

Iwo Jima...from Page 1

Riveter and everyone else," said Rev. Richard Hoibraten, commander of the American Legion. "So please, every one of you, remember the people — it takes all of us working together."

Members of the Coastguard Auxiliary, Coastguard Vets, American Legion, VFW and Marine Corps League attended the event with members of their families, all in the name of remembrance and honor for this 70th anniversary.

Walt Scott, USMC, introduced Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, recognizing his support over

the years as a veterans advocate, and Johnson echoed the sentiments.

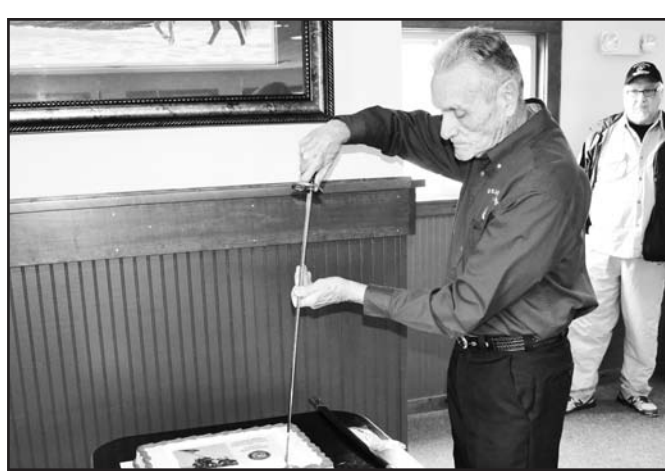
"I would like to thank all of you for coming," said Johnson. "Thank you, commissioner, for what you do for us veterans. I'm so proud to be a member of this county that I have been for all these 30 something years now."

"Seventy years ago, I know where we were," said Johnson, turning to his fellow Iwo Jima veterans. "But for the grace of God, we're here today to celebrate this 70th. I want to thank you, shipmate, Navy, and shipmate, Marine

Corps — oo-rah. Never in a hundred years did I ever think that we'd be sitting here today. I want to thank all of you veterans and all of you people who have given freedom to this country. Thank you very much — I salute each and every one of you."

Johnson introduced guest speaker Lt. Col. Bill Lyon, USMC (Ret.), who served three tours to Okinawa, Korea and various ships at sea.

Lyon began his military career in August of 1978, and spent much of his time piloting helicopters and instructing



others to do so. He spoke on remembrance.

"Some gave a little, some

gave a lot — some gave it all," said Lyon. "When you think about veterans who gave it all,

a lot of times we think about Iwo Jima veterans, World War II veterans, veterans from Beirut, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Panama. Don't forget the people who passed during peacetime. During my three flying tours, I knew 23 friends or crewmembers who passed away."

Johnson, who turned 93 on Saturday, March 7, presented Roshaven with his and the late Leon West's sands of Iwo Jima, to be displayed with the Unicoi detachment, and a cake prepared for the event was cut with a U.S. Marine Corps NCO sword in honor of the event.

Council...from Page 1

Nearby Blairsville, Helen and Blue Ridge already sell growlers, and allowing for the sale of this particular packaging of beer in Hiawassee should help the city to keep up with current trends around the state.

City Council also adopted two new policies in the March meeting: the 2015 Hiawassee Inclement Weather and Emergency Closure Policy and the 2015 Hiawassee Safety Policy.

The inclement weather policy is "an enactment consistent with other cities for what we've been doing anyway," said City Manager Rick Stancil.

"But the city has a historical perspective of, this is what we've always done, without it ever being reduced to writing," said Stancil. "And since I've been here, we've tried to at least reduce to writing what we're doing to make it easier to understand for, especially in this case, the employees."

The policy addresses which city employees should report to work and which should stay home in cases of inclement weather.

"The best example of that is the police," said Stancil. "The police can't all of a sudden say, it's snowing, I'm

going to go home and stay. The police are on duty all the time — that's the nature of the function of law enforcement. We also have to have the ability, depending on conditions, to have employees at the water plant and employees at the sewer plant. Just because it's snowing doesn't mean we can shut the water plant down."

"Then, you've got people within the office here, and to a certain extent, if it's snowing, we don't want them coming in if it's dangerous conditions. There's potential liability on the city. Those people need to stay home, need to obey the traffic warnings and need to

stay off the road."

The new safety policy is a way to get city employees to focus on prevention.

"We're going to put a uniform policy in for departments on safety training, and we'll be having safety rules and regulations that we've never had within each department, because it varies what the needs are from department to department," said Stancil.

City Council's vote to approve the 2015 Safety Policy also put into place a Safety Committee, which will oversee safety issues and safety policy administration.

Stancil also proposed

implementing cross inspections down the road, where employees of the sewer plant might inspect the water treatment plant, and employees of the water treatment plant might inspect the water department, for example.

City Engineer Don Baker reported on the most recent update to the city's nutrient reduction plan at the sewer plant, which will make Lake Chatuge less prone to algae blooms and other forms of invasive aquatic plant life.

Already, the sewer plant returns water to the lake that is cleaner than what comes out of the lake to be treated at the

water treatment plant.

The next step in the process will be the installation of a new UV lighting system at the sewer plant to act as a disinfectant for water leaving the facility.

Currently, the city is taking bids on the project, and will likely decide which bid to take in the next two months, with installation of the lighting complete a month or two after that.

At the end of the meeting, the mayor and city council went into closed executive session to discuss "threatened litigation." More details will become available if a lawsuit is filed.

Student Council...from Page 1

aware of the need to conserve and reuse what they can.

"At the beginning of the year, the students were very adamant about helping our environment," said Tallent. "When the weather permits, we clean up around the school.

Students walk around and pick up garbage all around our campus. We usually start with the playground and go from there."

Before long, the students grew to be even more involved in the effort of recycling, step-

ping up their initial efforts with a program designed to create an even greater impact around the school.

"We then decided to start recycling paper at the school," said Tallent. "We invited all teachers that wanted to par-

ticipate to place a box in their classroom to collect paper.

The students decorated the boxes and we began. The first month we collected 100 pounds of paper. So far, we have collected 665 pounds of paper."

Student council has been very active in learning about the modes of government, having recently visited the state capitol to meet with Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle and Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp.

"I'm very excited about

all the energy these children have and their ideas they have to help our school and community," said Tallent. "I would also like to thank Bill Kendall and the wonderful members of our community and school for all of their support."

Swett...from Page 1

email to someone I knew on CompuServe, I had to dial up CompuServe, log on, get their email software, draft my email, and send it and log back off again. They charged you by the minute."

This, clearly, was not the most efficient way to communicate, as each service required separate subscriptions to contact others within each disparate framework.

"Around 1989, 1990, these networks started to connect to something called the Internet, which arose out of, I believe DARPA's government network," said Swett. "So,

these other companies, they built gateway computers that would connect to the Internet.

"And so, you could put Internet in front of your email address, a colon, and then the Internet email address. It would go to that gateway, and it would get sent off to your friend in AOL or your friend at The Source — any of these other commercial networks that were connected to the Internet."

This marked the beginnings of a concept now known as net neutrality, a principle that calls for Internet service providers to treat all Internet traffic equally.

Swett discussed FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler's statement last year that the FCC would like to regulate the Internet to keep this free-flowing nature intact.

During the comment period following this announcement, there were "more than 4 million comments on this regulation of the Internet," Swett said, with four out of five comments in favor of heavy regulation "to keep the Internet working exactly the way it works today."

The current standard of practice is net neutrality, and is being adhered to voluntarily by

each network. But regulations imposed by the FCC would keep network providers from establishing tolls or disrupting services in the future that are not provided by the ISPs.

For example, without net neutrality, an ISP could slow down the Internet connection of a customer who watches many hours of streaming video each day.

President Barack Obama urged the FCC recently "to take up the strongest possible rules to protect net neutrality," according to whitehouse.gov.

Just last month, the FCC adopted what it called "strong,

sustainable rules to protect the Open Internet."

"Today, the Commission — once and for all — enacts strong, sustainable rules, grounded in multiple sources of legal authority, to ensure that Americans reap the economic, social, and civic benefits of an Open Internet today and into the future," according to a statement issued Feb. 26 on the FCC website. "These new rules are guided by three principles: America's broadband networks must be fast, fair and open — principles shared by the overwhelming majority of the nearly 4 million commenters

who participated in the FCC's Open Internet proceeding."

According to Swett, a new business model is needed to cope with the higher demand on bandwidth and the problems facing Internet service providers today, such as the uneven distribution of traffic between networks.

"If net neutrality stands, it will be the next closest thing to nationalization of the Internet — it will force transparency of telecom business models, but at the same time it will require artificial incentives to be paid from public funds, i.e. taxes," said Swett.

Jobs Fair...from Page 1

right now for us."

Currently, there are two types of positions available for the Hiawassee location: shift managers and crew members.

The duties for shift manager positions are described as follows:

"Managing day to day operations including opening

and closing the restaurant, bank deposits, monitoring food and labor costs and the training and development of employees. Shift managers may also have to perform the functions of crew members including taking orders from customers, operating cash register, making correct change, cleaning and

cooking."

Starting salary for shift manager will depend upon experience.

The crew member position requires no prior experience, but applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

For the crew member position, the job description

reads: "Duties include taking orders from customers, operating cash register, making correct change, cleaning, cooking and closing duties."

Starting pay for crew members will be between \$7.25 and \$8 an hour, depending on experience.

Regardless of position ap-

plied for, work schedules will be discussed at the interview, and Taco Bell is searching for candidates who are willing to work a flexible schedule.

"We're looking for a big turnout," said Wilcox. "We worked very close to Mr. Kendall in the commissioner's office, who is helping me

spearhead this. And everyone in Towns has been talking about, hey, there's a new Taco Bell coming to town. The word is definitely out there, and we want to make this a huge success. The more people we can get out and employ, the better. It's a win-win for everyone."

Clinic...from Page 1

Bible because most people write notes in their Bible," said Grimes. "If they went out and bought a new Bible, they'd lose all their notes, so they'd rather have them rebound."

And regardless of the material needed for restoration, Grimes has books and Bibles

covered.

"I work with leather, imitation leather, as well as other materials in the bookbinding industry," said Grimes. "I get a lot of satisfaction from taking an old book or family Bible and making it look like new again. Individuals appreciate my abil-

ity to restore a family treasure or heirloom."

Grimes regularly restores books that are from the 1800s and older, and he said that his favorite book to work with was a first edition of the King James Bible, which he restored more than 30 years ago.

He's restored many thousands of books and Bibles over his 40 years in the business, all of which he considers unique. Grimes is often asked the value of the books he restores.

"Somebody will ask me, 'I've got this book, is this worth rebinding?'" said Grimes. "Well,

if it's a book you want to keep, it is."

Grimes takes pride in his job and the work he does, offering a quick turnaround and quality work.

"The best part of my job is making people happy," said Grimes. "When I get some-

body's prized Bible or book back to them, a lot of time I carry it back, and they'll look at me and say, how'd you do that? Well, I've been doing it for 40 years. Just like anything else you do, if you do it over and over and over, you get pretty good at it."

All systems go - pumps and ladders pass the test in Towns

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Fire and Rescue conducted its annual testing of fire truck pumps and ground ladders in accordance with Insurance Services Office and National Fire Protection Association guidelines on Wednesday, March 4, and Thursday, March 5.

"We've got seven engines, the aerial and Tanker One, which is the same as an engine," said Fire Chief Harold Copeland. "This is a yearly thing that we have to do, and it's very important."

There are six fire stations in Towns County, and the pumps and ladders from each station were tested at Fire Station 2 in Young Harris.

"ISO mandates — and ISO determines your insurance ratings — and NFPA mandates that the pumps and the ground ladders be tested annually to ensure the pumps can pump capacity," said Ken Whitaker, who owns Firefox, a fire apparatus service and preventive maintenance company out of Woodstock.

"This pump pumps 1,250 gallons a minute," said Whitaker while testing fire engine 2. "And so, we have to test it that it will do that for at least 20 minutes at 150 psi, and then



we have to see that it will do 70 percent of that at 200 psi for 10 minutes, and then 50 percent of that at 250 psi for 10 minutes. That ensures the pump can flow the correct water when they're out on a fire scene."

In years past, pump tests were conducted by pulling water directly out of the lake or a pond, which could have lasting negative consequences.

"The problem was, especially back during the drought, pump testing out of a pond — a lot of the ponds just got too low and full of algae and

stuff like that," said Whitaker. "Plus, when you're sucking out of a pond, you're getting dirty water, and it causes a lot of wear and tear on the pump. Rebuilding one of these pumps can be upwards of \$10,000, so you want to do everything you can to keep it from being damaged."

To address this problem, Whitaker designed a mobile pump test unit, which is a 4,000-gallon tank with various hoses that run water between the unit and the fire truck.

"This is typically the

hardest the truck pumps all year, and it's designed to be that way because, if we want something to fail, we want it to fail right here — not when these guys are on the end of a hose line," said Whitaker. "If he's on a hose line inside of a house trying to save somebody and that truck fails, he could die and the person in the house could die."

Once a fire engine's pump has passed the test, it gets a pump test certificate and a sticker on the pump indicating that it passed.

"If not, I give them a



report on what the problem is," said Whitaker. "I also have scopes that we look inside the pump with, and we can determine what the problem is, and then a recommendation on what they need to do to fix it."

The ladders in use by the fire department also must pass inspections. There are three types of ladders that undergo different weight tests: the roof, ground and attic ladders.

"The ladders have to be stretched out, and the typical ladder gets 500 pounds of weight put into the center of it for five minutes," said Whita-

ker, speaking on the ground ladder. "Then, the weight is lifted off, and it's got to come back within a quarter inch of where it started. It can't have had any more permanent deflection in it than that. We also test the locks and the hooks on them for their strength. The locks on the extension ladder and the hooks on the roof ladders have to hold 1,000 pounds of force."

Attic ladders, which are 8 feet in length, are designed for one person at a time, and they are tested with 225 pounds. Once the ladders have passed these tests, they also get stickers of certification.