

Hero...from Page 1A



Corridor Mortgage also donated to the Blairsville Police Department's Shop With A Cop program, which took kids shopping on Saturday, Dec. 10

donations to area children's benefits, this year on Monday, Dec. 12: one to the newly christened Shop With A Hero program out of Towns County, and the other to the Blairsville Police Department for their Shop With A Cop program.

Accepting the donation this year in place of their father were Jared and Brittany Wright, both of whom are home for the holidays and looking forward to another successful year of one of their father's favorite things about being in law enforcement — making children feel special for Christmas.

While Blairsville PD hosted its Shop With A Cop on Saturday, Dec. 10, the Hiwassee Police Department, along with the Towns County Fire Department and Family Connection, will be meeting at Walmart in Blairsville on Tuesday, Dec. 20, to partake in the annual event that was known until this year as the Hiwassee PD's Shop With A Cop.

Amy Gibby-Rosser of Family Connection, located within Towns County Schools, has worked closely with Shop With A Hero for quite some time, assisting in fundraising efforts throughout the year to make the event the best it possibly can be.

"This year, our fundraising efforts, we just received so many donations

from community people, individuals and businesses," said Gibby-Rosser. "We've got volunteers from all facets. We have citizens, business owners, fire department, police department, Coastguard, and we're just really excited about it.

"We have so many volunteers who want to be there and people who are happy to carry on this tradition in honor of Jimmy."

Shop With A Hero was one of the beloved police chief's favorite endeavors every year, and even though he has passed, the community still wishes to keep his legacy alive through this annual occasion of giving.

"Most of the community knew how kind and generous a man Jimmy was," said Gibby-Rosser. "I don't know if many knew the extent of the things that he did, sort of behind the scenes, that he didn't want any recognition for. He truly cared about students and families, and he always wanted to make sure everyone was taken care of."

This year, Shop With A Hero will be taking 31 Towns County Middle School students to create a Christmas to remember, allotting \$200 per student for gifts. Each student will be paired with a volunteer to assist with the experience, and all those involved hope for a successful year.

"We're actually taking a few more kids this year than we did last year," said Gibby-Rosser. "We generally take 20 to 40 kids because we want to make sure that we have enough volunteers, and that we're set for the kids to have a great experience.

"Each child has a volunteer that goes with them, a hero, that they are paired with. That person is there to be a friend, to help with monetary issues and all of that."

This year, on behalf of their father and to continue the legacy he left behind, Jared and Brittany Wright received many of the donations in person, such as the recent donation from the Corridor Mortgage Group of Blairsville.

Corridor Mortgage is a mortgage company that was founded in 2000, moving into the Southeastern region as of 2014. The Blairsville office was the first office to open in Georgia, with Rebecca King, Lisa Baxter and Teresa Lockaby. The group serves North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.

As far as why they give to Shop With A Cop and Shop With A Hero, the staff at Corridor Mortgage appreciates the local law enforcement and everything they do, including Shop With A Cop, Shop With A Hero, and the fact that they are always keeping their respective communities safe.

Special guests at Garden Club Christmas Party



Pam Francis is seen leading the Christmas carol singing.

Members of the Hiwassee Garden Club welcomed Commissioner Bill Kendall and his wife, Jean, to their Christmas party luncheon on December 15, 2016. Also welcomed were guests Mary Mike Keller, our Garden Club President Cheryl Gehring's sister, and Pam Francis, a neighbor of Patti Bransford. Several years ago the Garden Club decided to have their Christmas dinner at noon because the weather is usually not quite so cold during the day and it's easier to drive in daylight. Soup, sandwiches, salads and desserts were the menu of the day and it all was delicious and could have fed twice as many folks.



December hostesses: Ruthie Halasz, Peggy West, and Cheryl Gehring; Ruthie made the table design.

Hostesses Cheryl Gehring, Peggy West and Ruthie Halasz took care of drinks and coffee.

The clubhouse had been decorated last week with a tree and baskets of greenery and berries on the tables. Ruthie made the live flower design for the main table and it was later drawn as a door prize. Rounding out the holiday spirit was a sing-along of familiar Christ-

mas carols led by guest Pam Francis.

Next month's meeting will be on Thursday, January 26, 2017 with speaker Ray Covington, Superintendent of 195 Georgia Experimental Stations in Georgia.

The meeting begins at 12:45 p.m. with a light lunch and guests are always welcome. TIDec21.G2JSH

Phi Chi alumni donate to Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund

Hiwassee, GA, December 15, 2016: Each year during the Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund, which provides Christmas toys for less fortunate local children, members of the community partner with the Sheriff's Office to make it all possible.

Many community partners have been here each and every year and can't be thanked enough for the support of these children. One such group is the Phi Chi Fraternity Alumni of Young Harris College. As they have so many years, the Phi Chi Fraternity Alumni came through for these children with a car load of really great toys.

Melanie Hale Bailey delivered the toys to Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton on Thursday, December 15, at the Towns County Sher-



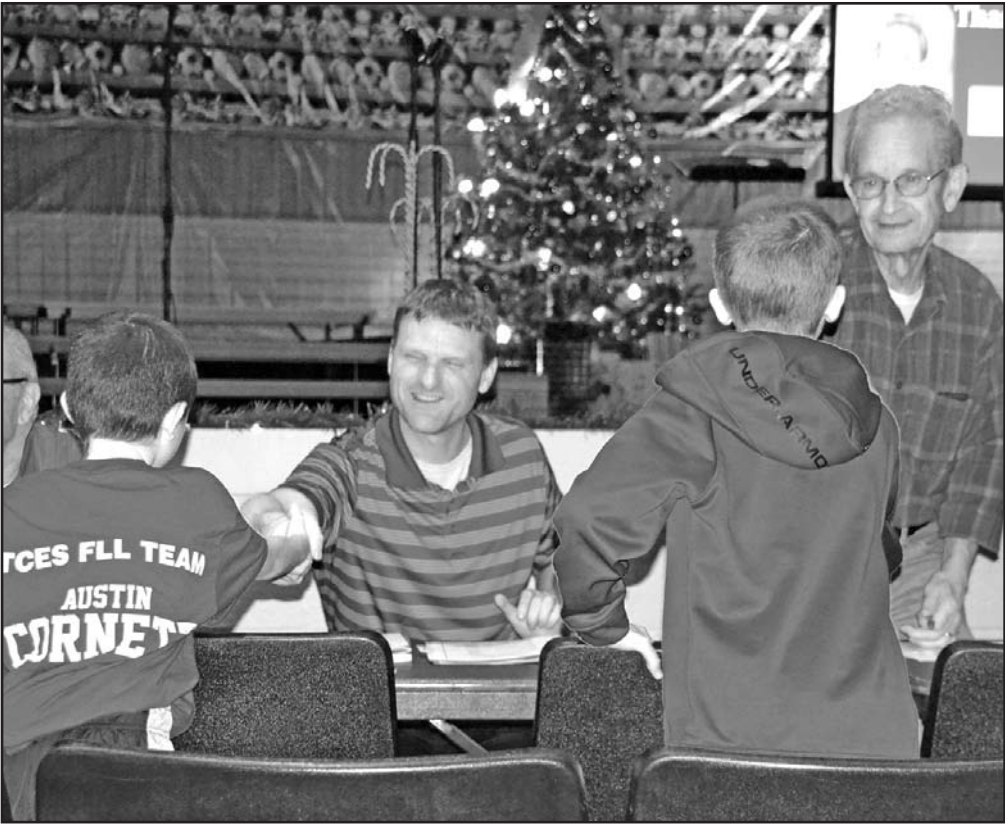
iff's Office. Sheriff Clinton would like to thank the Phi Chi Alumni for their continued generosity in supporting these children.

A helping hand to this effort, or know of a child in need of help, please contact your Sheriff's Office at 706/896-4444.

If you would like to lend

TIDec21.G1JSH

BOE...from Page 1A



The Towns County Elementary School Robotics Team presented their award-winning robot to Dr. Berrong and the board of education in the Dec. 12 meeting

winning robot. Completely constructed by the students, the robot received a First Place win when the team traveled to Blairsville to compete in a districtwide competition two weeks prior.

Of the eight members of the team, five made it to the board meeting, and there the kids shared their experiences of competing — and winning — in a district competition for the first time. All of the team members are in either the fourth or fifth grade.

"We made our robot from the instructions from the kit," said Eli Phillips, FLL team member. "Then



Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong presenting Gibby his plaque

we added on our certain add-ons to help do missions. We programmed it all on our own."

As part of the team's project, the students worked on a program that could better help humans interact with animals, such as a program that can be used to entertain a dog by simply using a cellphone.

After presenting their project to the board, the FLL team members personally thanked all the board members

and Dr. Berrong for their support, shaking each of their hands and proving the importance of such programs within the school system for the betterment of the students as they prepare to go out into the community.

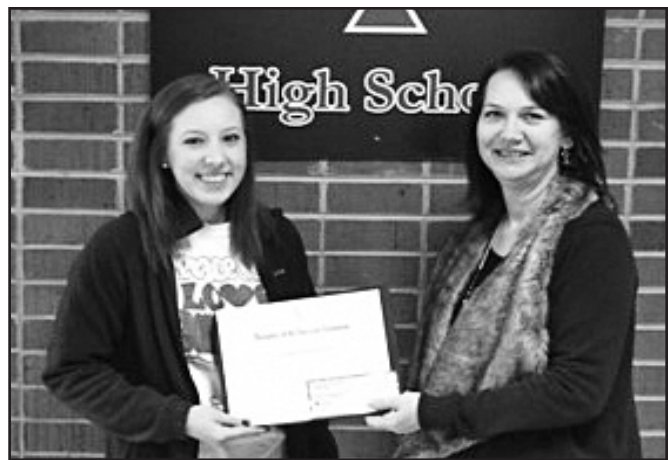
In closing, Dr. Berrong wished all in attendance a Merry Christmas, and said that he looks forward to seeing what the following year has in store for the school system.

Makenzie Carroll wins DAR Good Citizen Award

Carmen Makenzie Carroll was selected as the 2016 Daughters of American Revolution Good Citizen Award for Towns County High School. Makenzie demonstrates the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism which are criteria for being selected as a DAR Good Citizen.

Makenzie is the President of HOSA, Vice President of FBLA, a member of the student council, senior class officer, plays varsity soccer and maintains all As while staying very busy and active in school and church.

Makenzie is a senior at Towns County High School and plans on pursuing a career in nursing. Congratulations Makenzie! TIDec21.F2JSH



Makenzie Carroll (left) and Dr. Connie Hobbs

Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild celebrates with Holiday Luncheon



(L-R): Debbie Johnson, Lenita Patterson, Zelia Kifer, Susan Slaton

Members of the Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild met on Tuesday, December 13th to celebrate the Holiday Season with a Christmas luncheon. Sixty-five members were present and enjoyed the festivities. They had a potluck lunch and participated in fun Christmas carols puzzle games.

The Misty Mountain

Quilters' Guild meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the First United Methodist Church of Union County in Blairsville, GA. The usual arrival time is 12:30 and the meeting begins at 1 p.m. It is the mission of our guild to educate, share, promote and keep alive the art and traditions of quiltmaking. NTIDec21.Z4JCA

Mountain Sounds Dulcimer Club

We meet every 2nd & 4th Tuesday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. No matter if you just started playing the dulcimer or if you are experienced, come join us for a good time playing your favorite songs and learning new songs. For more information call Roxanne at 386-561-0593 or email roxannegill47@gmail.com. Hope to see you at our next meeting!