

Towns County Herald

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TCHS golf headed to state; Travis, Jenkins Area Low Medalists

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County High School Golf Teams are headed to the state tournament in Warner Robins on Monday, May 22, and Tuesday, May 23.

Of course, it takes a team to win a tournament, but two players in particular captured personal victories in the April 24 area competition that helped to put their respective teams into the Georgia High School Association's main event.

Will Travis and Kenzie Jenkins both won Low Medalists for their respective area competitions, which is a huge accomplishment for Towns County to have area Champions in both the boys and the girls' competitions.

Travis is a sophomore who has been playing golf for about three years now, and he

developed a real interest in the game after golfing with his uncle for the first time.

One thing that surprised Travis about golf was the physicality of the game – from the swing itself to having to carry around all those golf clubs, he found that golf demanded just as much out of him as other sports.

Travis is no stranger to athletics, either, as he plays on his high school's football and basketball teams.

And while Travis has a healthy respect for his other athletic endeavors, what sets golf apart for him is the passion he's developed for it, the self-discipline achieved in the mental aspects of the sport.

"I fell in love with the game," said Travis. "Once you hit one good shot, you're in love. I actually started playing Wii Golf, and then I went out and actually tried it – I just fell



Towns County High School Boys and Girls Golf Teams

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14-year-old girl uses money for firefighters, first responders

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Winnie Troy has a special place in her heart for first responders.

Which is why the 14-year-old Towns County Middle School student has chosen to show her appreciation by using money from her savings to purchase "challenge coins" for Towns County first responders.

A challenge coin is a coin that bears the insignia of an organization, and is meant to boost the morale of whomever should carry the coin.

The coins Winnie and her father Lee Troy delivered to No. 1 on Tuesday, May 2, bore the image of a firefighter in full

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L-R: Towns County Fire Lt. Blake Taylor, Lt. Justin Ledford, Capt. Jeff Scott, Winnie Troy, Fire Chief Harold Copeland and Lee Troy. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Hiawassee City Clerk Wylene White passes away

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Wylene White passed away at her home on Wednesday, May 10, at the age of 69.

White will be remembered for many things, including being a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She will also be remembered for her years of service to the City of Hiawassee, where she served as city clerk in Hiawassee City Hall for 26 years before retiring in October of 2014.

"I loved my job," said White in a 2014 interview with the *Towns County Herald*. "I enjoyed it, I really did – meeting people, and working around the people I worked with. It's just my second family, really."



Wylene White, former Hiawassee City Clerk

White stated that the time of her retirement was ready to get started doing "what I want to do and enjoy life. I'll have more time with my two sons and my one and only sister."

In retirement, White said she looked forward to reading.

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Arvel Walls retires as Hiawassee Police Chief

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

After more than 33 years in local law enforcement, Arvel Walls has retired as Hiawassee Police Chief.

Walls had been on medical leave from the Hiawassee Police Department since March, and he returned to light duty on Monday, May 8, following his brief illness.

During a department head meeting on Tuesday, May 9, Walls informed Hiawassee Mayor Pro Tem Liz Ordiales that he would be retiring later that day.

"We appreciate his many years of dedicated service to the Hiawassee Police Department, and we wish him all the best in his retirement," said Ordiales.



Arvel Walls, retired Hiawassee Police Chief

Walls has been a local peace officer since 1983, when he began working for the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

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Master Gardeners celebrate with new graduates at Crane Creek Vineyards

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Master Gardeners from Towns, Union and Fannin County put down their shovels to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and celebration for the Tri-County Master Gardeners Graduation at Crane Creek Vineyards on Thursday, April 20.

Dozens filled the vineyards' gazebo, enjoying the breathtaking view of the mountains, local wine and a plethora of homemade sandwiches, dips and evening's ceremonies began.

Fannin County Extension Agent Ayers began the

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Master Gardener mentors lined up to hand out graduation certificates to their mentees at Crane Creek Vineyards. Photo/Lily Avery

Dr. Lanier Nicholson takes stroll down medical memory lane

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Over the last 100 years, the lifestyle of the average American has changed drastically. From industrialization to modern medicine, fast-paced living has replaced the slow easiness of days gone by.

While Towns County stayed true to its heritage and small town living throughout the decades of change, the impact of modern medicine has been undeniable.

Attesting to the effects of that evolution Dr. Lanier Nicholson, long time physician and native of Towns County, shared 100 years of medicine



Dr. Lanier Nicholson

See Nicholson, Page 6A

Towns County Republicans supply state flag to fly at courthouse

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

For the first time ever, the Georgia state flag can be seen flying directly outside the Towns County Courthouse.

And residents can thank the Towns County Republican Party.

Representatives for the Towns County GOP delivered the flag to the courthouse at the beginning of May, after which the Towns County Commissioner's Office ordered, then installed the wall-mounted flagpole from which the state flag now flies.

Credit for the idea of putting the state flag outside

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L-R: Towns County Republican Party Chair Mark Wolchko, Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw and Towns County GOP Secretary Scott Ledford. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

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Lake Levels

Blue Ridge 1,684.13

Chatuge 1,924.75

Nottely 1,772.67

Congratulations,
CLASS OF 2017!

From the Staff of the

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and

West Printing Company