

# Veterans Day...from Page 1A



**Iwo Jima Veteran Clarence "Bud" Johnson received special recognition during the 2019 service on Nov. 11, Veterans Day.**  
Photo by Lowell Nicholson

is celebrated each year in remembrance of the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, which signified the end of World War I.

Veterans Day originated as an idea by a group of World War I veterans who came together a hundred years ago with a vision for a national holiday celebrating world

peace, Harkins said. Attendees of the ceremony took time to applaud the veterans joining them that day and thanked them for their service in the military.

The occasion also featured a laying of memorial wreaths to honor departed veterans everywhere, with participation by American Legion Post #23, including

Auxiliary, Legion Riders, and Sons of the American Legion; Marine Corps League Unicoi Detachment #783; and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #7807 and Auxiliary.

The Veterans Memorial Park was constructed in May of 1984 stemming from a joint venture by the Towns County Board of Education and the Student Council.



**American Legion Post #23 Chaplain Scott Drummond led a Memorial Wall Presentation featuring family members of the veterans whose names have been newly added to the wall in Veterans Park.**  
Photo by Lowell Nicholson

# Tatham...from Page 1A

After 32 years teaching and coaching, plus four presentations in front of the Historical Society, Tatham said that evening's program was the hardest presentation he'd ever had to lead due to the emotional significance of the source material.

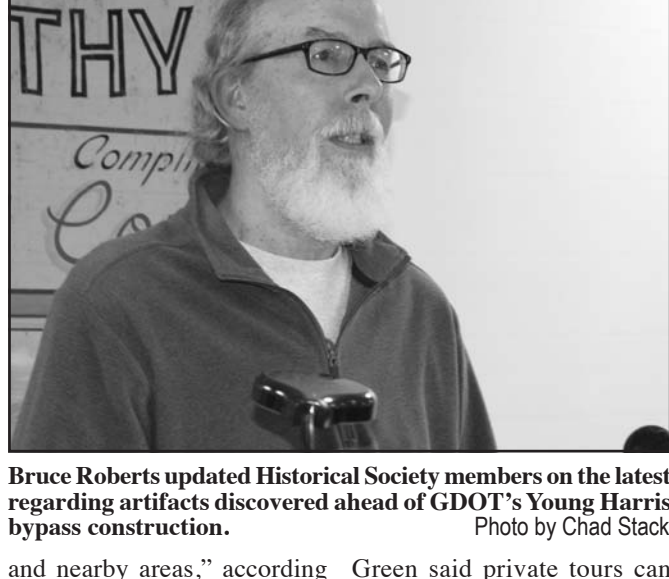
Also during Monday's meeting, Society President Sandra Green recognized Bud Johnson, who served at Iwo Jima during World War II.

In other business, society members re-nominated their current slate of officers to serve again in 2020: President Sandra Green, Vice President Jerry Taylor, Secretary Tyler Osborn, Treasurer Frances Shook and Membership Secretary Mary Ann Miller.

Members will cast their votes as they arrive for their Monday, Dec. 9, meeting.

Bruce Roberts gave an update on the Brasstown Valley Native American artifacts that stand to be affected by the Georgia Department of Transportation's upcoming construction of a Young Harris bypass along SR 515.

Officials with GDOT have located 45 artifacts, which Roberts said will be housed at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, which has a research facility focused on "past cultures within Georgia



**Bruce Roberts updated Historical Society members on the latest regarding artifacts discovered ahead of GDOT's Young Harris bypass construction.**  
Photo by Chad Stack

and nearby areas," according to westga.edu.

Once everything has been cataloged and stored, Roberts said the Historical Society can borrow some of the artifacts for a month or two.

Also in the meeting, Green thanked Osborn, Miller, the Towns County High School Future Business Leaders of America members, David Weber and the students of Young Harris College for making this year's Haunted Jail such a success on Halloween.

The Old Rock Jail is closing for the winter, but

Green said private tours can be arranged for any interested parties.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., the Historical Society will be hosting a Christmas Open House at the Old Rock Jail in conjunction with "Light Up Hiwassee," or the lighting of the Town Square for Christmas.

The society will host a Christmas party during the next regular meeting on Monday, Dec. 9, at 6 p.m. inside their headquarters at the Old Rec Gym.

# Elections...from Page 1A

to the county.

All voters, including those living in Tate City, will have three weeks of early voting in any given upcoming election to travel to the Elections Board office to cast their ballots, or they may vote by absentee ballot if traveling to the Macedonia Precinct does not appeal.

Moving along last Wednesday, the board discussed the new ballot casting machines by Dominion Voting Systems that will be used in the 2020 elections.

The Dominion machines will feature multiple pieces of equipment, including touchscreens comparable to the old Diebold equipment. However, the new machines will print physical ballots to be verified, then scanned by voters into a lockbox for potential audit/recount purposes.

"It's going to take a lot more poll workers to manage this kind of system, but the advantage is the voter will be allowed to see what they're actually casting," Oliva said.

The board office is waiting on the Secretary of State's Office to pick up the old equipment, Oliva said, after which the Elections Board will receive an arrival date for the new equipment.

It's possible that the Diebold inventory could be picked up this week, and Oliva is hopeful that the new equipment will arrive by January to give poll workers plenty of time to train ahead of the March 2020 Presidential Preference Primary.

As previously reported, the Secretary of State's Office is requiring all precinct buildings to be inspected for electrical and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

Costs associated with accommodating the new equipment will be significant, Oliva said, with each precinct being required to have 4-by-4 tables and privacy screens for every voting station, and the state has yet to disclose all of

the rules for how that must be configured.

"In our county, we are looking at about eight stations per precinct," Oliva said. "And now that we've consolidated, we have three precincts, plus early voting. Tables of that size run about \$55 each."

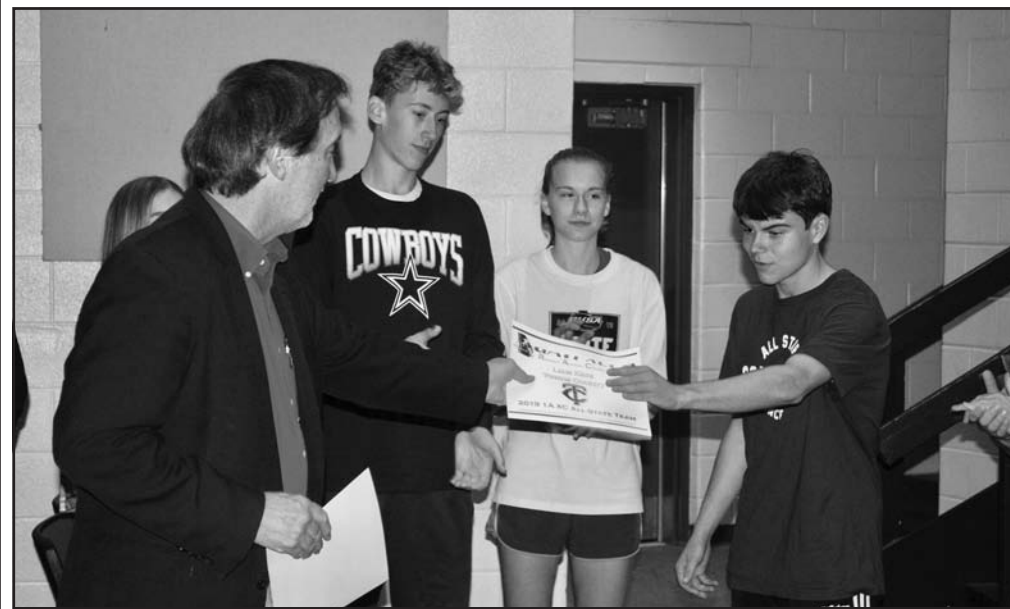
Toner cartridges for each printer will cost about \$200 and can accommodate about 6,000 votes, so some backups will be needed. Towns County has about 9,000 registered voters.

The paper for the printers is 200-pound card stock, which costs about \$210 per case, and cleaner paper used to clear jams costs \$100 for a pack of five sheets.

Oliva said the board office would be purchasing these products through the Secretary of State's Office, as the products from outside vendors may cause harm to the machines, which would be more expensive.

New Elections Supervisor Rachel Edwards and Oliva attended a training seminar on the new equipment in October, and they will attend more trainings in January. After passing a written exam, they will both be certified on the new equipment.

# BOE...from Page 1A



**High School Principal Roy Perren presenting junior Liam King with a certificate honoring his selection to the 2019 Single-A Cross Country All-State Team.**  
Photo by Chad Stack

In other school news, board members learned in their Nov. 4 work session that the school system had received another round of reimbursements via state modernization grant funds for summertime renovations at the middle/high school building.

Another \$2.5 million in grant money came in recently for a total of \$5.1 million in construction reimbursements covering the two-year modernization project that was completed over summer 2019.

The school board is expecting to receive another roughly \$500,000 once the final report has been submitted.

Updating the 40-year-old middle/high building cost \$7.4 million, according to the schools, but after final reimbursement funds come in, the system's cost to complete the projects will have been around \$1.7 million in SPLOST money, or about 23% of total construction costs.

Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong was quick to give credit to Roy Perren, who serves as high school principal now but helped secure the grant money as the district's former facilities director.

School administrators delivered their monthly reports in last week's regular meeting, starting with Elementary School Principal Dr. Sandy Page.

Page said the older elementary school students attended the annual Towns County Veterans Day program at Veterans Memorial Park in front of the high school on Nov. 11.

She also said the Oct. 22 family night at the elementary school was very successful, with over 200 students attending with their families.

Middle School Principal Dr. Connie Hobbs said 21 students would be leaving on Wednesday, Nov. 13, for a three-day trip to New York City for cultural and educational experiences.

Hobbs reported that the middle school boys and girls basketball teams had both started the season 2-0 after wins over Copper Basin, Tennessee, and Nantahala, North Carolina.

Former Towns County teacher Sue Sutton, who has published her own children's book, is coming to the media center this week to do a book reading for middle school

students, Hobbs said.

In his report, High School Principal Perren spoke highly of senior Jamison Wood's senior project, which served as a scholarship fundraiser for fellow students.

"The Miss TCHS Pageant happened on the 26th of October, and senior Kenlee Shook was named Miss TCHS," Perren said. "That was Jamison Wood's senior project. She did an excellent job organizing that."

Fall sports have ended, and Perren said he was proud of his school's student athletes.

"It was a tough season, but they showed a lot of character," Perren said of football. "We are very, very proud of how those boys represented our school."

The Board of Education will meet again for its monthly work session on Monday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. at the school board office at 67 Lakeview Circle in Hiwassee.

Board members will hold for their next regular meeting inside the Anne Oliver Mitchell Auditorium on campus Monday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m.

Coming up, the schools will let out for the Thanksgiving holiday from Nov. 25-29.

# Hiwassee...from Page 1A

honor those that they love," said City Councilwoman Anne Mitchell, who helped organize Light Up Hiwassee.

As usual, the Light Up event will feature plenty of beautiful Christmas lights, all put up with help from local volunteers.

"Every year, we try to add something new to the event," Ordiales said. "Last year, we added the 'JOY' sign, and that was a donation from a guy that goes to church with me."

"This year, we have the Mr. and Mrs. Snowman, which the same guy from the church did. They will go up against the stage."

"After Christmas last year, over the summer, we purchased a few more ornaments, like big light ornaments that were on sale, and they were buy one/get one free. So, we got three, then got three free, and every year, we try to just add a little more

to the event. And we of course take donations, but it's not a formal donation campaign."

The event serves as something for the community to gather around for a night of fun and celebration.

"We are trying to bring unity and bring everybody together in the community, and I think this is a great family event that brings families and their kids around here to have a good time and take pictures with Santa. That's what this is all about," Ordiales said.

The city is looking for volunteers willing to help decorate the square before the big event.

"We start decorating the weekend before Thanksgiving. So, Nov. 23, we will have all the decorations at the square," Ordiales said. "We are asking for anybody that wants to come participate to help us put them up. Last year we had a good amount, around 20 to 30 people

showed up.

"Those that want to volunteer just need to show up Saturday the 23rd at 9 a.m. and dress warmly - caps and shoes and all that. We will have everyone on the square, and we will assign different corners of the square to different people, and we will have coffee and donuts for people that volunteer."

Added Mitchell, "We have something that everyone can do. You don't have to be acrobatic or do any climbing. We have plenty of tasks that we need help with, and we appreciate all we can get."

This year's Light Up Hiwassee is a collaborative effort between the city, including Ordiales, Mitchell and new Billing Clerk Marta Izquierdo, with Vicki Constantinos, plus the Historical Society, which will be hosting pictures with Santa at the Old Rock Jail during the event.

# Firewise...from Page 1A

Potter said.

Firewise assists people in examining their homes to identify vulnerable places that could potentially fuel a fire. People wanting to know more about Firewise can contact the RC&D to request a home inspection to include fire prevention suggestions.

For more information, check out <http://www.chesthattrcd.org/wildfire-safety-education/firewise-communities/>.

The Mountain Movers and Shakers meet every Friday at 8 a.m. at the Sundance Grill in Hiwassee, and they are always open to public participation.



**Judy Potter spoke about her experiences living in Tate City and making her community Firewise during last week's Movers and Shakers meeting.**  
Photo by Jarrett Whitener

# Designing Women returns to Hiwassee Garden Club

After a 4 year hiatus Hiwassee Garden Club brought back their popular Designing Women event on November 9, 2019 at their clubhouse in Hiwassee. Those in attendance were treated to demonstrations of holiday inspired floral designs.

Virginia Palmer started the program with a brief history of the Hiwassee Garden Club. She then presented a variety of ideas on ways to create tall centerpieces allowing for unobstructed views and easy conversation. Types of containers ranged from traditional to contemporary.

Low arrangements for dinner party centerpieces were presented by Cheryl Gehring, who stepped in for Sharon Payne, who at the last minute was unable to attend. Cheryl then presented ideas for traditional and creative designs for a buffet or side table. Information on where to get materials, type of tools



**Cheryl Gehring did the job of two designers as she created many different arrangements and also had created the door prizes and raffled items.**

needed, steps to take when putting together an arrangement, and tips gleaned from experience were passed along during the different demonstrations.

Fourteen holiday arrangements, including the ones created during the demonstrations, were raffled off after the conclusion of the program. Five lucky people in attendance were recipients of door prizes.

Everyone agreed that the afternoon was delightful and a great way to kick off the holidays.

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