

# Crash...continued from page 1A

driving the 2009 Silverado, patrol officials said.

The *Towns County Herald* has learned that the vehicle was owned by a North Carolina man.

The newspaper is withholding the name of the vehicle owner until a positive identification can be made by state medical examiners.

Towns County Emergency Services Director and Coroner Rickey Mathis said Towns County Fire and Rescue extricated the victim from the burned vehicle and confirmed that the victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

Mathis also confirmed that the body was burned beyond recognition and sent to

the State Medical Examiner's Office for positive identification.

Towns County Assistant Fire Chief Harold Copeland said agencies involved in the recovery included Towns County 911, Towns County Fire and Rescue, Towns County Sheriff's Office, Rabun County 911, Rabun County Fire and Rescue, Rabun County EMS, Rabun County Sheriff's Office, and the Georgia State Patrol, Toccoa and Blue Ridge posts.

"Many thanks to our Mutual Aid partners in Rabun County. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family of the victim," Copeland said.

Staff writer Libby Shook contributed to this story.

# Pearl...continued from page 1A

Navy Destroyer, we made a promise that we would never let this day and the sacrifices that were made by our shipmates and friends at Pearl Harbor be forgotten or lost in history," said a somber Johnson.

"I wonder how this and future generations will know about, and pay homage to, those American heroes of our Armed Forces and Defenders of Freedom if the stories of my generation are not kept alive by those of us who are survivors of WWII and The Pacific Theatre Campaign, Dec. 7, 1941 until Sept. 2, 1945," said Johnson.

The attack on Pearl Harbor occurred on Dec. 7, 1941.

The Japanese attacked the United States, without warning or provocation, on the south side of the Hawaiian island of Oahu, the home of the U.S. Naval Base. The attack lasted 110 minutes, from 0755 Pacific Time (7:55 a.m.) until 0945 Pacific Time (9: 45 a.m.).

A total of 2,403 U.S. servicemen were killed and 1,178 were wounded. Sixty-eight civilians were also killed and another 35 wounded.

Although it was Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto who initiated the plans for the attack against Pearl Harbor, Commander Minoru Genda was the plan's chief architect.

The Japanese used the code name 'Operation Hawaii' for the attack. This was later shortened to 'Operation Z.'

The Japanese specifically chose to attack on a Sunday because they believed Americans would be more relaxed and thus less alert on a weekend.

Many U.S. servicemen were either still in their pajamas or eating breakfast in the mess halls when the attack began.

The Japanese attack force stationed itself approximately 230 miles north of the island of Oahu. They launched their airplanes in two waves, approximately 45 minutes apart. The first wave of Japanese planes struck Pearl Harbor at 0755 and the second wave reached Pearl Harbor at 0840.

When Japanese Commander Mitsuo Fuchida called out, "Tora, Tora, Tora", meaning "Tiger, Tiger, Tiger" upon flying over Pearl Harbor, it was a message to the entire Japanese Navy telling them they had caught the Americans totally by surprise.

The main target of the Japanese was to be the aircraft carriers; however, since all three U.S. aircraft carriers were out to sea, the Japanese focused their attention on the battleships.

There were eight battleships there that day, which included all the battleships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet except for the Colorado.

Seven of the U.S. battleships were lined up in "Battle-ship Row."

During the attack, the Nevada left its berth in Battle-ship Row and tried to make it to the harbor entrance. After being repeatedly attacked on its way, the Nevada beached itself. The Arizona exploded when a bomb breached its ammunition room.

Approximately 1,100 U.S. servicemen died on board.

After being torpedoed, the Oklahoma turned upside down.

To aid their airplanes, the Japanese sent in five midget subs to help target the battleships. The Americans sank four of the midget subs and captured the fifth.

All eight U.S. battleships were either sunk or damaged during the attack.

Amazingly, all but two (the Arizona and the Oklahoma) were eventually able to return to active duty.

U.S. servicemen identified the invading planes as Japanese because of the "meatballs," or what they called the large red circle (the Rising Sun), on the Japanese planes.

The Japanese struck the airfields at Hickam Field, Wheeler Field, Bellows Field, Ewa Field, Schoefield Barracks, and Kaneohe Naval Air Station.

Many of the U.S. airplanes were lined up outside along the airstrips, wingtip to wingtip, in order to avoid sabotage.

Unfortunately, that made them easy targets for the Japanese attackers.

Unable to get more than a handful of planes in the air, individual U.S. servicemen tried to shoot down the Japanese planes from the ground.

When the Japanese left Pearl Harbor at 0945, the Americans didn't realize the attack was actually over. They anticipated another wave to hit.

The day following the attack on Pearl Harbor, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared that Dec. 7, 1941 would be "a date that will live in infamy."

The United States declared war on Japan on Dec. 8, 1941, the day following the attack on Pearl Harbor, and launched the U.S. into World War II.

"Remember Pearl Harbor," became a rallying cry for the U.S. during World War II.

Johnson wanted to remind everyone, "The next time you see an American Veteran, or a family member of a veteran, just take a little time to tell them how much you appreciate his or her military service and sacrifices for your freedoms."

# The Oaks...continued from page 1A

going perform some of our traditional music. I'm sure you'll recognize a few of the songs," said Basall.

When they performed *American Made*, it was obvious that the fans not only recognized their music, but they sang along with it as well.

They stood at their seats waving their arms in the air and the Oaks were waving back and sharing the love with their many fans that had come out to enjoy all that is the legendary Oak Ridge Boys.

They also performed *Dream On*, *Thank God for Kids*, *Gonna Take a River*, and many other familiar and well-loved songs.

However, the hit of the evening was without a doubt *Elvira*. Everyone in the Hall was on their feet and did not sit back down until the song had ended.

After a brief intermission, the time had finally come that the audience had been waiting for. With snow falling, the Oaks were back out on stage singing *Jingle Bells*, *White Christmas*, *Peterbilt Sleigh*, *Happy Christmas Eve*, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, and many other familiar Christmas songs.

Just when you think it can't get in better, out pops Santa Claus to the delight of the kids, but the adults were even more excited when bass singer Richard Sterban performed *Here Comes Santa Claus* just for Jolly Ole St. Nick.

Santa was down in the aisles handing out goodies and Christmas hats to the kids. There was great excitement in the air as the children lined up to hug Santa.

Bonsall said, "Santa will



The Oak Ridge Boys brought the snow with them for their Christmas Show at Anderson Music Hall on Saturday in Hiawassee. Photo/Libby Shook

stay until he sees every child, because that's what Christmas is all about, the kids. Thank God for kids."

While Santa was visiting with the kids, the stage crew was busy around setting up the Rocking Chair segment of the show complete with a decorated, flaming fireplace complete with stockings and four rocking chairs.

The Oaks sat around the fireplace reminiscing about their fondest Christmas memories and led the audience in a very moving version of *Silent Night*.

This was a particularly touching addition to the show as they talked about the true meaning of Christmas, "the miracle of

the birth of Jesus Christ," said Sterban as he recalled his own personal journey toward his relationship with Christ.

"We try to cover every aspect of Christmas with a mixture of Christmas songs, from traditional to religious," said lead singer Duane Allen.

"We're going to close out our Christmas show with some songs from our latest Christmas CD, *Christmas Times A-Coming*," said Allen.

They performed *Getting Ready for a Baby*, *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, and *Mary Did You Know*.

The audience responded with great applause and enthusiasm as they stood to their

feet in appreciation of this very talented iconic group who have been entertaining and bringing joy to fans for half a century.

They have one of the most distinctive and recognizable sounds in the Country Music industry.

The four-part harmonies and upbeat songs of the Oak Ridge Boys have spawned dozens of Country hits and a No. 1 Pop smash, earned them Grammy, Dove, CMA, and ACM awards, and garnered a host of other industry and fan accolades.

Every time they step before an audience, the Oaks bring four decades of charted singles and 50 years of tradition.

# Marines...continued from page 1A

to make their Christmas morning magical and complete.

According to Walt Scott of the Marine Corps League, "We are not associated with any national toy collection agency, therefore we are not required to send toys or monetary funds out of this area."

"Unicoi feels strongly that the people in North Georgia are very generous and want their gifts given to their friends and neighbors, so everything we collect goes into our communities," said Scott.

The following Marine Corps League members make up the Unicoi Detachment Toy Collection Committee: Bobby Jarrard, co-chairman, Gary

Kuchinski, co-chairman, Mike Brown, Sal Larratta, Walt Scott, and Len Poole.

Larratta said, "The Marine Corps League, Unicoi Detachment 783, is comprised of inactive and active Marines and Navy Corpsmen. It is our mission to help our fellow Marines, veterans, and community in the best ways possible."

"The 'Toys for Towns County Children's Program' is just another way we strive to meet the needs of the community at Christmas," said Larratta.

They collect new, unwrapped toys for children up to the age of 14. There are collection boxes plainly labeled and

placed at several businesses throughout the community.

You can drop off your new, unwrapped toy or toys at the following locations: Hiawassee Antique Mall, Army/Navy Garrison 66, Bear Meadows Grill, Black Tie & Tails, Brasstown Valley Golf Course, Brothers Restaurant, Century 21 Scenic Realty, Charlotte Ledford Realty, Chophouse of Hiawassee, Fieldstone Cinemas 6, Daniel's Steakhouse, Dollar General Store of Hiawassee, Dollar General Store of Young Harris, Hardees, Ingles Market of Hiawassee, Mountain Realty, Park Sterling Bank, Re/Max Hiawassee Realty, Hiawas-

see United Methodist Church, Towns County Middle and High School, VFW Post 7807, and Windy Hill Convenience Store.

"We want to thank all the local businesses and our citizens 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.

Contact Bobby Jarrard at (706) 896-6084 for information on toy distribution. Towns County distribution will be Saturday, Dec. 15th and Saturday, Dec. 22nd, from 9 a.m. - noon in the Towns County Courthouse lobby.

# Fundraiser...continued from page 1A

Actually you will walk away with cash in hand while contributing to the TCSO's Empty Stocking Fund.

You will be paid for your items on the spot and The Gold Academy will make the donation from its profit.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton spoke to the Movers and Shakers regarding the Empty Stocking Fund at their weekly meeting Friday morning at Mary Ann's Southern Grill.

Sheriff Clinton said, the project is very important to him.

"In our job, the deputies and I see a lot of kids that are in dire need, who are not likely to get anything for Christmas," he said. "As a child, I remember the joy of Christmas and the thought of a child waking up on Christmas morning, like it's just another day, is unbearable to me. We give gifts because the Lord gave us the most precious gift.

"The kids don't have to know where the gifts come from," the sheriff said.

Amy Rosser of Towns County Family Connection and a volunteer for the Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund, said

Family Connection receives information about children that need help.

"And then we try our best to collaborate with all the other organizations and churches in our area that provide Christmas gifts for children, with a master list, to make sure that there are no duplicates and that we have enough gifts for everyone," Rosser said "We want to make sure that no child is left without a gift on Christmas morning."

The gifts are anonymous and as far as the kids know, merry old Saint Nick left the gifts under the tree.

"The Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund basically serves kids from birth to 12 years old," says Vicki Ellis, administrative assistant to Sheriff Clinton.

Ellis and Heather Whitaker, administrative assistant at the TCSO have worked actively and tirelessly with the Empty Stocking Fund for many years.

They spend endless hours shopping for the kids and wrapping the gifts.

"We need toys, but we also need cash too, because we try to fill as many wishes of the kids as possible," said Ellis.

Towns County Elementary

School and Family Connections are instrumental in providing that information to various organizations to ensure that all that are in need of help get it and that every child has a bright and Merry Christmas.

"Our funds were completely depleted last year as we served more than 80 families with a combined total of 225 children," Ellis said. "We work around the clock collecting, bagging, and delivering toys during the holiday season."

"We get requests as late as Christmas Eve and even Christmas Day," Ellis said. "We always work on Christmas Day, to fulfill those last minute requests."

Bob Levy said the Academy likes to partner with non-profit organizations like the Empty Stocking Fund who are trying to raise money for a good cause in the community.

"We have found that our location is a perfect place to hold fundraisers," he said. "We have an Art Gallery to enjoy and plenty of room for live music, lots of people, and items for a silent auction."

"Also, we can help to raise a good amount of the donations

with our gold business," he said.

Bob Levy invites guests to bring in their unwanted gold and silver items to sell instead of bringing cash.

"We will have a special space set up at the fundraiser for testing and buying precious metals," he said. "If we offer you \$200 for your old gold watch, ring, or bracelet and you decide to sell, you keep your cash, and we donate an additional \$50 in your name to the fundraiser, which will be equal to about 25 percent of the amount we paid you."

"It's a win-win for everyone," he said.

The Gold Academy has held fundraisers over the last three months at their location for other charitable organizations including S.A.F.E., Family Connections, and the Towns County Food Pantry.

Their next fundraiser will be to benefit Habitat For Humanity of Towns and Union County on Jan. 20th.

To help in any way by adopting a child or by donating toys or cash, the TCSO encourages you to contact Heather Whitaker at (706) 896-4444 or Vicki Ellis at (706) 896-8343.

## Support Empty Stocking Fund at December 7th games

To the Towns County players, cheerleaders, parents, students, and fans:

Friday, December 7th,

the Towns County Sheriff's Office will be working the concession stand at the TCHS basketball games.

They are encouraging everyone to bring an unwrapped toy (for ages 0-12 years) to the game to support the TCSO Empty Stocking Fund.

Games start at 5:15 p.m.

Come out and support the basketball teams and put a smile on a child's face at Christmas.

# Show...continued from page 1A

up for all to view was a wonderful motivator. The prizes were impressive as well. The eyes and smiles on the faces of the winners indicated this and was a joy to see," said Page.

They were very excited to be a part of the art show and what a way to get them in the holiday spirit as they actively engaged in the serious task of vying for the winning spot.

They had some very good motivation as the first place winner of the kindergarten class received a gift basket from Robin Roberts Promotions plus a ribbon and the first place winner of the first grade class received a gift basket from Brasstown Valley Resort as well as a ribbon.

There was additional



Towns County Elementary School students took part in the coloring contest at Brasstown Valley Resort.

motivation as six runners-up would be chosen from each grade level and they would be receiving a Brasstown Valley Arts and Crafts show t-shirt and a certificate.

The winner of the kindergarten class and recipient of the coveted Robin Roberts

gift basket/ribbon was Jersei Jones and the winner of the first grade class and recipient of the Brasstown Valley Resort gift basket/ribbon was Erin Page.

The runners-up for the kindergarten classes and winners of the t-shirts and certifi-

cates were: Connor Williams, Jakob Simpson, Braden Smith, Jada Dyer, Faith Riley, and Jolie Johnson.

The runners-up for the first grade classes and winners of the t-shirts and certificates were: Nicklaus Pyrltik, Maycee Garrison, Emily Persall, Haley Berrong, Nathan Rolfsen, and Connor Chastain.

Congratulations to all the students of the Towns County kindergarten and first grade for their participation.

They are all to be commended for their hard work and for sharing their talent.

The kindergarten and first grade teachers are to be commended as well as they motivate and inspire their students to be the best they can be.