

Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 86 Number 7

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Rain	54 30
Fri: Rain	52 36
Sat: Rain	42 30
Sun: Sunny	43 28
Mon: Clouds	50 32
Tue: Rain	47 36
Wed: Rain	46 30



Upstream Elevation Predicted 12/17/2014	
Lake Chatuge	1,913.08
Lake Nottely	1,758.62
Blue Ridge	1,665.77

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SPORTS

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Food Distribution
Food Pantry
Jan 6
2-5 PM
See Page 13
N. Mt. Zion Church
December 18th
10 AM - Noon
See Page 6




Sponsor a Foster Child for Christmas



Towns County Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund

See Page 2



Basketball

Tues. Dec 16 vs. Dade Co 6 PM

Fri. Dec 19 @ Union Co 7 PM

Sat. Dec 20 @ Mt. Pisgah Christian 3:30 PM

WRESTLING

Tues. Dec 16 @ Rabun Co

Fri. & Sat. Dec 19 & 20 @ Landmark Christian Tournament

VFW sends two to state contests

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Students who competed in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay Contests were recognized at Towns County Schools on Friday, Dec. 5.

The contests take place nationwide, and are sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Towns County teachers also got a chance to compete as part of the VFW's Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

A panel of veterans from VFW Post 7807 of Towns County administered and judged the initial round of the competition, selecting winners and sending them on to compete at the district level.

Representing the VFW Post 7807 were Commander Mel Halfon and Quartermaster Glen Greenwald.

The Voice of Democracy competition is open for high school students, and this year featured some strong local talent.

Ashley Smith of Young Harris was awarded first place and \$200 in prize money, along with a plaque honoring her achievement. She went on to win first place in the district, which means she qualifies for the next round of judging at the state level.

Danielle Diehl of Hiawassee won second place in the contest and was awarded \$100 and a plaque, and placed second in the district.

Sophia Parsons, Brooke



Ashley Smith, top, and Candice Thompson are headed to state competition in their respective categories. Photo/Loweel Nicholson

Barrett, Makenzie Carroll, Rosa-Jane Clinton, Courtney Giles, Peyton Smith, Sadie Eller, Kevin Reardin, Hayley Stowers, Jade Ledford, Madison Stroud and Jackson Taylor also competed, and were awarded \$10 in prize money. The theme for this year's Voice of Democracy essay, which changes year to year, was "Why Veterans are Important"

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Fireworks at Hiawassee Council meeting

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The authority of the city of Hiawassee to supersede a 5-acre minimum requirement per recreational vehicle as imposed by the Towns County Revised Subdivision Regulations was called into question at the Dec. 2 regular meeting of the Hiawassee City Council.

In November of 2000, Mayor Barbara Mathis signed an intergovernmental agreement between the city and the county that granted "full authority to the governing authority of Towns County to implement the Towns County Revised Subdivision Regulations within the city limits of the City of Hiawassee," according to the document.

But according to Hiawassee City Manager Rick Stancil, that intergovernmental agreement was superseded several years ago, in December 2009, with city council's adoption of the city of Hiawassee's 2010 Comprehensive Planning Ordinance.

"The Comprehensive Planning document revoked all prior planning schemes, is the gist of it, and that document



Hiawassee residents listen as Hiawassee Police officers explain why they were asked to remove Jan Waite from the Dec. 2 Council meeting. Photo/Loweel Nicholson

was adopted after public hearing and after several meetings of the planning committee and the council," said Stancil in an interview two days after the regular meeting.

Parcels less than one acre are not "subject to regulatory review" under the 2010 Comprehensive Planning Ordinance, according to Stancil, which would make the county's 5-acre minimum ordinance that was in effect prior to the adop-

tion of Hiawassee's 2010 Comprehensive Planning Ordinance null and void inside Hiawassee City Limits if the Comprehensive Planning Ordinance did in fact revoke "all prior planning schemes."

But after reviewing the Comprehensive Planning document themselves, Jan and Noel Waite disagreed with the City's interpretation that the planning

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Anderson and Phillips bade farewell

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The two longest-standing members of the Towns County Board of Education held their last meeting on Monday, Dec. 8.

Emily Phillips and Michael Anderson are leaving their posts to make way for the newly elected incoming board members Cliff Bradshaw and Robert Williams.

"When you put 12 years into something, it's kind of hard to let go," said Phillips. "It is kind of hard to let go, but I do feel like with Darren Berrong and the new middle school principal and the school board that's going in, that it'll be fine - I think everything's going to be good."

And while 12 years of regular meetings coming to an end will certainly require some getting used to, Phillips expects to stay busy with Benny's Sanitation, which she and her husband, Stephen Phillips, have owned for 14 years.

"We always have two meetings a month," said Phillips. "But doing the superintendent search, there have been lots of hours the last couple of months that we put in, so it's going to be interesting to have my evenings free for a while." One of Phillips' three



Mike Anderson and Emily Phillips step down from the Towns County Board of Education, but, don't leave empty-handed. Photo/Loweel Nicholson

children is still in the Towns County School system, and the system is a better-rounded place now, for her child and others, because of the time Phillips spent on the board of education.

"I'm really proud of the drama and the activities for the kids," said Phillips, who served on the board during a time before drama came to the schools. "I'm proud of the Ag department - I saw that develop as I was there. It's such a beautiful Ag department that we have."

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Young Harris shooting ruled a murder/suicide

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Young Harris - The shooting deaths of two elderly residents has been ruled a murder/suicide, according to Towns County Sheriff's reports.

In a release on its Facebook site, the Sheriff's Office indicates that it has ruled the deaths of 73-year-old Janice Katherine Schultz, and Frank Duane Schultz as murder/suicide in that order.

Janice Schultz was killed

by Frank Schultz and afterward, Frank Schultz died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, according to the Sheriff's Office.

"The facts surrounding the investigation as well as the completed autopsies indicate the incident to be a murder/suicide," according to TCSO's Facebook page. "Janice Katherine Schultz died as a result of multiple gunshot wounds and Frank Duane Schultz died as a result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The case is now closed.

Dehler takes Chamber reins

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Chamber of Commerce held its 2014 Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the Charles H. Suber Banquet Hall in the new Rollins Campus Center at Young Harris College.

"We appreciate all of you coming out tonight to celebrate the membership of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce," said Towns County Chamber of Commerce President Candace Lee. "And that is what this is for, it's to celebrate the membership. We appreciate you, we want to show you our appreciation."

Mark Dehler, who was elected by the chamber board to serve as the new chamber chairman, welcomed civic leaders who were present at the event, including Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, Young Harris City Councilman Matt Miller and Hiawassee City Councilwoman Janet Allen.

Members in the form of those representing their businesses were treated to a free meal and drinks, and the event served as a chance for the members to network as well as celebrate.

Lee then recognized Platinum and Gold members of the chamber: Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Crane Creek Vineyards, Mountain Realty, Windstream Communications, Brasstown Valley Resort, Chatuge Regional Hospital, Fieldstone Resort, Georgia Mountain Fair, Holiday Inn Express, Lake



Mark Dehler
Chatuge Lodge, Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Park Sterling Bank, United Community Bank and Young Harris College.

"The chamber over the past year has had some really big challenges, and we've pulled through," said Lee. "We are a strong 350 members."

The chamber of commerce organized some successful events this year, including the first annual Dash to the Vineyards, a 10K race to Crane Creek Vineyards from Brasstown Valley Resort. The Towns County Tour of Homes also proved a success, as the chamber sold more than 300 tickets to the event.

Lee highlighted the fact that new businesses are opening in Towns County, and with the newly renovated Towns County Public Library, as well as the work being done to modernize Chatuge Regional, Towns County is fast becoming a destination area.

"We have a college that continues to grow to meet the needs of not only its students but of the community," said Lee. "This college is a huge

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Dr. Behrens says goodbye to TC Board of Education

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 8.

In the meeting, the board and Interim Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens recognized long-time board members Emily Phillips and Michael Anderson for their years of service, as their terms on the board draw to a close at the end of December.

The heads of each school gave their monthly reports to the board and also expressed well-wishes to Phillips and Anderson.

Board member Donna Hedden commended the schools for all they have done in terms of getting students involved in the Christmas season with various musical performances during this holiday time of



Dr. Richard Behrens

the year.

"I just want to give a heads up on just what a great job that I hear in the community, and just, sometimes some of these things are overlooked, but I think Chris Adams does a phenomenal job," said Hedden. "Ms. (Cathy) Seis in elementary - I mean, it is just phenomenal the programs they put on. And some of them I saw

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Pennies for Presents

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School students have raised more than \$1,000 for a family in need at Christmas time.

In total, the school was able to bring that amount up to \$2,500 with private donations, as well as \$200 donations each from the wrestling and baseball teams.

The name of the program is Pennies for Presents, and students spent the semester donating to raise the money to give a local family of seven children - all students in either the elementary, middle or high school here in Towns County - a Christmas to remember this year.

"This summer, some-

thing that I wanted to do and some of the teachers as well, we wanted to include a couple charity events throughout the school year, maybe one first semester, one second semester, that gives back to our community, that teaches our kids the importance of giving back," said High School Principal Jonathan Gibson.

Had Gibson been a student this year instead of the principal, he likely would have been one of the kids receiving a little extra help for Christmas.

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

