Team recovered the 18-year-old's body from the chilly waters of Lake Nottely in Union County.

At 11:15 a.m., two



Jamie Ian Worley

divers from the Georgia State Patrol Dive Team discovered the body of the 18-year-old boy that lived and worked in Hiawassee. Worley was a night shift stocker at Ingles of Hiawassee.

Union County Sheriff Scott Stephens said that



Union County Dive Team members complete their dive on Sunday. A Georgia State Patrol dive team recovered Nottely's first drowning victim of 2012. Photo by Todd Forrest

Union County Deputy Coroner Benny Brookshire is in charge of the investigation to determine cause of death. The cause of death is undetermined at this point, Sheriff Stephens said.

"We can't speculate on causes," he said. "We'll just have to wait until the medical results come back to give us a final say on what happened to this young man."

Worley's mother, Shannon Ashe, said that she'll remember a boy who loved to play sports. His first year wrestling, his mother said he

finished the season 15-0.

"It's extremely hard to deal with all of this now," Shannon Ashe said. "I haven't slept in two nights."

"As a child, and until the day he died, Jamie was a very sweet and loving child," Shannon Ashe said. "He enjoyed sports, he played baseball, he played football, and he wrestled and ran Cross Country. He was a little fellow, but he never let that bother him. He loved to fish, he loved his sister

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Gunter, George to serve Enotah Bench

By Charles Duncan
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Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal has made a final decision regarding who will preside over the two vacant Enotah Judicial Circuit judgeships.

Gov. Deal selected Blairsville's Stan Gunter and Dahlonega's Raymond George to fill the vacancies created when Senior Enotah Circuit Judge David Barrett retired, and Enotah Circuit Judge Lynn Alderman resigned in March, according to the Governor's Office.

The two men are scheduled to be sworn in by Gov. Deal on June 7th, according to the Governor's Office. They will assume their duties immediately after their swearing-in ceremony, according to the Governor's Office.

Gunter, whose father once presided over the Mountains bench that included Union and Towns counties, and George, were selected from a short list of



Raymond George



Stan Gunter

five candidates that also included Hiawassee attorney Rick Stancil, White County attorney Stan Lawson, and White County Magistrate Judge Joy Parks.

Gunter and George will join Enotah Circuit Se-

See Judges, page 14

Memorial Day, time to reflect; remember

By Libby Shook
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Monday morning was a beautiful day at the Towns County Veterans' Park.

The sky was blue; the sun was shining; there was a nice breeze in the air.

It was certainly a nice day for a picnic, cookout, or a boat ride on this beautiful Memorial Day holiday.

But the folks that came out to the Veterans' Park were single-minded and of one accord.

They were there in honor and remembrance of those who fought and

See Reflect, page 14



The sound of Taps puts a hush over the Monday crowd as Memorial Day is recognized in Towns County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Fifth Horsin' BBQ a smash success

By Libby Shook
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The Stables at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris was definitely the hot spot in Towns County Saturday morning.

They were literally up and running early as the 5K, 1-mile Fun run started at 8 a.m., but the fun and excitement was just getting started.

This was the site of one of the best events of the season, the Fifth Annual Horsin' Around BBQ Show-

See BBQ, page 14



The BBQ was mighty tasty again this year. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Qualifying ends; Kimsey won't seek return to BOE

Rogers, Dye unopposed; Kendall, Clinton have opposition

By Charles Duncan
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Qualifying for the 2012 primary and general election has concluded with a surprise or two.

Post 4 Board of Education member Larry Kimsey did not qualify for reelection. There are two hats in the Post 4 non-partisan race, Rodney Thomas and former BOE member Bob Gibby.

In Post 5, Incumbent Donna Hedden faces two challengers, Laura Diehl and Penny Ledford. Both BOE races are non-partisan.

Two county officials were unopposed following qualifying. Incumbent County Clerk of Courts, Cecil Dye is running with out opposition as is Probate Judge David Rogers.

Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, the incumbent, qualified for reelection on the Democratic ticket. He'll face opposition in November as Steven Gerdes has qualified on the Republican ticket.

Incumbent Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton qualified on the Republican ticket for reelection. He'll face Darren Osborn, who

qualified as a Democratic candidate for sheriff.

Incumbent Tax Commissioner Bruce Rogers qualified for reelection on the Democratic ticket and will face Republican opposition in Bill Kuykendall in November.

Incumbent County Coroner Ricky Mathis qualified for reelection on the Democratic ticket and will face November opposition when he faces Republican Tashina Hall Eller.

In the Georgia General Assembly, Republican State Sen. John Wilkinson faces no opposition in the upcoming Primary or the November general election.

In the State House, Republican State Rep. Stephen Allison faces opposition in November when he will face Rabun County Democrat Jana Hill for the District 8 House seat.

In State House District 7, Georgia House Speaker David Ralston, of Blue

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

