

## Ford...from Page 1A

Mr. Ford has since been released from Northeast

Georgia Medical Center. The case will be referred to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Sheriff Chris Clinton would like to thank the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Regional Office for their assistance in this investigation.

## Anderson...from Page 1A

V.G.C.S.A. Possession of Hydromorphone 16-13-30  
 V.G.C.S.A. Possession of Hydromorphone with intent to distribute 16-13-30 (B)  
 V.G.C.S.A. Possession of Alprazolam 16-13-30  
 V.G.C.S.A. Possession of Alprazolam with intent to distribute 16-13-30 (B)  
 V.G.C.S.A. Possession of Acetaminophen/Oxycodone 16-13-30  
 V.G.C.S.A. Possession of Acetaminophen/Oxycodone with intent to distribute 16-13-30 (B)  
 V.G.C.S.A. Possession of Marijuana less than 1 oz. 16-13-2 (B)  
 V.G.C.S.A. Possession of Marijuana with intent to distribute 16-13-30 (B)  
 V.G.C.S.A. Possession of drug related objects 16-13-1



These are just some of the drugs, paraphernalia and items picked up by the Towns County Sheriff's Office during Anderson's arrest

In addition to illegal drugs seized, the sheriff's office seized a quantity of firearms, cash and a Mercedes Benz automobile from the residence.

During the course of the investigation, a search warrant was obtained for Anderson's safe that had been originally alerted on by Towns County Sheriff's K-9 Hunter.

Towns County Sheriff's Deputies requested assistance from Towns County Fire Department in opening the safe utilizing equipment for vehicle extraction.

The investigation is currently active and ongoing.



Even more drugs taken off the streets by the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

## Chamber...from Page 1A

encouraged to enjoy the tasty hor d'oeuvres provided by the resort, and they mingled among themselves, where networking opportunities were vast given the membership's various businesses and entities.

Towns County Chamber of Commerce President Candace Lee began the meeting by welcoming all in attendance, introducing past Chairman Mark Dehler to administer the induction of the 2017 Board Members.

Of the 14 members inducted, six were new faces to the board, while the remainder returned for continued terms.

"It's my pleasure and honor to be here tonight," said Dehler. "As my final act as chairman, I'll get the great honor to swear in the new members of the board. You've been elected to serve in the Towns County Chamber of Commerce as members of the Board of Directors or as an officer.

"It will be your duty, through your service, to advance the mission and goals of the chamber, which are to advance the general welfare and prosperity of our community so that all of its residents and businesses can prosper."

The 2017 Board Members are as follows: Sarah Dearing, Chairman; Jeremy Hogsed, Chairman-elect; John Allen, Past Chairman; Valerie Polding, Treasurer; Melanie Hughes, Secretary; and members Lynn McPeak; Carmolita Haney; Marvin Copeland; Bill Pierson; Lindsey Townsend; Vicki Ellis; Dwayne Phillips; Brandon Grimsley; and Noel Turner.

Past Chamber Chairman John Allen gave a recap of chamber business in 2016, highlighting the many exciting ribbon cuttings and expos the chamber hosted throughout the year.

Chairman Dearing shared the chamber's vision for the year, placing a heavy emphasis on gathering momentum with the youth of the community. According to Dearing, it is imperative that young people become involved and invested in the community and area projects because they are the leaders of the future.

Beginning this year, the chamber will be offering



Chamber President Candace Lee presented Jacqueline Gottlieb an award in the meeting for her service during last year's wildfire outbreak. Photo/Lily Avery



New Chamber Chairperson Sarah Dearing congratulated Lee on 10 years of service at the Towns County Chamber. Photo/Lily Avery

student membership to Towns County youth should they be interested.

"Without you guys here, we wouldn't be what we are today," said Dearing. "I feel strongly about the chamber. I'm excited about what we're doing going forward."

"I do raise children in this community and that's important to me. It's important that the children get involved in the community."

Toward the end of the meeting, a special award, the You Make A Difference Award, was given to Jacqueline Gottlieb to honor her special work with the men and women from the U.S. Forest Service during their stay in the area during the outbreak of wildfires.

Just when members, and Lee, thought the meeting was coming to a close, Dearing, Dehler and Allen presented

Lee with an award to honor her for 10 years of dedication and commitment to the chamber. Lee has been president of the chamber for five years.

"This is Candace's 10th year here at the chamber," said Dearing. "We are presenting this plaque to her for everything that she's done for us and the community. We appreciate it so very much."

Members spent the rest of the evening enjoying good food and fellowship, each looking forward to the exciting year ahead.

"Thank you to everyone who came out tonight," said Lee. "Thank you for your support. Thank you for always coming out to all the events that we have and for supporting us in that as well. We really appreciate it and what you do in the community and for the community."

## Tips for driving on snowy roads

Recommended tips for driving in the snow:

Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry. And take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.

Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, turning - nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.

The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds

should be increased to eight to ten seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.

Know your brakes. If you have anti-lock brakes (ABS) and need to slow down quickly, press hard on the pedal-it's normal for the pedal to vibrate a bit when the ABS is activated.

Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.

Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads

just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed down hill as slowly as possible.

Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

Stay home. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. Don't tempt fate: If you don't have somewhere you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.

## Crawford...from Page 1A

December, and Crawford received word shortly thereafter that he'd made the cut.

"I figured I had done well, but I wasn't sure because I hadn't actually made it before," said Crawford. "So, when I found out - there's a sense of accomplishment when you figure out that you did do well enough, and it makes you feel happy."

As to why he chose to play the saxophone those five long years ago, at the start of his musical career, he said it came down to either the trumpet or the sax.

"I think I went with saxophone because of Jazz, honestly, and I just liked the way it sounded," said Crawford.

And while Jazz is especially near and dear to Crawford's musical heart - the saxophone being an instrument seemingly built with Jazz in

mind - he said he also enjoys the fact that so many other pieces of music sound right at home on the sax, like WHAM!'s "Careless Whisper," and more current songs like "Demons" by Imagine Dragons.

Crawford looks forward to representing his community when he travels to Fannin in February to take part in the few days that District Honor Band meets.

Along with his family and band friends, TCHS Band Director Derrick Nolen is proud of his student's achievement, noting that Crawford had to be extremely well prepared to perform as well as he did for such a rigorous audition.

"Chase is diligent, he is very naturally gifted, he is confident but also humble," said Nolen. "He's actually one of our equipment managers, which means that he helps with the equipment during

marching season, and just does so much service that goes unnoticed to our group.

"So, it's just impressive that, he's very naturally talented, yes, but he has no attitude about him. He's very humble and he's not afraid to work hard and do stuff behind the scenes to help out. We really appreciate him."

Crawford loves marching season, which is a time of intense work and near-constant proximity of band members to one another. Over time, those qualities of marching band forge friendships that have been known to last lifetimes.

"Marching band basically becomes your home away from home," said Crawford. "You know all the people in there, you can joke around and talk about stuff that you wouldn't with other people."

District Honor Band will perform its concert at Fannin County High School on Feb. 11.

## Park...from Page 1A

disappointed with Diffie, who has been cranking out beloved Country hits since the late '80s.

Diffie grew up in the world of music, performing in various bands during his youth, playing everything from Country to Bluegrass to Gospel. After moving to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1986, Diffie's music career began to take off after collaboration with Holly Dunn in 1989.

After signing with Epic, Diffie released his first album, "A Thousand Winding Roads," in 1990, resulting in three singles that debuted on the top of the Country Music charts. From there, he became a household name and has remained there to this day.

Throughout his career, Diffie has recorded 13 albums and produced more than 20 Top 10 single hits from those endeavors, such as "John Deere Green" and "Third Rock from the Sun."

Diffie has received both a Grammy award as well as an Academy of Country Music award for his talents. Also, he is a member of the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame and has been a member of the Grand

Ole Opry for more than two decades.

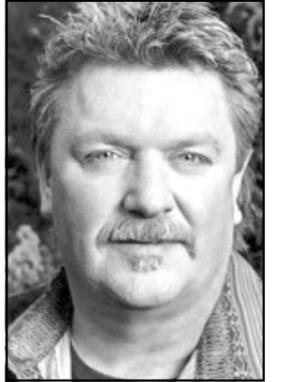
According to Thomason, Diffie has performed at the Anderson Music Hall before and it is always a great pleasure to have him.

"We had a few choices to pick from, but Joe Diffie was one that we thought would be a good fit," said Thomason. "He's had a lot of hits and we've had him here at the fairgrounds a couple times over the years. He'd been at the fair and the fall festival, and he's actually been here for a hard ticket concert as well."

"He's a great entertainer. I think people will really enjoy his music."

After the Gene Watson and Joe Diffie show, the Anderson Music Hall has plenty more shows coming up for fans of all genres, from Christian band Mercy Me to Classic Rock favorite ZZ Top.

"We have Sawyer Brown and Little Texas booked for Mother's Day weekend," said Thomason. "We have ZZ Top, Clint Black, Trace Adkins, Mercy Me and Wynonna Judd. Then we also have an offer in on the Beach Boys, which I'm



Joe Diffie's last appearance at the fairgrounds was for a show alongside Mark Chesnutt on Nov. 28, 2015.

hoping to get confirmed here right away for Nov. 4.

"Then we have an offer in on The Kentucky Headhunters and Confederate Railroad for the Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruz-In. We have a huge lineup this year and a lot of activities going on. It's a big year coming up."

Tickets for the concerts can be bought online at www.georgiamountainfairgrounds.com, now at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, or before any concert while ticket supplies last.

## Library...from Page 1A

Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw, who spoke briefly with the group before official business.

Commissioner Bradshaw expressed his support and dedication to the library, ensuring those in attendance that he would do everything he could to help the libraries in Towns County flourish and prosper.

"I want you all to know that the library is very important to me," said Bradshaw. "I'm not just saying that because I'm commissioner, it always has been."

"We always try and support the library. As commissioner, anything that we can possibly afford to do and can do, we will and we want to continue to support the library in any way that we can."

"I want to thank you all for serving and doing what you do. We have a wonderful community, and with all of us coming together we can continue to make it better. We thank you so much."

Commissioner Bradshaw stayed for the duration of the meeting, learning of the recent updates to the Mountain Regional Library building as well as upcoming events throughout the system.

Towns County Public Library Branch Manager Debbie Phillips finished the previous quarter out with continued success for the patrons, granting 56 new library cards in the last three months alone. At the Hiwassee-based library, Phillips offers weekly craft classes for patrons to partake, such as card making and a continuous community jigsaw puzzle.

With the increased popularity of these opportunities, Phillips wants to continue to bring innovative and new experiences to the Towns County Public Library to provide an experience unique to that branch.

"The library is being used for all different kinds of things, other than just coming in to get a book," said Phillips. "We try to keep our Facebook updated so people can get news on what's going on here, when our classes are happening and different things that are happening."

"We've been quite busy and planning things. We're already planning things for the summer programs."

Towns County Public Library is not the only one putting everything toward a bigger and better year. Since moving into the newly renovated



Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw attended the meeting to share his support for the libraries of Towns County.



Mountain Regional Library Director Vince Stone shared statistics for the library in Young Harris.

building, Mountain Regional Library has been continuously making efforts to improve the quality of the experience for patrons of the institution.

One such improvement that Mountain Regional Library Director Vince Stone wishes to accomplish in the coming year is starting a celebration for Dr. Seuss's birthday at the library. Gathering inspiration from a library in Cleveland, Tennessee, Stone hopes to gain enough support for the program to offer a free Dr. Seuss book for all children who attend the event.

"I want to do a big celebration at Mountain Regional Library on Dr. Seuss's birthday," said Stone. "I've seen this done in my hometown where the college partnered with a civic group to purchase and fund a book for every child that attended that event."

"When they came to the library, there were activities and storytelling. Now, this would take over a year to do. I'm going to actively start pitching the idea to Young Harris College and seeing if

there is an interest there. "I want to be able to pull something off that is really special and really cool."

As for the system as a whole, Stone had exciting news concerning a new update for the MRL system website, PINES.

Up until now, PINES has been an English language only accessible site. With the new update, however, PINES can change languages with just a click of a button.

"One of the biggest things that's going to be taking place with this update is the one-click switch," said Stone. "This will allow the entire PINES website to be switched from English to Spanish. We don't have a huge Hispanic community here, but for Georgia, it's a big deal."

"To be able to just switch the entire language of the site with one click, that's a very big deal."

The update was completed Monday, Jan. 23, and all branches in the system will have the newly revised site.