

# Towns County Herald

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## Fire Corps donates defibrillators to fire department

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

When an accident happens in the county, the Towns County Fire Department is typically one of the first responders on the scene, if not the very first.

Oftentimes being the first department to arrive means being the team responsible for stabilizing critical care patients until those individuals can be moved to the closest medical facility.

Now, with help from the Towns County Fire Corps, that job has been made a little bit easier. Last week, the Fire Corps donated seven brand new Zoll AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) to the fire department for use on patients experiencing cardiac arrest.

An AED is a device that recognizes a heart in

cardiac arrest – when the heart stops beating abruptly and unexpectedly – and looks for shockable heart rhythms to administer shocks to, in hopes of restoring a regular heartbeat.

“This is similar to a cardiac monitor that is carried in an ambulance,” said Director Walls, Deputy EMA Director. “Unlike those, this does it all itself. They have two big pads that go on, similar to the defibrillators you see on T.V.”

“In the event of a cardiac arrest, or you find someone who is pulseless and you’re not sure, you put these on and it will walk the person through the steps of CPR. It reads the heart rhythms and pretty much does everything on its own.”

Before receiving the new defibrillators, the fire department had out-of-date equipment that, while it served its purpose, was not able to

function at the capacity and level that the department needed.

“What we had was old, outdated technology,” said Walls. “The units themselves were getting pretty old. The manufacturer had actually discontinued them and we couldn’t get parts and we couldn’t get the manufacturer batteries anymore. So, the machines just needed to be replaced. The technology in these, compared to the ones we had, those were Honda Civics, and those are jet airplanes.”

“The batteries had reached the end of their serviceable life. The batteries themselves were about \$150 to replace and we couldn’t get the manufacturer batteries anymore. So, the machines just needed to be replaced. The technology in these, compared to the ones we had, those were Honda Civics, and those are jet airplanes.”

Unlike the older models, the new AEDs use easily found lithium batteries that can be replaced at an affordable price, making them more economical

for the department. Along with the Zoll AEDs, each device came with a nice carry case and the department also received training equipment, which has already been put to good use.

“These are about \$1,500 a piece, which is a lot for the fire department to replace,” said Walls. “We have a pretty good relationship with the Zoll representative here in Towns County and she provided us the training unit at no cost, which is about a \$400 piece of equipment. All but two of our fire department members have been trained on how to use them.”

“Hopefully these new devices sit and we don’t ever have to use them but when they’re needed, these are extremely important lifesaving equipment.”

Rather than the old  
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L-R: Towns County Fire Corps President Colleen Gibson, Fire Chief Harold Copeland, Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw and Deputy EMA Director Brandon Walls. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Sheriff raises money for youth with help from CLEA

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Sheriff’s Office and the Towns County CLEA (Citizen Enforcement Agency) held the Second Annual Towns County Sheriff’s Office Fundraiser Dinner and Auction for the benefit of the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center on Saturday, June 17.

Dozens of CLEA volunteers and community members piled into the recreation center last weekend to enjoy a night of food and fellowship, all in the name of supporting the children in the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes.

Towns County Sheriff  
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The Chris Clinton Band. Pictured here: Chris and Crystal Clinton. Photo/Lily Avery

## Board of Education adopts FY18 budget as final

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Board of Education adopted the Fiscal Year 2018 final budget during its regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 12, at the Anne Oliver Mitchell Auditorium.

In the May regular meeting, the board had voted to publically advertise the tentative FY18 budget in preparation for last week’s vote.

“I think we’ve beat the budget into the ground for the past two months,” said Dr. Darren Berrong, Towns County Schools Superintendent. “We’ve gone over and discussed all of the supplements in the budget, so I do recommend that we approve the FY18 final budget



Towns County Board of Education Members Stan Chastain and Laura Banister. Photo/Lily Avery

and salary schedules.”  
According to prior publicized information regarding the budget, the school system runs a balanced budget, so looking at the tentative budget; the total expenditures and revenues for fiscal year 2018 each equal \$18,102,025.  
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## Macedonia Precinct staying put after emotional meeting

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

In a charged public meeting, the Towns County Board of Elections voted last week to relocate the Macedonia Precinct to Hiwassee – and then it didn’t.

The board voted 3-2 to relocate the precinct while keeping it open, but the vote ultimately changed to 3-2 against relocation, as Board Member Rob Murray resigned this “aye” vote at the end of the meeting.

A passionate public showed up to challenge the board’s expected vote to change the makeup of the Macedonia Precinct that Wednesday, June 14.

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Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton and Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw addressing the board in the June 14 meeting. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

## Indians to hold July 1 BBQ luncheon on Town Square

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians will be hosting their second annual barbecue fundraiser on the Hiwassee Town Square on Saturday, July 1, and the student athletes are hoping for a strong community turnout.

High school football players will be making themselves visible around town between now and the barbecue, selling the \$8 tickets for the luncheon that starts at 11 a.m. that Saturday.

Though advance ticket purchases and RSVPs are  
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Towns County Indian Trent Bradshaw in the 7-on-7 against White County on Thursday, June 15. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

## Osborn shares family history with historical society

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County Historical Society members and guests were treated to a night of Osborn family history, courtesy of Daren “Bear” Osborn, at the group’s monthly meeting on Monday, June 12.

The Osborn Family was one of the earliest settlers to Towns County, moving to the area in 1834. Those who made that trek over a century ago – Jesse Osborn, James Osborn and Nancy Osborn Wood, were the children of Jeremiah Osborn Jr., who lived in Buncombe County, North Carolina, which is now Henderson County, North Carolina.

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Daren “Bear” Osborn of Hiwassee. Photo/Lily Avery

## Gurtler, Ordiales and Smith address the Movers and Shakers

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

To celebrate the inaugural program at the Mountain Movers and Shakers new meeting location, Sundance Grill in Hiwassee, House District 8 Rep. Matt Gurtler spoke to the group about his first state legislative session on Friday, June 16.

Towns County High School and Mountain Movers and Shakers Speech Contest Alumni Adam Penland emceed the program and introduced Rep. Gurtler to the packed house last week.

During the meeting, Rep. Gurtler shared insights with constituents concerning his voting habits during the

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House District 8 State Rep. Matt Gurtler. Photo/Lily Avery

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