

# Towns County Herald

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## Ordiales elected mayor of Hiawassee; council gets new members

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Dozens of Hiawassee residents gathered outside the Towns County Board of Elections and Registration office after polls closed on Tuesday, Nov. 7 – Election Day – to find out who the voters had chosen to lead the city into the future.

Supporters of the seven candidates eagerly awaited the posting of the results, which finally came out on individual strips of paper printed from each of the six voting machines used to cast ballots in the 2017 Hiawassee General and Special Elections.

As residents huddled to tally the results on each of the thin strips, plus the four standard sheets posted with mail-in ballot results, one

excited constituent announced who won the race she cared about most.

“It’s Liz,” said the voter, making her way through the crowd.

She meant Liz Ordiales, of course, for office of Hiawassee mayor.

Ordiales had beaten opponent Barry Dearing with her 212 votes to his 91 to become the mayor-elect of Hiawassee.

“I think Hiawassee is ready for a change, people are ready for us to continue making good things happen,” said Ordiales, who resigned her city council post earlier this year to run for mayor. “I think I have the support of the majority of folks, and for the most part I think people are ready to see the city move forward, and I’m ready to do

that.”

The mayor-elect will volunteer her time in Hiawassee City Hall between now and the new year, and she will be sworn in as Mayor Liz Ordiales in January.

“We need to have controlled growth,” said Ordiales, looking forward with her vision for the city. “My platform is the same as Day One: manage our expenses, correct our infrastructure ... and then, work towards solid economic growth.”

Ordiales will be joined in January by three new Hiawassee City Councilmembers: Amy Barret, Patsy Owens and Nancy Noblet.

Barrett ran unopposed and garnered the most votes of any other candidate with 228.

“I wasn’t running to  
See Mayor, Page 6A



Ordiales hugging a supporter after learning on Tuesday, Nov. 7, that she would be the next mayor of Hiawassee. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

## Veterans receive thanks in annual ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

One simple way to honor veterans on Veterans Day is to thank them for putting their lives on the line to protect the personal freedoms of every man, woman and child in the United States of America.

Towns County residents paid respect to these brave men and women – those living, those who have passed and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in the line of duty – at the Towns County Veterans Memorial Park during the annual Veterans Day Service on Saturday, Nov. 11.

“Thank you so much  
See Veterans, Page 6A



The Laying of the Memorial Wreaths in the 2017 Towns County Veterans Day Ceremony. Photo/Lily Avery

## Hiawassee City Council votes to repeal EMC Franchise Fee Ordinance

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

After a series of legal correspondence between the City of Hiawassee and the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, in which the city has defended its Franchise Fee Ordinance, the Hiawassee City Council has voted to repeal the ordinance.

In its regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 7, the council held a first reading of an ordinance to repeal the EMC Franchise Fee Ordinance, which originally passed in August.

“Late this week, I had a request from Mr. (Jay) Chastain to put on the agenda a motion to rescind the City of Hiawassee Franchise Fee Ordinance,” said Mayor Pro Tem Anne Mitchell in the meeting. “The motion is listed here as No. 8. Is there a motion to rescind?”

Council member Chastain made the motion

being called for, and fellow Councilmember Kris Berrong attempted to counter Chastain’s motion.

“I want to make a motion to table this until we have a full council, and maybe have more time to discuss it,” said Berrong.

As to Berrong’s point of waiting to have a full council, only three of the five council seats were available to vote on the matter in the November meeting.

When Mayor Barbara Mathis resigned earlier this year and resigned from the mayor position, Councilmember Liz Ordiales took over the city as mayor pro tem, temporarily vacating her role as a councilmember.

That dropped the council from a full five members to four.

When Ordiales resigned from her council position to qualify to run for mayor in August, Berrong stepped up as mayor pro tem, though



Hiawassee City Councilmember Jay Chastain Jr.

Mitchell inherited those duties shortly thereafter.

That dropped the council from four members to three, for all intents and purposes.

In the Nov. 7 meeting, Councilmember Rayette Ross seconded Chastain’s motion to repeal the ordinance, and the repeal motion carried with a 2-1 majority.

“I’m really sorry it became such a political football,” said Mitchell of the ordinance. “It has caused great strife and distress in the community, because there are two sides that feel very strongly.”

Continued Mitchell: “It was a source of revenue that  
See Hiawassee, Page 6A

## Historic BRMEMC meeting scheduled



BRMEMC General Manager Jeremy Nelms and EMC Board President Mickey Cummings. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

History is set to unfold on Thursday, Nov. 16, at the headquarters of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC.

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC’s Board of Directors voted 5-4 during its Oct. 10 meeting to have open meetings that allow the cooperative’s membership to attend.

That process begins

on Thursday, with a meeting at the EMC headquarters in Young Harris, Board President Mickey Cummings said.

Board Secretary Roy Perren recently shared that those who wish to attend the board’s opening meetings must give at least two days’ notice as to whether they will be attending so the EMC can plan accordingly.

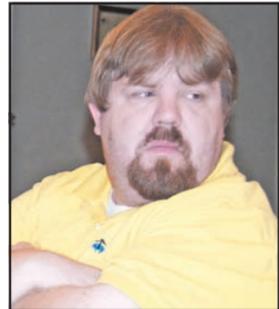
“I’m glad that we passed  
See BRMEMC, Page 6A

## Stuart Miller resigns City Council post

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Young Harris City Councilmember Stuart Miller resigned from his Council Post 3 seat during the city’s regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Miller, who has been serving the people and community of Young Harris for six and a half years, stepped down from his post for personal



Young Harris Councilmember Stuart Miller resigned his post in the Nov. 7 regular meeting. Photo/Lily Avery

See Miller, Page 6A

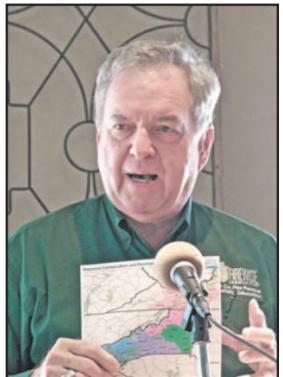
## Frank Riley updates Movers and Shakers on Firewise efforts

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Chattahoochee Resource, Conservation and Development Council Executive Director Frank Riley schooled the Mountain Movers and Shakers on all things fire related during the groups weekly meeting at Sundance Grill on Friday, Nov. 10.

The Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council is a non-profit organization located in Northeast Georgia that covers the 13 counties in the far corner of the state, including Towns and Union counties.

In 2013, Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D was chosen as one of the original eight pilot areas for the Fire



Frank Riley, executive director of the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council. Photo/Lily Avery

Adapted Communities project and since then has worked hard

See Riley, Page 7A

## Super Bowl-winning NFL center gives Indians locker room pep talk

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Indians traveled to South Georgia last week to compete in the first round of the Georgia High School Association Class A state playoffs.

It was the first time the high school football team had ever made it to the playoffs, and it capped a remarkable season with a regular season record of 5-5.

The Indians didn’t end up advancing in the playoffs, but they did enjoy their time together, especially with the 11 seniors who will graduate in May.

Leading up to their big Nov. 10 playoff game, the Indians invited the community to attend an evening pep rally on Thursday, Nov. 9.

The day before the big



Retired NFL center David Baas with Garrett Oakes and Dawson Smith in the Towns County High School locker room on Wednesday, Nov. 8. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

pep rally, the Boys in Blue met with a special guest, someone uniquely qualified to give them advice about their upcoming moments in

the state playoffs.

Right in the boys locker room, the boys spoke with none other than NFL center David Baas, who

played in Super Bowl XLVI as a member of the New York Giants team that took down the New England Patriots 21-17.

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Blue Ridge 1,672.75  
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Basketball  
Tues. Nov 14 @ Stephens Co. 6 PM  
Sat. Nov 18 @ Rabun Co 3:30 PM

Free Food Distribution  
N. Mt. Zion Church  
November 16th  
10 AM until Noon  
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Sheriff's Empty Stocking Parade  
Nov. 25th  
See page 2A

Thanksgiving Food Drive  
Drop off donations at Hiawassee Antique Mall  
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