

Towns County Herald

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Bradshaw takes the torch as Kendall says goodbye

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

With confidence and the straightforward style for which he is known, Bill Kendall turned the county over to Cliff Bradshaw last Friday.

The process was a simple one. With a few signatures on paperwork drawn up by Commissioner Kendall's staff, which have now become Commissioner Bradshaw's staff, all the county's moneyed interests of the county treasury were transferred from Kendall to Bradshaw that Friday, Dec. 30.

Before the transfer took place, Commissioner Kendall asked Bradshaw to say a few words to those who had gathered for the historic Towns County transition.

Bradshaw pointed out the bittersweet nature



After all the county's financial accounts had been turned over to incoming Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw last week, Bill Kendall and Bradshaw shook on it.

of the occasion, and lauded Commissioner Kendall for his consistent command of the county budget.

"During the decline, it was tough," said Bradshaw,

harking back to the years just after Commissioner Kendall took office in 2005. "He tightened the belt, he kept the county out of debt, and the county is out of debt today.

"We're very thankful for that, and as your commissioner, I give you my word that I will work very, very hard every day to keep our county prosperous going forward, growing and out of debt. We will do our very best. I look forward to working with you and for you. I'm excited, I'm ready to go to work. The door will always be open. If you need anything, please come in."

Completing the business of the meeting, Commissioner Kendall signed over all county accounts and certificates of deposit totaling \$6,210,788 in general funds as of Dec. 31, 2016.

This amount included an unobligated operating reserve of roughly \$3.1 million, with a projected ending balance of \$3.12 million in operating reserves at the end of the 2017 budget.

"That is a healthy reserve for a budget our size,"



Bill and Jean Kendall

said Commissioner Kendall. "If you had more than that, you're probably getting where you may be taxing the taxpayers more than what you should."

County Finance Director Andrea Anderson read Commissioner Kendall's last

resolution as sole commissioner of Towns County that Friday, and when Commissioner Kendall signed the resolution with Bradshaw, he officially turned the county purse strings over to the commissioner-

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TCSO deputies, jailers and staff take loyalty oaths

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton gathered his deputies, jailers, and the people on his civilian staff over two days last week to lead them in taking their loyalty oaths following his re-election in November.

The sheriff, who considers his office to be, in many ways, like one big family, stood before his employees as they took their oaths on Thursday, Dec. 29, and Friday, Dec. 30, in Towns County Courtroom.

Sheriff Clinton split the occasion over two days to accommodate for the other half of his workforce doing their jobs.

The first loyalty oath was taken by everyone to uphold



Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton swore in his deputies, jailers and civilian staff over two days last week in the Towns County Courtroom.

the U.S. Constitution as well as the Georgia Constitution. Next, detention officers took an oath specific to their duties

as jailers in Towns County, followed by sheriff's deputies with their specific oath.

See TCSO, Page 5A

Looking back: Riley swears in as tax assessor

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Here's a story from the Towns County Herald vault, one that hasn't been told by this newspaper until now, about the day Frank Riley swore in as tax assessor.

It was last year on Oct. 26, inside Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall's office, and Superior Court Clerk Cecil Dye met with Riley to administer the tax assessor's oath.

Prior to his swearing in, long-time Tax Assessor Kathryn Sanders had submitted a letter of resignation to Commissioner Kendall.

That letter reads as follows:

"It is with great regret that I must turn in my resignation from the Towns County Board of Assessors.



Frank Riley swore in as Towns County Tax Assessor on Oct. 26, 2016, following the resignation of longtime assessor Kathryn Sanders.

I have considered it a great honor to serve the citizens of Towns County as a member of the board for the last 18

years. "Looking ahead, I feel that I will just be a hindrance

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Stone promoting community room in renovated library

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – After months of anticipation, Mountain Regional Library finally opened its newly renovated facility last November, and so far, the staff is enjoying all that the library has to offer and hopes the community will as well.

"Everyone appears to be more than impressed when they come in here because of what it was before," said Mountain Regional Library Director Vince Stone. "They're finding it a whole lot more open and brighter. We have brand new LED lights that are really doing well."

See Library, Page 6A



Library usage has increased since its grand re-opening in early November, following many months of a \$1 million renovation.

Brasstown Valley rings in the new year 'Gatsby' style



Gala patrons danced for hours on end, carrying themselves on fleet feet into the new year.

See Gala, Page 6A

4-H looks forward to continued growth in 2017



This year, Towns County 4-H took more kids to District Project Achievement than ever before.

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Newly revamped, the Towns County 4-H will be ushering in the new year with many exciting endeavors, competitions and experiences for Towns County students to make memories and achievements that will last a lifetime.

Towns County 4-H Extension Associate Andrew Smith recently took over the 4-H program in August, hoping to build the program and gain momentum in the community.

Of the many accomplishments that students have made during the first semester of the 2016-2017 school year, the group's venture to the District Project

Achievement competition in October was top of the list. According to Smith, the students brought home more awards and recognitions than the county had ever seen from the program, and Smith anticipates an even larger participation next year.

"Our first semester of 4-H got up and running faster than I could have expected it to," said Smith. "We had fourth, fifth and sixth grade students involved in 4-H. Each student in each grade level has already learned the act of public speaking through work, with the collaboration of the faculty and staff of the school."

"It turned out to be a huge success. We've had our fourth-graders learning about ecosystems and building terrariums for extra credit.

Our fifth-graders through about public service through collecting goods for military members by sending care packages to them.

"Also during our first semester, we spent a lot of time just letting the community know what 4-H is and knowing that it is back. We want everyone to know that 4-H is a beneficial program for not only the youth, but also for the community."

During the second half of the school year, Smith has several field trips, competitions and learning experiences scheduled for the students, one of which will be a trip to the capitol in Atlanta to learn the ins and outs of state-level government.

Just before the Christmas

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AARP Smart Driver Course at Union County Senior Center

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DAR FREE Genealogy Workshop at Union County Library

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Basketball Saturday, January 7th @ Athens Academy 6 & 7:30 PM