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Hiawassee native Steve Holmes will be missed in community

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

When Steve Holmes passed away on Dec. 21, 2017, a part of Towns County went with him.

The World War II Veteran and Towns County native spent most of his 94 years on earth building up the community in which he lived, and he will be missed.

"While serving as school superintendent and county commissioner," said Bill Kendall, "I had the privilege of serving with Steve on the board of health, where he served with distinction for over 50 years, and many other facets of county government and community services.

"He loved and cared greatly for his county and its citizens, many of whom will miss the call they received each birthday with warm wishes."

Services were held for Holmes on Christmas Eve at Friendship Baptist Church, where he ministered to others in life as a deacon of the church.

Born in Hiawassee on March 31, 1923, Holmes was very much a product of local education.

In his youth, he attended Hiawassee Grammar School, Towns County High School and Clarkesville Trade School, before heading to Savannah to work at the Southeastern Shipyards.

Holmes enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943, and completed military boot camp in Great Lakes, Illinois. He then made his way to Monterey, California, and thereafter would spend most of his deployment in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska.

He ultimately achieved the rank of Storekeeper Third Class, and after his discharge

in 1946, Holmes worked for a few months in Michigan before returning to his birthplace of Towns County.

It is here that he would spend the remainder of his considerable life.

Holmes and Joyce Kimsey married in 1946, and together, they had daughters Cynthia, Sharon, Ramona and Stevie.

After returning from the military, Holmes managed Hendrix Tourist Camp in Hiawassee while he earned his high school diploma.

In 1953, he became one of the first World War II Veterans to graduate under the GI Bill from Young Harris College, and he continued his education at Piedmont College before becoming the administrator of Towns County Hospital in April 1953.

Holmes held the
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw honoring Holmes, right, for his many years of service to the county in the February 2017 county meeting. Also pictured, Sharon Payne, one of Holmes' four daughters. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Curley awarded 2018 Georgia CASA Volunteer of the Year

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

BLAIRSVILLE – Georgia has more than 2,400 active CASA volunteers, and each year, one of them is selected to receive the Karen N. Sibley CASA Volunteer of the Year Award.

The 2018 recipient is none other than Blairsville's own Pam Curley, a longtime CASA volunteer serving children in the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

"To be picked out of 2,400 active CASAs is pretty amazing," Curley said of the announcement. "I was completely surprised. It's the kind of thing that most of us don't really like to even get the recognition for. We just do it – it's organic, almost, why we do it and how we do it."

Enotah CASA is an organization with the goal of ensuring that every child has a safe, permanent home. They do this by providing specially trained volunteers known as CASAs,

or Court Appointed Special Advocates.

With the best interests of the children in mind, CASA volunteers advocate for the needs of abused and neglected children in the custody of the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS), and throughout lengthy legal processes in the Enotah Circuit Juvenile Court.

"Truly, while the emphasis during any kind of proceeding like that is always on the parents and their bad choices, it's really the children who suffer the most," said Curley. "The children, No. 1, don't understand what's happened to them."

Continued Curley, speaking for the children: "What happened? How did somebody, a stranger most times, somebody that I don't know, come – sometimes in the middle of the night – and take me out of my home? All my stuff is there. Now, I'm living with somebody else. They're really nice to me and they're really, but I don't understand."



Enotah CASA Pam Curley

"The court process can be so overwhelmingly for people, and so it's really overwhelming for children, too. They don't understand why it takes so long."

One of the many reasons Curley was such a standout candidate for the award is her apparent dedication to the work. Most CASA volunteers carry only one or two caseloads at a time – Curley typically

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TCHS to celebrate Basketball Homecoming on Friday



2018 Basketball Homecoming Court, L-R Back Row: Seniors Kyra Tallent, Jenna Cole, Sara Beth Hobbs, Sarah Bastian and Hayley Stowers. L-R Front Row: Underclassmen Anya Bury, Natalie Smith and Ella Bury. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

Congratulations to the young ladies of the Towns

County High School 2018 Basketball Homecoming Court.

Seniors Kyra Tallent, Jenna Cole, Sara Beth

Hobbs, Sarah Bastian and Hayley Stowers, as well as underclassmen Anya Bury, Natalie Smith and Ella Bury. See Homecoming, Page 6A

Ordiales and Barrett take oaths inside Hiawassee City Hall

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

In front of a standing-room only crowd of family and friends, Liz Ordiales and Amy Barrett swore in to their elected offices on Tuesday, Jan. 2, in the first Hiawassee City Council regular meeting of 2018.

Ordiales is now the mayor of Hiawassee, and Barrett has joined Kris Berrong, Anne Mitchell and Nancy Noblet on the Hiawassee City Council.

"I'm excited," said Barrett following the meeting.

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Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales celebrating after being sworn in by Hiawassee City Clerk Cenlya Galloway on Tuesday, Jan. 2. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Young Harris City Council to hold special election to fill Post 3

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – The Young Harris City Council talked councilmember committee appointments, an upcoming special election and swore in elected officials during the council's first meeting of the New Year on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

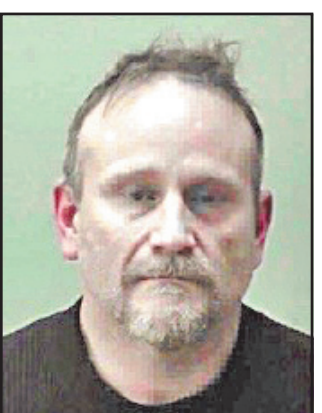
During last year's November council meeting, longtime Councilman Stuart Millier announced that he would not be returning to the council, thus resigning from

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Young Harris City Clerk Shirley Jarrard swearing in Mayor Andrea Gibby to start 2018. Photo/Lily Avery

Blairsville couple arrested for Towns County burglaries



Jeffery Plott



Zachary Patterson



Ashley Patterson

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

A Blairsville couple has been arrested in connection with an ongoing investigation

into reported burglaries and thefts in the area, according to the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

Zachary Eugene Patterson, 22, of Blairsville,

was arrested on Dec. 28, 2017, and charged with the following: one count burglary in the first degree, one count possession of burglary tools, one count theft

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GBI, area law enforcement asking public for information

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

MOULTRIE – The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is asking for the public's help in identifying potential child victims of sexual exploitation by a Moultrie man known to have frequented the area.

"On Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, Milton Wrenn, age 57, of Moultrie, Georgia, was charged with 14 counts of sexual exploitation of children after images depicting the sexual exploitation of children were found on his computer," per a GBI news release.

"Wrenn was previously arrested on Oct. 12, 2017, by the Colquitt County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) for manufacturing

marijuana at his home," the release said. "Wrenn's house was searched after a multi-county investigation involving the Union County Sheriff's Office, CCSO, and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Region 15 Office in Sylvester.

"The computer was seized during the investigation. CCSO requested assistance from the GBI's Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit after images depicting the sexual exploitation of children were found."

According to the GBI, Wrenn is currently being held at the Colquitt County Jail.

"This investigation is part of the ongoing effort by



Milton Wrenn

the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, housed within the GBI's Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit, to identify those involved in the child

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6 PM

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Frank Riley

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