

# Fire...from Page 1A



The November meeting with Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall was moved from the county courthouse to the Recreation and Conference Center.

U.S. Forest Service Officer Stan Hinatsu and his team spoke on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service, offering better insight into the Rock Mountain Fire that, along with the Rough Ridge Fire in Fannin County, has become one of the major threats to the region.

In conjunction with the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Service, the fire has been 30 percent contained, with a regulated perimeter just above Towns County, near Hightower Road.

"The area that we have contained is all along the south edge," said Noel Livingston, Incident Commander for the Pacific Northwest Team 3. "This is just along the south border of the fire, though, not the northern perimeter. Currently, the Rock Mountain Fire is around 8,500 acres (as of Nov. 17). The fire has been very active up in the northern peak, up near North Carolina and into the wilderness.

"Right now we have around 350 personnel on the fire, so each team comes with 50 members. I anticipate that we'll be somewhere in the 400 to 500 range before too long though, because of the increasing acreage spread."

Due to the influx of northwestern wind currents, Hinatsu expects this fire will spread north into the North Carolina Nantahala Wilderness, though no homes will be endangered at that juncture.

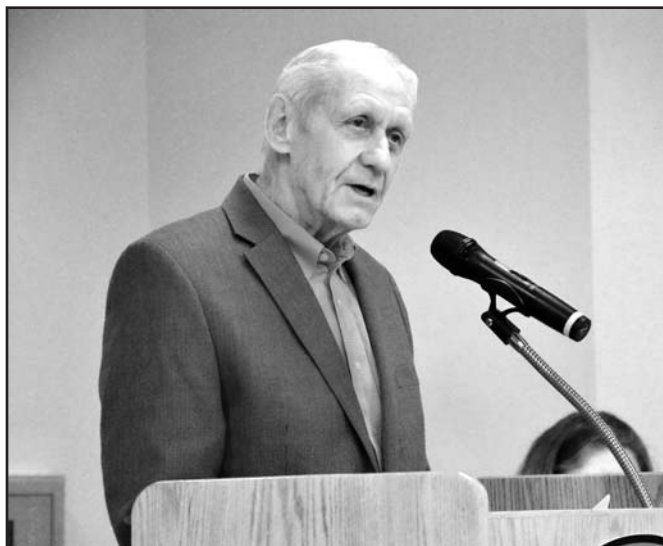
As of right now, the U.S. Forest Service and all teams involved are primarily focused on maintaining the current containment perimeter of the Rock Mountain Fire. It does not pose an immediate threat to Towns County residents, though all personnel are monitoring the fire closely.

Should the fire become an issue for area residents, Chief Copeland has made assurances that individuals will be notified in enough time to be evacuated efficiently, though he does not foresee this occurring anytime in the near future.

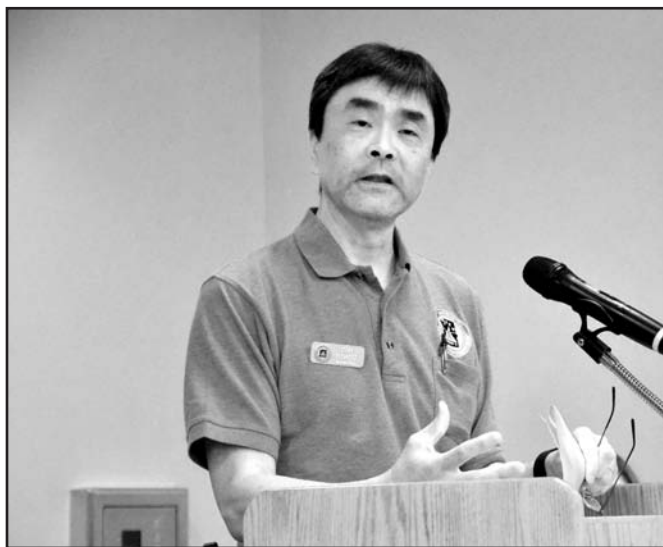
If anyone has health conditions that may be affected by the smoke, the county has 300

N-95 and N-100 masks that are free to the public. These masks can stop either 95 or 100 percent of harmful particles that could be in the air. Anyone interested in one of these masks can pick one up either at the EMS East or EMS West Station.

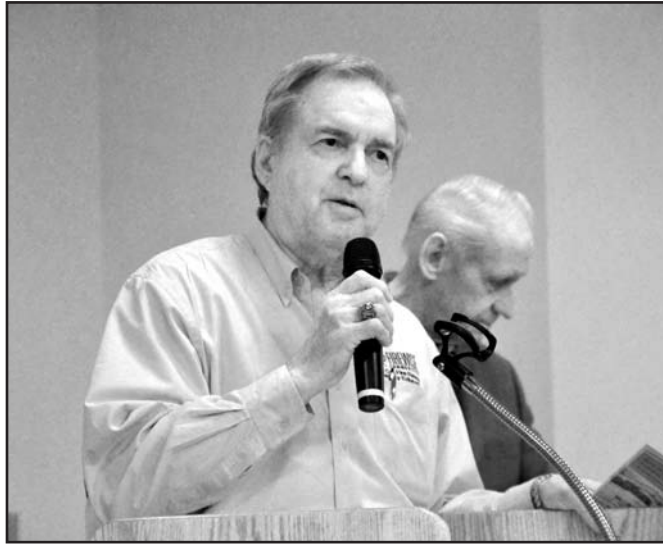
For daily updated information on the Rock Mountain Fire, visit either [www.fs.usda.gov/conf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/conf) or [www.rockmountainfire.wordpress.com](http://www.rockmountainfire.wordpress.com).



Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall



Stan Hinatsu with the U.S. Forest Service



Chest-Chatt RC&D Council Executive Director Frank Riley



Towns County EMA/EMS Director Rickey Mathis

centerline and into the path of the Guggisbergs' vehicle, a Toyota Camry, authorities said.

The front passenger sides of both cars collided, according to authorities.

Services for Joanne Guggisberg are scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 22, at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Hayesville. Interment will follow at a later date in the New Ulm Catholic Cemetery in New Ulm, Minnesota.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in memory of Joanne Guggisberg to Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Murphy, NC, or Good Shepherd Homecare & Hospice of Murphy.

Joanne, a grandmother of three, had been married to her husband Ronald for 52 years.

Services were held for Brittany Hunter on Sunday, Nov. 20, at Macedonia Baptist Church.

According to Hunter's obituary, Hunter was a graduate of Towns County High School and worked as a caregiver.

"The princess of the family, Brittany enjoyed singing and spending time with her family and friends," continued the remembrance in kindness. "She was a blessing to her family and friends and could always brighten up the room when she was around.

"She also enjoyed playing basketball, going camping and taking trips to the beach. She was a loving daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece, cousin and friend.

"She was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church where she spent her childhood practicing her bible drill skills. 'Princess Britt' loved her cats and supporting her favorite sports team, Clemson."

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to defer funeral expenses. All arrangements were made by Mountain View Funeral Home in Blairsville.

# Turkey Trot...from Page 1A



Deputy Henderson's girlfriend, Kaley Raper, and sister, Bridget Henderon-Phillips, with members of the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Henderson's sister, and Kaley Raper, his girlfriend, Henderson has been recovering at Atlanta's Shepherd Center for the last month. The Shepherd Center specializes in rehabilitation of brain and spine injuries, and is ranked among the Top 10 rehabilitation hospitals in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report.

"He is making progress every day," Raper said. "He has a long road ahead of him, but he looks great and is getting better each day."

"We are so thankful for everything that everyone has done, and we appreciate it so much," said Phillips, in regards to the outpouring of support that the Henderson family has received from the community. "He's getting to where we can show him all of the support, and it always brings a smile to his face."

"We also want to thank Lisa Urban for putting this 5K on," Raper added. "We are very thankful to Zaxby's and the Sheriff's Department, they've been his backbone through all of this."

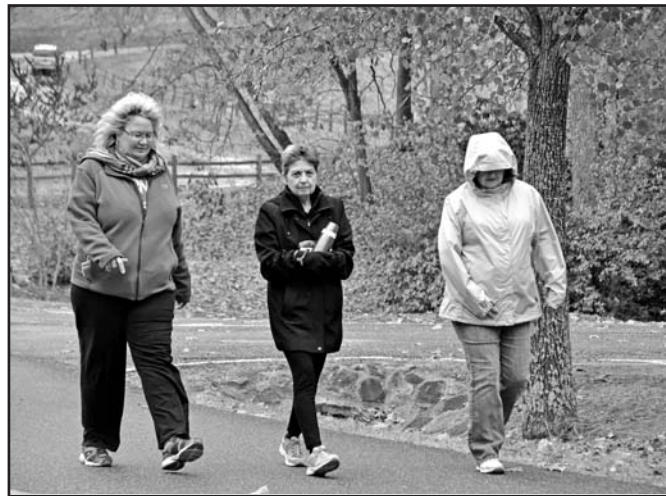
The event, which featured a 5K race and a Prayer Walk, was the brainchild of 17-year old Austin Urban, who turned to his mother, Lisa, to help put the finishing touches on the fundraiser.

"This was something that was on his heart," said Lisa Urban of her son Austin, who runs cross country at Mountain Area Christian Academy. "We are friends of the family, although we don't know Mitchell all that well, but it was something Austin wanted to do, especially with all of the negativity directed at police officers going on right now. We're here to love them and support them, and he wanted to do something special for Mitchell."

Another fundraiser will be held this weekend in Hiwassee with a fishing tournament that will take place on Saturday. For more information you may contact Nathan Noble at C&J Mountain Outfitters in Hiwassee at (706) 896-7543.

Sponsors of the #239 Turkey Trot 5K were: Zaxby's, First Baptist Church of Blairsville, Coosa Creek Embroidery, Griddle Cafe & Deli, Northeast Georgia Dermatology, Olive Tree Art Centre, Ricky Rich Grading, Brasstown Pharmacy Drug & Gun, Panel Built, American Legion Auxiliary, Armadillo Grill, Charlotte Ledford.

Other sponsors included Su Kralj, John, Sarah and Ethan Schutte. All Phase Painting and Pressure Cleaning, High



Participants in the prayer walk



Lance Underwood was Overall Winner of the "Turkey Trot."

Country Tire & Wheel, Mac Tools, Sicily's Pizza, The Sawmill Place, Kimark Inc., G&G Bakery, Shook Tire, Pat's Hallmark, Mike's Seafood, DMI Collision & Custom, and United Community Bank.

"We want to thank everyone in the community for their support of Mitchell and our deputies," Lisa Urban said. "Everyone we asked was eager to help out, and they were all extremely generous. We couldn't have done this without them."

The top three in each division of the 5K were as follows:

Overall winner - Lance Underwood (17:02).

Overall Female winner - Cameron Rice (20:41).

19-and-under female:

Tessa Terlap (28:31), Julia Schoeffler (31:34), Claire Sanders (31:34.50).

19-and-under male:

Adam Bachman (18:41), Zuya Yellow Dog (18:46), Hunter Hartzog (18:57).

20-to-39 female: Kayla Sparling (23:58), Lisa Dockery (26:31), Brandi Barrett (27:02).

20-to-39 male: Brandon Wathers (20:57), Andy Gwynn (22:46), Mark Dressler (24:24).

40-to-49 female: Erika Reiser (27:27), Mary Goody Kite (29:57), Laura Baumeister (33:05).

40-to-49 male: Steven Jarrard (22:06), Kurtis Underwood (26:18), Jeff Gwynn (26:19).

50-and-over female: Pam Abernathy (26:10), Shell Terlap (29:48), Sharon Williams (30:04).

50-and-over male: Timothy Rutherford (20:44), Bob Buckner (26:07), Steve Cockerham (26:11).

# Crash...from Page 1A

Home in Hayesville, NC, website.

The accident occurred shortly before the 911 call came in at 9:17 a.m. that Thursday.

Hunter's vehicle, a Kia sedan, was traveling east on Young Harris Highway, just a few short miles from the Towns County line, when for reasons unknown it drifted across the



Mountain High Hikers schedule two hikes every Tuesday, one long and one shorter, as well as occasional specialty hikes. Weekly trail maintenance trips are scheduled every Thursday.

Come enjoy the beautiful mountains and waterfalls we have here. Check the website [www.mountainhighhikers.org](http://www.mountainhighhikers.org) for schedule and contact numbers. NT(NoV23Z)CA

# Suspect arrested for multiple reports of public indecency in Young Harris

News Special to Towns County Herald

Investigators with the Towns County Sheriff's Office have been busy with an ongoing investigation of reports of public indecency in the Young Harris area.

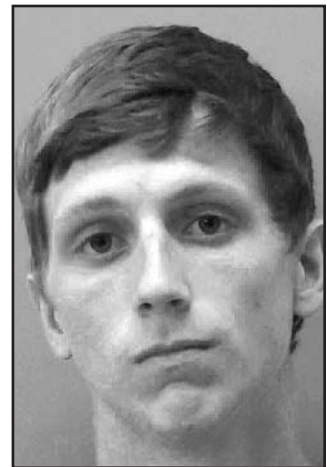
The first report of an incident of public indecency was reported to have occurred on April 14, 2016, in the Young Harris area.

The second reported incident of public indecency was reported to have occurred on June 26, 2016, on Highway 76 in Young Harris. During this incident, two separate victims reported the suspect had exposed himself.

The last two incidents of public indecency were reported to have occurred during September and October.

On Oct. 28, Towns County Investigators arrested Kyle Edwards, 20, of Blairsville, and charged him with three counts of public indecency.

He made bond on those charges and was released



Kyle Edwards

from the Towns County Sheriff's Detention Center. He is currently being held in the Union County Jail on two counts of public indecency incidents which were reported to have occurred in their county.

Towns County Sheriff's Investigators have two additional warrants stemming from the incidents that occurred on June 26 in Young Harris. The Towns County Sheriff's Office has placed a hold on

Edwards with the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Upon Edwards' release from the Union County Jail, he will be transported back to the Towns County Detention Center to be charged and arrested on the two additional warrants.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office provided assistance to the Young Harris College Police Department and the Union County Sheriff's Office during the course of this investigation.

This investigation continues, and additional arrests are possible. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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