



GBI announces promotion of Dustin Hamby to Assistant Special Agent in Charge

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation announces the promotion of Dustin Hamby to Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office (ARDEO) in Cleveland, GA. ASAC Hamby will be responsible for the supervision of the Special Agents and Task Force Agents assigned to this work unit. ARDEO conducts high level drug investigations in the North Georgia area.

ASAC Hamby has been employed with the GBI for over 18 years. He began his GBI career as a Narcotics Agent at the Oconee Drug Task Force (ODTF) and the Macon Regional Drug Office. In 2005, ASAC Hamby was assigned as a Special Agent to the Region 1 Office in Calhoun, GA. ASAC Hamby transferred to the Region 8 Office in Cleveland, Georgia in 2006, where he was appointed as a Child Abuse Specialist, and served there until his promotion to ASAC. ASAC Hamby has also served as a Certified Law



Dustin Hamby
Enforcement Instructor for several years and has been one of the GBI agents responsible for teaching death investigations and interviews and interrogations to new GBI agents during that time.

ASAC Hamby began his law enforcement career in 2000 with the ODTF in Cochran, GA as a Task Force Agent. ASAC Hamby served at the ODTF until 2002, when he accepted a position as a Narcotics Agent with the GBI. During ASAC Hamby's time with the ODTF, he worked drug investigations in the Oconee Judicial Circuit.

ASAC Hamby received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of North Georgia in August of 2000.

Towns County Head Start taking applications

Towns County Head Start continues taking applications for 3- and 4-year-old children. Parents can pre-apply for Towns County Head Start at www.ndo.org or at www.towns.k12.ga.us/schools/PreK.

Parents should note that this is a pre-application and does not guarantee that their child has been accepted, selected, or given a slot or that they will be given a slot.

Towns County Head Start/Pre-K is a high-quality early childhood program that is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and is Day Care Licensed. The program was awarded 3 out of 3 stars from Georgia's Quality Rated and Improvement System.

No transportation is provided. For more information call 706-896-4131, extension 4.

VFW Post #7807 Karaoke Night

VFW Post #7807 on Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee hosts Karaoke at the VFW every Friday at 7 p.m. Come join us!

American Red Cross Volunteers

Make a difference in your community! As a volunteer with the American Red Cross, you can help families recover after a home fire, train individuals in first aid and CPR, support America's military families, or take on any number of other roles that make our communities safer, stronger and more resilient. Get started at <https://www.redcross.org/local/georgia/volunteer.html> or call your NWGA chapter office to ask about volunteer opportunities 844-536-6226.

Arrest and Fire Reports

Local law enforcement provides the following information for publication. Names are spelled as they were when received from the law enforcement agencies. It is important to remember that the following individuals have been charged only and are presumed innocent until such time as they are found guilty by a court or enter a guilty plea. Addresses of persons under arrest are no longer available from Sheriff's Office.



ARREST REPORT

Towns County Jail
Sheriff-Chris Clinton

8/9/20	Wallace Anderson Parole violation
8/3/20	Mark Woodrow Green Possession & use of drug-related objects, Possession of meth, Failure to drive w/in single lane, Probation violation
8/3/20	Anna Elizabeth Ingram Probation violation
8/7/20	Jonathan Phillip Kelley Probation violation
8/6/20	Samuel Clinton Ledford Failure to appear
8/3/20	Dennis Lee Wheeler Habitual violator, Possession of Schedule IV controlled substance, Willful obstruction of law enforcement officers (2 counts)
8/3/20	Jeffery Everett Arrowood Acquiring license plate for concealment, No insurance
8/3/20	Albert Lamon Askea Marijuana - possess less than 1 oz., Possession & use of drug-related objects, Theft by receiving stolen property - felony
8/3/20	Christy Marie Beasley Burglary - 1st degree, Burglary - 2nd degree (2 counts)
8/8/20	Austin Luke Bradley Marijuana - possess less than 1 oz., Pedestrian under the influence
8/4/20	Jennifer Ann Payne Possession & use of drug-related objects, Possession of meth
8/8/20	Craig Stephen Powers DUI - alcohol, Tail lights required
8/4/20	Frank Leon Woodard Drugs not in original container, Marijuana - possess less than 1 oz., Possession & use of drug-related objects, Possession of meth

Flag Retirement Ceremony August 15

There will be a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Saturday, August 15 at 5 p.m. at the VFW 7807 in Hiawassee. Many American flags have flown proudly over our community but are now worn beyond repair. These flags will be retired with dignity and respect.

Anyone that has American flags in disrepair can drop them by the Hiawassee VFW Post located on Highway 288, Sunnyside Rd., between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m. daily. The public is invited to attend this ceremony. For more info call the VFW at 706-896-8387.

Republicans meet August 29th

August 29, 2020 Towns County Republican Party (TCGOP) will hold its August meeting as a GOP Rally and Armada II on Lake Chatuge! This meeting will be jointly sponsored by the TCGOP, Casa Bella Restaurant, and Patriot Plaza, Young Harris, GA. No fee but boat registration is required.

If you were a part of the First Armada, we want this even bigger. To make it special, we are offering a commemorative pennant for your boat for a one time fee of \$15 and you get a gold star for each Armada you are a part of. We also have commemorative t-shirts in many sizes, made in America, for \$20. The cut-off

date for ordering your pennant and tshirt is August 24th. Drop by Headquarters and check them out.

Sack lunches available through Casa Bella (6" ham or turkey sub, chips, and cookie) \$6 - cash only drinks available but not included. Order cut-off is Friday, August 28th @ 5:30. Call Connie @ 305-318-6694 or come by the restaurant, located in Patriot Plaza.

A Rally, followed by the Armada which starts at Boundary Waters, concluding at Marina Station. For more information contact TGOPchair@gmail.com or 904-382-1912

Clarence "Bud" Johnson, a WWII Vet, will be the Admiral of the Fleet.

Paradise 56 rocks the Hiawassee Town Square August 15th

A fun, high-spirited band based in Franklin, NC, Paradise 56 is a perennial favorite of our audiences in Towns County... we invite them back year after year!

The band performs a great mix of Country, Classic Rock, Blues and Reggae. They do not want to be "labeled" as to the type of music they play, but instead, take pride in the wide variety of music they perform, including some original songs written by band leader, Bryan Loy.

Loy owns The Paradise Music stores in Franklin and Blairsville. The band's first CD... Ballads and the Blues,

was released in 2012. Of the 11 songs on the album, almost half of them are written by Loy, and have been performed with various bands. Loy has a quick and engaging sense of humor, which shines through during their lively performance!

So join in the fun this Saturday, August 15 from 6:30-8 PM on the Hiawassee Town Square.

We will not have a rain venue for the remainder of the Season (August 15 - September 12) since there are Covid restrictions on no more than 50 people gathering indoors! So we pray for good weather, and we'll see you on the Square!

Berrong...from Page 1A

get classes clean throughout the day."

"All teachers are going to have cleaning solutions in their classrooms so they can clean desks and things between classes," Berrong added. "We're doing everything we know that we can do to try to keep the place as safe as humanly possible."

A list of the various virus precautions the schools are taking is available at towns.k12.ga.us, to include daily staff and student temperature checks to screen for COVID-19, and classes will be partaking in "no assemblies, no field trips" for the time being.

As with every corner of society, the school system is dealing with the inevitability of positive coronavirus cases, and Berrong said the schools will continue to do so while keeping people as safe as possible throughout the school year.

"It's not a matter of if someone in the system gets it while in school, it's just when," Berrong said. "What we have to do is try to work with the Department of Public Health and try to figure out who gets quarantined and who does not."

"Our original plan was, if so many individuals got the virus, we'd shut the whole

school down. But the way we've now scheduled things, our hope is that, if someone, say, in the seventh grade gets the virus, we can simply quarantine the seventh grade and everybody else can continue to go to school."

Sadly, two Georgia children under the age of 18 had passed away from COVID-19 by press time: one 17-year-old young man with underlying health conditions earlier this year, and a 7-year-old boy with no known health problems last week. But nearly without exception, children survive infections.

"It's a very small percentage of kids 1-18 who, No. 1, even contract the virus, and No. 2, the sickness rate and the death rate are very small," Berrong said. "The concern for kids is them taking it home to their parents and grandparents."

Of course, there are many unknowns about the year ahead, and Superintendent Berrong and his staff will be working hard to educate the children of the county while protecting them, too.

"The goal is safety and trying to keep kids safe, and we also have to keep our main focus as trying to educate these students," Berrong said.

"There's a virus here, but students are still going to be graduating - they've still got to go get jobs, they've got to go to college."

"So, the No. 1 focus is trying to educate kids and manage online and traditional learning, and trying to make sure that our online kids are getting the same quality education we're providing in the classroom."

"And we're going to be cleaning and trying to keep kids as safe as possible (on campus) because, the truth is, if we have a big outbreak then we can't be in the building. And that's the No. 1 thing, we want kids in our school learning from our teachers."

Berrong said he would like parents to know that he and the rest of the school faculty and staff would be doing "everything in our power to make sure that their students are safe within our walls."

"And we're going to do everything in our power to make sure our teachers are safe within our walls, too," Berrong said. "The main thing we want is to get through this school year and have kids in our school building. And no matter what we have to do, we're going to try to do that."