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and to be part of our county history."

Eller is the first female coroner in Towns County history after defeating incumbent Ricky Mathis by only four votes in the November general election.

Eller, a former stay at home mom, said she wants to be a role model.

"I believe women of any age need real role models and

I hope to inspire other young women to step out and go for their goals even though it has not been done before," she said.

Lynn Nation, Board of Elections, was scheduled to be sworn in on this day.

However, due to an apparent scheduling conflict, Nation was not present and will take her oath at a time to be determined by Judge Rogers.

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when they learned that they were able to spend \$200 each.

The volunteers were equally elated and very proud to be a part of this charitable event.

"Shopping with these kids was not only a memorable experience, but a humbling one as well," said Chief Wright.

"These students were exceedingly thankful for being chosen and put much thought into what presents they could buy for their siblings or parents or both," said Chief Wright.

"Seeing their selections of merchandise is not something that will ever be forgotten. These kids were not only conscientious about their selections, but some bought food for their families as well," said Chief Wright.

Chief Wright told of one of the young folks insisting on buying their dad some work boots.

"The youngster explained that if daddy was unable to work, the family was unable to eat," Chief Wright said.

Before returning to the school, the students were treated to a special lunch at Papa's Pizza in Hiwassee where they enjoyed the 'all you can eat buffet.'

Volunteers for the Shop With a Cop event included: Chief Jimmy and his wife Dawn Wright, Chief's son, Jared Wright, Arvel Walls, Lewis and Alexa Baxter, Paul and

Michelle Smith, Amy Rosser, Travis and Ciji Gibson, Leon James, Donnie and Chery Jarrard, Superior Court Judge Raymond George, Bonnie Dixon, Michael and Stephanie Zaic, Becky Keenum, Scott Hamilton, and Steven Phillips.

"I would like to extend my special thanks to Walmart of Blairsville, Papa's Pizza, officers of the Hiwassee Police Department, deputies from the Towns County Sheriff's Office, Steven Phillips, Amy Gibby Rosser, the Towns County School System, and all of the volunteers who made the 2012 Shop With a Cop program a huge success," Chief Wright said.

Chief Wright also extended a hearty "thank you" to Mountain Graphics and Circle M for their efforts in promoting Shop With a Cop.

"My greatest gratitude goes to the students that accompanied us. I was very impressed at the level of sophistication and maturity that these students demonstrated. They represented Towns County extremely well. It was an honor to be able to help these young folks," said Chief Wright.

Shop With a Cop strives to pick up where the other organizations leave off.

This age group is often overlooked at Christmas according to Chief Wright.

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and I decided I just couldn't deal with this anymore so I decided to go for the amputation, at least then I would be able to walk.

Rogers told his mom what he had decided to do and she stood by his decision.

"She said she wanted me to do whatever made me happy," Rogers said. "I also told my grandfather because he has been with me every step of the way, and he said the same thing - 'whatever makes you happy,' so in April 2011 I had my amputation."

Rogers' mom Julie Payne was with him throughout the journey.

"After the amputation surgery, it was like a different person came home from the hospital," Payne said. "He not only looked better, but he could now start down the road to beating cancer."

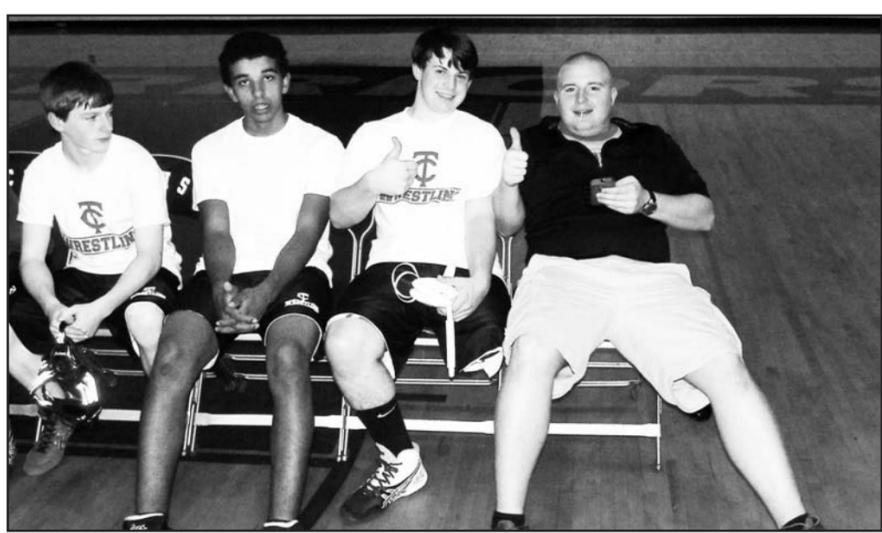
"There have been a lot of lows and highs on this journey but Bradley has taken each hurdle as it came and we have made it through," she said. "He wants to continue to wrestle and hopefully play soccer this spring. He continues to have regular scans at Eggleston and all the scans are clear."

His Head Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers said he's proud of Rogers.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of Bradley," he said. "This experience has forced him to grow up quickly and proves you can do whatever you desire if you are willing to work for it."

"He has become a rallying point for our team and an inspiration to the kids that get to see him wrestle," Stowers said. "I think every kid that has wrestled him has said something about his courage and his heart."

"Our team has seen him at his lowest and now he is back and wrestling at their level," Stowers said. "This proves that nothing is impossible. My favorite thing about Bradley is



Bradley Rogers and his teammates take a break during before a Duals wrestling meet. Photo/Joe Collins

the humor with which he looks at his situation.

"We affectionately call him 'Uno' and he loves it," Stowers said. "He talks about going through life one hop at a time. I think his attitude and his motivation will take him wherever in life he wants to go."

TCHS Cross Country Coach Jeannie Ledford praised Bradley from her heart.

"Our Cross Country team is like a family and we have felt each step of his journey," she said. "He's like a brother or a child too us and it imparted a sense of fierceness in our team."

"It has shown us that if our family member could beat cancer, then we could face any battle whether it is a tough course or just whatever life throws at us," Ledford said. "It has brought us closer as a team."

"He is very determined and has persevered at defying the odds," she said. "He is an inspiration and a reminder to never take anything for granted and he is a pure example of courage."

"Bradley took this cancer head on and did it with maturity

and grace," Ledford said. "His ability to adapt, accept and recover is nothing short of phenomenal."

"This experience has transformed him from a child into an adult and he is a constant with our team when we run," she said. "He is our push."

Rogers said that he wants people to know that with God, anything is possible.

"You give your life to Him and He can make you better," he said. "I hope people will see me and gain inspiration by the way God allows me to handle my situation."

"I don't look at myself and see a disability, I see ability," he said. "One of my friends who is an amputee also said something one time that I try to live by. He said, 'the only disability is a bad attitude.'

"I have a very positive attitude and it helps me. I might win a wrestling match or I might lose whatever, it's not as big as what I have been through," Rogers said. "I stay positive and keep working to show God and all the people who stood behind me that I appreciate them."

"I will use what I have learned to further myself in college and I would like to someday design and build prosthetics for people who have lost limbs," Roger said. "I think that helping someone to walk and changing their world is something unbelievable, so that is what I hope to do."

Rogers is one of those people you never forget.

He is courageous and has an attitude that will carry him far in life.

He should be the poster boy for all American teen-agers to hang in their room when they learn that they already know everything about life and don't believe it can hand you lemons.

Rogers has made some fine lemonade for all of us to drink.

"If you have two legs and can walk and do things normally then get off the couch and get busy doing something enjoyable, because you never know when your situation in life may change," Rogers said.

It's easy to see why Bradley Rogers has a leg up on life.

He truly is a warrior on the playing field called life.



Above, Hiwassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright tries to remember if he brought the check book; below, volunteers are as excited as the children during the Fifth Annual Hiwassee Police Department Shop With a Cop. Photo/Libby Shook

History...continued from page 1

Phillips had a PowerPoint presentation with pictures and maps of the early days of the community.

Phillips grew up in the Cedar Cliff area and remains a resident of that community to this day.

W.C. 'Dub' Garrett shared his memories of growing up in the Soapstone Community at the September meeting.

Garrett provided information about the State Prison Camp, the CCC Camp, and the old YMCA camp located in the Soapstone area.

The TCHS took a break from their regular meeting for the month of October as they held their annual Heritage Festival on the Enchanted Square in Hiwassee.

There was a good turnout as folks came to enjoyed good food, homemade desserts, live entertainment, the many historical items on display, as well as the arts and crafts of local vendors.

November was the last of the guest speakers for the year as Dion Eller and Dan Simpson shared their knowledge of the Barefoot Community.

They supplied maps and photos relevant to the area including the old water ground corn mill run by Sanford Ber-



Former Sole Commissioner Truman Barrett talks about Hog Creek. Photo/Libby Shook

rong, the old home place of Dee Berrong built in 1925, an old blacksmith shop, an old sharecropper's house, and the 'house of seven gables' located on Highway 76 East.

In lieu of a December meeting, members gathered to enjoy their annual Christmas meal, share stories, and reminisce about events of the year.

Everyone brought a cov-

ered dish and enjoyed an evening of good food and good company as they bid adieu to 2012.

You are cordially invited to join them for their 2013 meetings which are held the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Next year's monthly meetings will convene at the new Mountain Senior Center

(next to the Recreation Center on Highway 76). The next meeting will be held on Jan. 14th with Bruce Sims sharing stories of the early days of Hiwassee as he remembers it.

The annual membership dues are only \$15 and you will find that it is money well spent.

Come visit as Towns County history comes to life.

Toys...continued from page 1

League provides toys for children aged 0-14.

They are dedicated to making sure that no child wakes up without toys under the tree on Christmas morning.

According to co-chairman Bobby Jarrard, they served a total of 54 families and 118 children during the two weekend toy distributions.

They also provided 30 needy families with \$25 food certificates.

For the older children, ages 13 and 14, gift certificates were provided as they rarely receive age appropriate gifts for this population of children.

"The 'Toys for Towns County Children's Program' is just another way we strive to meet the needs of the community at Christmas," said Marine Corp League member Sal Laratta.

"There's nothing like knowing you are providing a

toy for a child to unwrap on Christmas morning. For some of these kids, this may be the only Christmas they have," said Laratta.

The following Marine Corps League members make up the Unicoi Detachment Toy Collection and Distribution Committee: Bobby Jarrard, co-chairman Gary Kuchinski, co-chairman Mike Brown, Sal Laratta, Walt Scott, and Len Poole.

"We want to thank all the local businesses and the citizens of Towns County for their participation in this program and helping making Christmas morning a little brighter for the children. It's all about the children," said Laratta.

The Marine Corps League, Unicoi Detachment 783, is comprised of inactive and active Marines and Navy Corpsmen.

By Frank Riley Executive Director RC&D

What is RC&D?

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program was created in the Agricultural Act of 1962 to assist local people in planning and carrying out activities that conserve natural resources, support economic development, enhance the environment, and improve the standard of living for all citizens.

All programs and assistance of the RC&D Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

RC&D Councils are 501(C)3 not-for-profit corporations.

They are not governmental entities, so the typical policies and constraints of

Executive Director of RC&D



local, state, and federal government programs do not limit the types of issues they address or the means they use for economic development in their work areas.

The RC&D Council that serves the Towns/Union area is the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D that covers the 13 counties in Northeast Georgia.

RC&D Councils have a high degree of independence to carry out activities that will achieve their most important goals.

RC&D Council volunteers are leaders and community stakeholders involved in multiple roles in local government, school boards, churches, and other civic activities.

These leaders identify unmet needs in their communi-

ties and create solutions that work.

The folks who make up an RC&D council are neighbors.

At RC&D Council meetings, they draw from their professional expertise and community connections to determine the needs of their RC&D Council areas, address those needs, and make their communities better places to live, work, and play.

They know how to blend government programs with local needs to produce results.

In essence, they know how to speak the government's language, and yours.

Nationwide, more than 25,000 volunteers serve on local RC&D Councils.

The 375 RC&D Councils are located in all 50 states, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Basin and serve a combined 85 percent of all U.S. counties and 77 percent of the total U.S. population.

The Four Focus Areas

Land Conservation
RC&D Councils work with local partners to identify, fund and complete land conservation projects of all types.

Water Management

RC&D Water Management Projects often create recreation opportunities that also create jobs and make communities more attractive to development.

Community Development
The RC&D provides training, coordination and communication services that help community development projects.

Land Management
The RC&D works with funding partners to make sure worthy projects find the financial assets they need to be successful.

For more details on the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council or to get involved, please visit the Chestatee/Chattahoochee Web site www.chesthatttrcd.org; call the Demorest office at (706) 894-1591, or e-mail us at susan.ccrd@gmail.com.

The Executive Director of the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council is Frank Riley who lives in Hiwassee.

You may contact him personally by e-mail at frank.ccrd@gmail.com or call (706) 894-1591.

The Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council is here to serve you.

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