

Neighbors...continued from page 1

motor pool of patrol deputies are paying dividends.

"I'm proud of our guys," Sheriff Clinton said. "I give all the credit to our deputies. I can't say enough good things about the people that come to work here every day. They're dedicated, they could make more money in another county, but they realize the grass isn't always greener on the other side."

"When you pin on a badge in Towns County, it's all about protecting and preserving the peace," he said. "The folks that work for the Sheriff's Department, well, I'll say it again, you can't say enough good things about them - they're truly dedicated."

Sheriff Clinton attributes the lower crime rates to a lot of eyes out there - public and private.

Sheriff Clinton took office in late December 2007. Essentially, 2008 was his first year as sheriff. He tweaked procedures at the jail; he established a Standard Operating Procedure for his department and he listened to his group of professionals.

"We use the very policies set in place by the Georgia Sheriff's Association," Sheriff Clinton said.

The Sheriff instituted a

policy of tight courthouse security, to assure the safety of the everyday people working inside the Towns County Courthouse.

"Those duties fall to the sheriff, and we make sure that all important building of justice is safe and secure," Sheriff Clinton said. "That's another aspect of our jobs."

Sheriff Clinton also instructed his patrol deputies to crackdown on illegal drug trafficking during the early days of his administration.

"When you crack down on drug trafficking, you're cracking down on 80 to 90 percent of your crimes against persons and property," the sheriff said. "We went to work right away to address that phase of the crime equation."

The sheriff said his department also raised the bar on new hires and promotions based on a comprehensive policy of state and nationally recognized standards.

"Once those measures were in place, we noticed that crime had progressively gone down 30 percent from 2007 to date," the sheriff said. "Crime numbers have dwindled each year. But, that's not enough."

"There are people still out there that are victims; my family was the victim of a burglary when I was 12 years old," he said. "I will never forget how that feels as long as I live. I won't be satisfied until there is no family in Towns County that is affected by crime."

"We have a very involved community, one that is anxious to help stop crimes as they happen," Sheriff Clinton said. "No, we'll never ask anyone to forcibly stop a crime in progress, but we depend on those eyes to witness crime and call us when we're needed."

"If you've got 10,000 sets of eyes watching out for their community, crime comes to a crawl," Sheriff Clinton said. "I can't brag enough about our deputies, but here in Towns County, they've got a lot of backup; the people who pay their salaries."

In next week's edition of the Towns County Herald, meet the men and women of the Towns County Sheriff's Office who protect and serve our community. Also, we'll breakdown the crime numbers and help our readers understand how they too can help reduce Towns County's crime rate.

The Hall...continued from page 1

five that reached No. 1. Tritt also has two Platinum albums to his credit, *Country Club* and *T-R-O-U-B-L-E*.

His second album, *It's All About To Change* yielded three Top 3 hits, *Anymore*, *The Whiskey Ain't Workin'*, and *Here's A Quarter (Call Someone Who Cares)*.

Tritt isn't the only act in Towns this week. In fact, there are three more per-

formers, Grammy-nominated artist Jeremy Camp, Francesca Battistelli and Adam Cappa will perform Thursday night at The Music Hall. Tickets for the event range from \$35 plus \$2 handling, to \$20 plus \$2 handling.

The show starts at 7 p.m., the doors to Anderson Music Hall open at 7 p.m.

And don't forget next week's performer: Randy

Travis. The Country Music legend will be in town March 24. It's time to lock in your tickets now or forget about seeing Randy Travis. Missing the concert could be like being stuck in 1982. Tickets are in short supply and hot demand. The price of a Randy Travis Concert: \$40 plus \$2 handling.

Call (706) 896-4191 for more details.

Gingrich...continued from page 1

U.S. House of Representatives and once served as the country's Speaker of the House. He has also claimed victory this election year in South Carolina, which has selected the GOP presidential candidate for the past

two decades. However, both Gingrich and Santorum are likely to keep Romney from clinching the GOP nomination before the GOP Convention.

Locally, more than 26

percent of the registered voters turned out to cast ballots in the presidential preference primary.

It was a solid turnout considering that there were no local issues to be decided on the ballot.

HOSA...continued from page 1

the state level during a recent three-day event in Athens. HOSA is a national student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education. HOSA's membership has grown steadily since 1976 and now reaches from Puerto Rico to Alaska. Georgia has the largest membership of any state at over 10,000 middle, high school and college level students.

Seventeen students from Towns County competed individually and in teams. The competitions are all designed to enhance the students' knowledge of healthcare occupations and health-related issues. Of the 17 students who competed, eight placed in the Top 10. Unlike athletic organizations, the competitions are not divided up by school size. The students had to compete

against the largest school districts in the state and against magnet schools from across the state. There were more than 3,000 students competing at the state conference this year.

Towns County has had a HOSA chapter for many years, but this is the first time they have gone to competition. This year the school hired a new teacher, Suzanne Crews to teach Health Occupations and to be the HOSA advisor. She came to Towns County after spending more than 20 years in the medical field. She has put a lot of hard work into the club, and her encouragement has paid off for the students.

The students enjoyed getting ready for competition and gained a tremendous amount of knowledge

by competing. The students are judged by various community health professionals, such as physicians, college professors, nurses, paramedics, etc. They are recognized at an awards ceremony at the end of the competitions in front of the other attendees.

Also competing in the state competition for Towns County was Whitley Barrett, Amanda Chastain, Jamie Case, Matt Johnson, Lauren James, Stephanie Boyd, Sierra Rothbarth, Madison DeLong, William Lovelady, Emma Jackson, Alex King, Stephany Hooper, Maria Constantino, Whitney Higgins, Brooke-Anne Crews, Brooke Chastain, Makayla Moody, Eryn Cochran, Taylor Lewis and Savannah Crews.

GOP...continued from page 1

"I'm not running against Bruce Rogers, I'm running for the office of tax commissioner," Kuykendall said.

The former mayor of Young Harris touted his experience in political office and getting things done.

"In two terms as mayor of Young Harris, I was able to get things moving on a water distribution system, the wells and the tanks," Kuykendall said. "I was able to help secure street lighting because at the time, they had no street lighting to speak of except a 100 watt bulb every other street post."

"I was able to help get city streets refurbished and I was the first to put Christmas lights up," he said. "That was made up from money I took up in my barber shop." Kuykendall has been a

businessman for more than 50 years in Towns and Union counties.

"I think it's time to get the people more involved and informed about where the money is going, how they can file an appeal of the property taxes. I'd like to give the people of Towns County a better explanation of the county's tax base."

Ricky Mathis is the incumbent county coroner.

"I believe it is imperative that our county government has a better reflection of the demographics of Towns County," Eller said. "According to the 2010 U.S. Census, for 100 females 18 years old and older, there are 87.8 males. This county needs young women that are interested in the political area."

"By running for coroner, not only do I want to

break barriers of the political traditions of this county, I also want to open doors of opportunity for young people within the county," she said. "Fellow neighbors, let's make history in 2012."

If elected, Eller would become the first female coroner of Towns County since it was formed in 1956.

Eller graduated from Towns County High School in 2000, third in her class and as class president. She received a full academic scholarship to Young Harris College and later North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and a minor in criminal justice.

Eller could become the first female elected to public office in Towns County since 1976.

Bud Johnson...continued from page 1

"You are what this country is about," said Johnson, a retired Chief Quartermaster with the United States Navy. "I want to say thank you to all of our veterans. You make this country what it is today."

Johnson is among the last of a dying breed, U.S. World War II veterans. Johnson, along with Towns County's Leon West, are the only two Iwo Jima veterans in Northeast Georgia.

Johnson praised Commissioner Kendall and Mayor Mathis.

"I want to thank them for their service, for what they do for us every single

day," he said. "I'm proud to be from Towns County."

Commissioner Kendall said that he longs for a celebration of our World War II veterans, including his Sunday School classmate, Johnson.

"I want to extend a heartfelt gratitude for what our veterans have done for us," he said. "I think it's time that we honor them appropriately. I'd like to see them be the Grand Marshal in our Georgia Mountain Fair Parade. I think we can do that, I think we can honor them in a manner to which they should be honored here in Towns County."

Commissioner Kendall even proposed a banquet to honor the veterans and the Greatest Generation.

"I truly feel like we can put that together," Commissioner Kendall said. "We need to; we have to. It's the right thing to do."

Mayor Mathis also had high praise for Johnson and his undying devotion to Towns County.

"We want to sing our praises for our veterans, they're getting gone way too fast," Mayor Mathis said. "Bud is a fixture in our community and we're proud he calls our town his own. Thank you Bud."



Above: 'One piece of cake won't hurt,' and below, Bud Johnson gets the glad hand from Mayor Barbara Mathis at Daniel's Steakhouse on his birthday, March 7th. Photo/James Reese

Guitarist Dr. Matthew Anderson to perform at Young Harris College



Matthew Anderson, D.M.A.

Young Harris College's Division of Fine Arts will present a special performance by guitarist Matthew Anderson, D.M.A., as part of the "Sutherland Concert Series" Sunday, March 18, at 3 p.m. in Susan B. Harris Chapel on the Young Harris College campus. The concert is free and open to the public.

Dr. Anderson will perform a variety of classical guitar arrangements, including Eduardo Sainz de la Maza's *Campanas del Alba* and Emilio Pujol's *El Abejorro*. He will also perform an assortment of pieces by Cuban conductor, composer and guitarist Leo Brouwer, as well as Koyunbaba Op. 19 by Italian guitarist and composer Carlo Domeniconi.

Dr. Anderson is a concert artist, studio musician and founding member of the acclaimed chamber group, the Athens Guitar Trio. He has presented master classes throughout the country, and often performs solo and chamber music on a rare 11-string guitar built for him by renowned guitar builder Kenny Hill.

Born in San Jose, CA, Dr. Anderson moved to north Georgia at an early age.

American Legion Auxiliary meets

American Legion Auxiliary meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Blairsville Civic Center at 7 p.m.

All ladies who have had a husband, father, son, brother, or grandfather that served in military are eligible for membership.

We are a community service organization. If you would like to be a member please call Eulalie Jones, President at 706-745-7097 for more information. NO Mar 14 210 CA

For more information, call the Young Harris College Division of Fine Arts at (706) 379-5182. NT(Mar14Z10)CA

Responses to tornado damage



Nivek North trucks working on tornado damage

Fear, confusion, doubt and worry. There are countless emotions that passed through each of us during the recent storms. We have rarely been confronted with nature's wrath such as this. Our beloved mountains seem to protect us from most natural disasters. However, we have recently been bombarded with the reality that our sense of security is misplaced and that we are vulnerable to the devastating power of nature.

Cherokee County, NC bore the brunt of the damage during the March 2nd wave of storms. It has thrown into light just how vulnerable to destruction yet capable of self

recovery we are. Local companies exist who spend countless hours training and studying techniques to respond to these natural disasters.

Nivek North is a Blairsville company that specializes in disaster restoration. They were on site the morning after the storms with a platoon of restoration specialists and specialized equipment. It is a reassuring thought that a company exists to take care of our businesses or residential properties. Nivek North is a locally owned and operated, non-franchise, Georgia based company that will protect our mountain investments. NO Mar 14 210 CA

BLAIRSVILLE CINEMA

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WWW.BLAIRSVILLECINEMA.COM
706-745-1000

SHOW TIMES
FRIDAY, MARCH 16 - THURSDAY, MARCH 22

John Carter PG13
FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40
SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00
MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 4:00, 7:00

Dr. Seuss: The Lorax PG
FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 12:30, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00
SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY: 12:30, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50
MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 4:40, 6:50

The Secret World of Arrietty G
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 12:30, 2:40, 4:50
MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 4:50
WEDNESDAY: 2:40, 4:50

Gone PG13
FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 7:10, 9:30
SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 7:10
WEDNESDAY: 12:30, 7:10

SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW
TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR "The Hunger Games"
MIDNIGHT SHOWING THURSDAY, MARCH 22ND!
\$6 Adults • \$4 Children (12 & under) • \$5 Seniors (62+)
Adults \$5 Matinee Before 6 p.m.
FOR GROUPS CALL 706-745-1001