

# Towns County Herald

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## 4-H'ers seek help in supporting local troops

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Those who have enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces, both veterans and active duty, are important assets to every community.

These men and women risk their lives for the betterment of the country, oftentimes by giving up the security of their homes and being surrounded by friends and family.

Towns County 4-H students hope to provide comfort to local men and women who are stationed overseas by assembling care packages to send to those soldiers.

"4-H has a lot of different opportunities throughout the year to help others," said 4-H Extension Associate Andrew Smith. "We have a 4-H pledge, and part of that is pledging your hands to a larger service."

"So, for our first 4-H project of the year, the fourth- and fifth-



Here is the Towns County 4-H BB Team at state competition in 2015. This year, the team is seeking local support to create care packages for local troops overseas.

graders are going to really focus on the service of others.

"Our first project will be gathering supplies and also putting together care packages for local troops who are currently deployed

overseas.

"We're wanting to get into the community and find out who is currently deployed, just to make sure we don't miss anybody."

"We want to make sure as

many as we can, get on our list and get packages that are currently deployed. We're hoping to help at least 15 to 20 people. We want to keep it as local as possible."

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## Hiawassee man dies in two-car crash in Hall Co.

By Charles Duncan  
North Georgia News  
Editor

WAUKA MOUNTAIN – A Hiawassee man died and his wife was seriously injured in a two-car head-on crash last week in Hall County.

Samuel Dwayne Osborn, 61, brother of Union County Sheriff's Lt. Daren Osborn, died when the 2009 Ford Escape he was driving was struck head on by a 2002 Mitsubishi Gallant driven by William Simmemon, 56, of Alto, according to the Georgia State Patrol.

Simmemon also died as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. Dwayne Osborn's passenger, his wife, Vivian Osborn, 54, of Hiawassee, was injured and transported to Northeast Georgia Medical Center, according to GSP.



Samuel Dwayne Osborn

Afterward, Vivian Osborn was released from the hospital and allowed to return home, where she was recovering from injuries as of press time.

The crash happened at 7:25 a.m. on Cleveland

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## County honors history of Swanson Mountain

By Todd Forrest  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – The official title of "Young Harris Mountain" has always been "Swanson Mountain," and on Saturday, Aug. 27, the Towns County Historical Society with Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall unveiled a namesake sign at the intersection of Georgia 515 West and Fox Run Road.

The sign will serve as a reminder to residents and passersby of the mountain's correct name.

"Errecting the sign is not naming the mountain, just recognizing (Swanson Mountain as its name)," Jerry Taylor said. "Locally, most people refer to it as 'Young Harris Mountain,' but that has never been its proper name. It was named 'Swanson Mountain' long ago, and was on the U.S. Department of Interior quadrangle maps as



Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall gathers with members of the Swanson family during the unveiling of the sign properly designating "Young Harris Mountain" as "Swanson Mountain" on Saturday, Aug. 27

such."

At 2,323 feet above sea level, the mountain was once known as Land Lot 48, 17th District, 1st Section of original Union County, now Towns

County.

In 1832, the Cherokee Nation was divided into lots and given away in a land lottery. Land Lot 48 was drawn by Drury Cox of Monroe County.

In preparation for removing the Cherokee, who were still living on the land, an evaluation of the property

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## Young Harris Art Fest celebrates successful show



Dozens of vendors sold their homemade arts and crafts at the 2016 Young Harris Arts and Crafts Festival in Mayor's Park

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – No festival season would be complete without the annual Young Harris Arts and Crafts Festival, held last weekend at Mayor's Park on Saturday, Aug. 27, and Sunday, Aug. 28.

Hosting the usual eclectic

mix of nearly 40 vendors and craftsmen showing off their creations, the festival offered patrons a wide variety of knife and soap makers, woodcarvers, artists, photographers, blacksmiths, gardeners and much more.

"The weather is absolutely

See Art Fest, Page 7A

## Vote for EMC directors before meeting

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Every year, a good portion of the membership of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC gathers at the Anderson Music Hall in the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds to take part in the Annual Meeting.

Members listen to live music – this year, it's Southern Vantage – hear all kinds of reports, ask numerous questions, and wait patiently to see if they are winners of the yearly raffle prizes.

But probably the most important part of the Annual Meeting is the election of candidates to the BRMEMC

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Roy Perren, Mickey Cummings and Larry Williams were elected to the BRMEMC Board of Directors in last year's annual meeting. Here they are with Director Charles Jenkins, who was elected in 2014.

## Preventing bites key to avoiding Zika

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Zika has made its way to each of the 50 United States through travel-related cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, though only Florida to date has seen local transmission of the virus via mosquitoes.

There is concern, however, that the virus could spread even in areas that don't have locally infected mosquitoes, through sex with an infected partner.

And as of Friday, Georgia has four weeks to comply with a Food and Drug

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This is an Aedes aegypti female, one of the mosquito species capable of carrying the Zika virus. Photo courtesy of David A. McKinney, a doctoral student in the University of Georgia's Mosquito Endocrinology Lab

## Senior services highlighted at Movers and Shakers meeting

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Members of the Mountain Movers and Shakers learned the ins and outs of senior citizen options at their weekly meeting on Friday, Aug. 26, at Mary's Southern Grill.

Those present were given the opportunity to learn about different aspects of elderly living from Georgia Peters, Director of Admissions at Clay County Care Center, and Bobby Parker, Director of the Towns County Senior Center.

Peters spoke with the group about various uses for a nursing home, both for long-term use as well as short-term rehabilitation purposes. However, according to Peters, there are certain precautions to take before having yourself or a loved one admitted to a nursing home.

Many people seeking



Bobby Parker spoke to the Mountain Movers and Shakers on Friday, Aug. 26 about programs available at the Towns County Senior Center

the care of such facilities are unaware of the economic impact it can have on personal assets due to the cost. While most people assume a nursing home would be covered by insurance, there are many cases where it is not due to specifications within

an insurance policy.

"Make sure you speak with an attorney or someone who is knowledgeable about protecting your assets," said Peters. "If you have to come into a skilled nursing facility for

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## Planning continues for Towns County and cities

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County and the cities of Hiawasse and Young Harris are continuing to move forward in revising their respective comprehensive plans.

The City of Hiawasse held a public forum on Tuesday, Aug. 23, at Hiawasse City Hall, to further discuss the details of the comprehensive plan, providing members of the community with an opportunity to express concerns regarding the goals for future betterment of the city.

Of the many public interests voiced during the meeting, the primary issue revolved around the economic development and beautification of the city. Many residents present expressed their desire for restaurants and businesses



Joe Rothwell with the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission was in town twice last week to explain the ins and outs of the upcoming Comprehensive Plans for Towns County and Hiawasse.

in the community that is not tourist-based, as well as a revitalization of the downtown area.

Towns County also held a public forum on Thursday,

Aug. 25, at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center, to allow citizens the opportunity to bring specific goals for the county to

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