

# Parade...from Page 1A

typically get Christmas gifts. It is a great cause and a nice opportunity to help local kids out."

Clinton has remained

passionate about these fundraisers throughout the years and has repeatedly garnered community support to help those in need.

"The coolest thing that I have got to do in my career is help people," Clinton said. "No one is more deserving of that than the kids. You see

a lot of things in a career in law enforcement, but it is an opportunity to help the local kids out and brighten their day around Christmastime.

"There is really nothing to me that we can do more than help other people and especially the kids. It has been a real honor and a real privilege to be able to be Santa's No. 1 helper in Towns County for 13 Christmases now.

"I will miss that, but I am satisfied that the tradition will continue and the sheriffs will take care of that."

Toy and monetary donations can be dropped off at the courthouse or the Towns County Jail. People with inquiries about kids in need may call the Sheriff's Office at 706-896-4444.

Sheriff-Elect Kenneth "Ode" Henderson looks forward to swearing in come January, and when he's sheriff, he wants to continue community events like this one.

"I'm not in office yet, but I will look at everything when I get there," Henderson said. "I will try to improve on a few things. It is a great thing and a great cause. I have some ideas of my own that I want to do with our Christmas stuff and how I want to do those kinds of things."

Added Henderson, "It is the time of the year where everyone is supposed to be jolly, and we want to allow the community to enjoy it, and I am 100% on board with it."

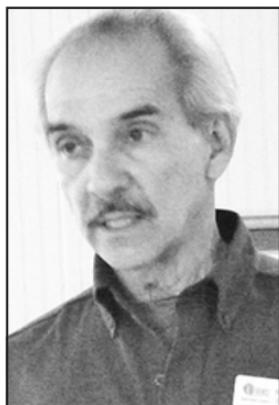
Community involvement is important to Henderson, as he believes the Sheriff's Office and community should work hand in hand to arrive at a place of mutual respect and understanding.

"While I was running, I talked about a lot of programs and things I want to do," Henderson said. "I want to get (the community) involved, and I think anything we can do with the young folks is great, and I want to have them respect the Sheriff's Department."

"It is certainly going to be a goal of mine to make sure that we improve upon these things. (Sheriff Clinton) has done well with that, but I also think you have to come in thinking maybe you can add to it, improve upon it and keep it going. I am looking forward to that."

## Garden Club welcomes Firewise's Michael Courey

At the November 19, 2020 Garden Club meeting, members welcomed Michael Courey, President of the Towns County Firewise Citizen's Coalition, part of Firewise USA. He passed out many pamphlets with important information concerning wildfires in our mountain area. This group was started in Georgia 20 years ago because, believe it or not, Georgia has more fires than California and other states in the west.



Mr. Courey demonstrated something new at Firewise, a sprinkler that can be attached to your gutters and using a garden hose, wets down your roof in the event of a wildfire. Members of Firewise help communities realize what is needed to keep fires from destroying homes, especially in Towns County, which is 62% public land—Chattahoochee National Forest and TVA.

Wildfire travels fastest going up a mountain and we have a lot of mountain homes, most with wooden decks to enjoy the beautiful views. Fire-

wise has worked diligently to educate our residents by forming Firewise Communities—we have 24 in Towns County, the most in the State of Georgia. Firewise members help these communities take out dead trees and brush and put through a chipper; trees are trimmed from ground to walking height, and leaves are raked from around the house and under decks, propane tanks, etc.

These are all fuel for fire.

Call Courey at 813-486-3782 to get more information on making your community a Firewise Community and their program, Ready, Set, Go, which lays out a plan in case you do have a fire.

In the business meeting, President Debbie Nicholson thanked member Elaine Williams for having her husband replace a rotted post on our porch.

Also discussed was the December 17th Christmas Luncheon at noon at the Clubhouse. Board members will bring soup, chili, salad, sandwiches, and dessert. Each member should bring what they would like to drink. We have room to distance and you may wear a mask.

Be thinking ahead about the January 28th meeting which will be a "Group Share" meeting. Each member should bring anything having to do with gardening, design, tips, houseplants, etc. We can all learn something from each other. T/Nov25.G1/SH

## Shop Small this Saturday and make a big impact

The biggest reason for shopping locally is compelling - for every \$100 spent at a locally-owned business, \$73 remains in the local economy, and \$27 leaves. Compare that to the same \$100 spent at a non-locally owned business, where \$43 remains in the local economy and \$57 leaves. Recent research has shown that local restaurants return nearly 79 percent of revenues to the community, compared to just over 30 percent for chain restaurants. When profits stay local, it increases the community's wealth, tax revenue and quality of living.

trash collection

**Local Investment**—Local businesses are less susceptible to national downturns and more likely to work harder to stay open.

**Locally-Made Products**—Local business owners often sell local products, which helps preserve the community's distinction and creates more jobs locally, as well.

**Support for Nonprofits**—Local businesses support good work in our community.

**Discover Interesting Things and People**—One-of-a-kind shops and restaurants are part of what makes our community a great place to live.

**Personal Connection**—You know the store owners and the store owners know you!

**Product Knowledge**—Local business owners are well informed about their products and know what they are selling.

**Diverse Products**—Local stores carry unique items often not found in larger retail chains.

**Cost Effective**—Prices in local businesses are often better because of lower overhead.

**Better Experience**—Lo-

cal shopping can translate to more convenient retail experiences.

**Less "Leakage"**—Local businesses tend to buy and sell with other local businesses.

**Better Service**—Local business owners are typically passionate about the product(s) they're selling and are more apt to share their passion with local consumers.

**Shop Small Saturday** (also known as Shop Local Saturday) is this Saturday, November 28. Many of our area restaurants and retail stores have great deals on one-of-a-kind items. And, if you prefer to shop online or order food online, call them directly. Many of the store owners and restaurateurs have their items posted on their websites or on their Facebook Pages.

Call and ask if you can order and pay over the phone and pick up curbside if you uncomfortable with shopping/dining in-person. Support your friends, family and neighbors that own small businesses in our community.

The majority of the money spent will remain in this community! Shop Small and make a Big Impact! T/Nov25.G2/SH

Small businesses and local businesses are the backbone of our economy. In Georgia alone, 1,000,000 businesses are small businesses which make up 99.6% of all businesses in the State. In recent years, 41,287 new jobs were created because of small businesses, meaning that 43.7% working in the State of Georgia work for a small business.

Here are 12 reasons to keep your cash close to home:

**Keep Money Local**—Sales taxes fund our communities and provide vital services such as police and fire protection, street repairs and

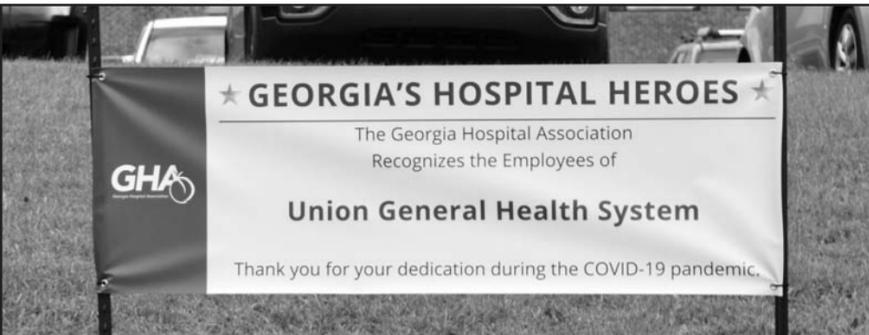
## Humane Society's Mountain Shelter receives donation



(L-R): Jim Johnson, Lisa Collins, Susan Pugh, Clark Lovingood

The Humane Society's Mountain Shelter would like to thank our new supporter, General Manager, Jim Johnson and Clark Lovingood, Sales Manager of America's Home Place. America's Home Place located here in Blairsville, is a local custom home builder using the highest quality products and committing to the highest standards. Ask Susan Pugh, our vice-president who just had her dream home completed by America's Home Place. Visit their showroom, next to Zaxby's to see what they can do for you. They have partnered with us in hopes of volunteering next year to help us catch up on our much needed projects that were delayed due to Covid 19. T/Nov25.Z2/CA

## Union General Health System employees recognized for dedication during COVID-19 by the Georgia Hospital Association



The Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) presented Union General Health System a banner recognizing their Hospital Heroes. Union General Health System owns and operates 20 affiliated facilities within the Tri-State area. The banner celebrates and thanks their employees for their selfless and unwavering support of Georgia's patients, especially during the trying times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The association provides information and education on issues ranging from access to

health care and clinical care updates, to effective hospital management and compliance with high-level accreditation standards.

From its headquarters near Atlanta, GHA represents its members to Congress and the General Assembly and before federal and state regulatory agencies. GHA is an allied member of the American Hospital Association.

To learn more, visit [www.GHA.org](http://www.GHA.org). T/Nov25.Z4/CA

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