

# Towns County Herald

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## Marine Corps League, guests wish USMC Happy Birthday

By Jarrett Whitener  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Marine Corps League Unit Detachment 783 celebrated the 245th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

The League hosted the party at Daniel's Steakhouse, with community figures such as Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales, Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw and Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris in attendance.

World War II and Iwo Jima Veteran Bud Johnson, 98, celebrated the occasion by gifting the league a book of his wartime experiences and a replica statue depicting the iconic raising of the American

flag on Iwo Jima, which Johnson personally witnessed during his time in the Navy.

"I think the biggest honor I ever had in my life was making Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy," Johnson said. "I was 22 years old, the youngest chief in the Navy at the time."

"I have had the opportunity and many years to serve with Marines, not only in Iwo Jima and on my ship, and I was there, I witnessed it. I want to thank you for all you do as Marines. If I wasn't in the Navy, I would have been a Marine."

Added Johnson, "I want to honor you with this book of my war experience and a true Iwo Jima Veteran. This is my experience here."

While the veterans celebrated the anniversary of the Marine Corps, they also took the time to remember those who did not come home. League Member Scott performed the Missing Man Table Ceremony, explaining the importance of each piece on the table.

"The table is round and small to show our everlasting concern for our missing Marines," Scott said. "The tablecloth is white to show the purity of our motives in answering the call."

"A single red rose is laid in a vase, and it reminds us of the life of each of the missing and the loved ones and friends who keep the faith awaiting

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Iwo Jima Veteran Bud Johnson presented Marine Corps League Sr. Vice Commandant Alton Coleman and Commandant Ashford Todd with a replica of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial for the Corps' 245th birthday on Nov. 10. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

## State to certify 'hand recount' Friday; would-be fraudsters warned

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

Results of the Risk-Limiting Audit Manual Tally — aka the statewide hand recount of the presidential race ordered last week by Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger — will be made available this week in advance of the Nov. 20 deadline for Georgia to certify the election.

The main purpose of a risk-limiting audit is to "identify potential hacks, malfunctions, or other interference in the voting process," according to the



Poll workers in Towns County worked hard Friday to finish their part of the "hand recount" ordered last week by the Secretary of State. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

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## Roberts named EMA Director; Transit Bus up and running

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw has appointed Marty Roberts to serve as the new director of the Towns County Emergency Management Agency.

Bradshaw made the appointment in a called meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10, in which he also accepted federal grant funding to assist in the operation of the local transit system.

"I am here for everybody in the community," Roberts said following his appointment. "My job is to try to make

See Transit Bus, Page 6A



Marty Roberts became the new EMA Director in a called meeting by Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw Nov. 10.

## Hiwassee cuts ribbon for John W. Christian mural



Local stakeholders met for a ribbon cutting highlighting the completion of the beautiful mural on the side of Eagle Mountain Archery on North Main Street. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

By Jarrett Whitener  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The City of Hiwassee and the Towns County Development Authority gathered at the side of Eagle Mountain Archery on North Main Street Friday, Nov. 13, to hold a ribbon cutting for the beautiful new mural depicting Hiwassee "Georgia's Lake and Mountain Paradise."

This project has been ongoing since May, and Mayor Liz Ordiales said she was thrilled with the outcome, including the detail and representation the lifelike mural brings to Hiwassee. It depicts Lake Chatuge, the mountains, a family boating, people fishing and a parasailer.

"As part of our strategic plan, we discussed the quality

of life," Ordiales said. "We felt it was so important, and one of the things that came up was artwork in the city."

"We were able to apply for a Georgia Council of the Arts Vibrant Communities Grant, and we received that. So, it was a collaboration with three of four different entities and Dan Paris, who owns the

See Mural, Page 6A

## Towns Countians honor service members on Veterans Day

By Jarrett Whitener  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Veterans in the community came together on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7807 on Sunnyside Road to celebrate Veterans Day and honor those who have served their country.

Organized by the American Legion Post 23, the annual event is usually held at the Veterans Park in front of Towns County Schools, but it was moved to the VFW Building this year due to rain.

The honored guest for the occasion was Marion C. Crawford, introduced by local VFW Sr. Vice Cmdr. Mel Halfon.

"What a wonderful turnout and thank you all for coming today — we are looking forward to a great Veterans Day and service," Halfon said. "Fifty years ago, I was in Vietnam in the jungles, and we didn't have any women in Vietnam at that time. So, I am honored today to introduce



Army Veteran Marion C. Crawford spoke about her time recruiting women to join the military on the Nov. 11 Veterans Day Ceremony in Hiwassee. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

our keynote speaker, Marion Crawford.

"We go over to the schools a lot of the time and talk to the juniors and seniors about military service and making a career out of the military. A lot of females are now going into the military,

and the reason they are doing that is because of Marion Crawford."

According to Halfon, Crawford was handpicked to bring a group of Women's Army Corps members to Vietnam.

"She was a first sergeant. See Veterans Honored, Page 6A

## SAR returns to meetings, welcomes wildland firefighter

By Todd Forrest  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS — The Sons of the American Revolution Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter hosted its return meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at Brother's Restaurant, with compatriot Stephen Weaver as the featured speaker.

Weaver, one of 16 national certified wildland firefighter management leaders, shared experiences from his recent trip to Wyoming.

Now retired, Weaver is available for recall during national emergencies, and he spent much of the autumn battling blazes in the Medicine Bow Mountains of southeastern Wyoming and northern Colorado.

Last week's meeting also marked the first get-together



Sid Turner presented fellow Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter member Stephen Weaver with a Certificate of Appreciation in the group's November meeting. Photo by Todd Forrest

for the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter since COVID-19 hit in the spring. During the event, local SAR President Jared Ogden brought attendees up to

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## Community members urge focus on bigger picture for 2021

By Jarrett Whitener  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

As 2020 nears its end, community residents and visitors alike have been pondering how different things seem now than in previous years.

Anna Pruitt of Towns County said she felt the combination of the COVID-19 pandemic and the currently contested presidential election had divided people to a greater extent.

"I have never seen people so enthralled by an election," Pruitt said while shopping at the Young Harris Dollar General Saturday. "I never really paid much attention to prior elections, but this one is everywhere, and it is all people are talking about."

"I know 2016 was a big



As residents and visitors alike carry about their business, it seems that more and more people are ready for 2021 to get here already. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

deal, but this is monstrous compared to that. People treat this one like it is life or death and determines the fate of the world and how it will work. I

just don't see how it can be that impactful.

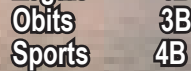
"Sure, if we get the

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Lake Levels  
Blue Ridge 1,674.53  
Chatuge 1,920.63  
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**SPORTS FOOTBALL**  
11/20 @  
Washington Wilkes  
7:30 PM



Calling All Elves

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Lake Chatuge Rotary Club RAFFLE

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Young Harris CANCELS Annual Tree Lighting

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