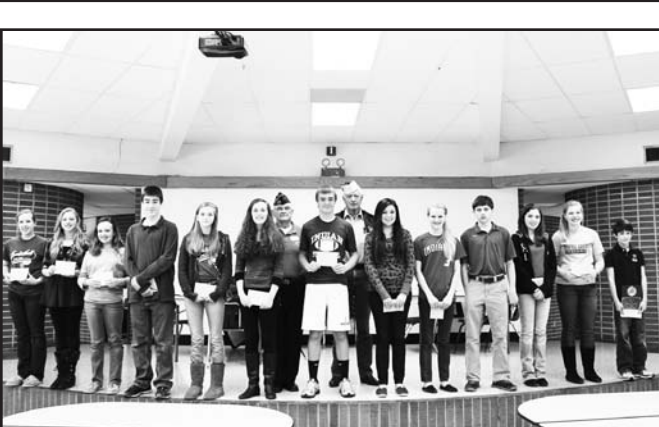


# Pearl...continued from page 1

dispose of. This seemed to be the same scenario and Davis did not take the flag out of the bag and look at it until after the man had left the thrift store. "After I took the flag out and realized that it was in perfect condition," Davis said. "When I realized what I was holding, I ran out to the parking lot and tried to run the man down and get his name so we could put it in a shadow case at the VFW Post in honor of his father," said Davis. Davis reported that by the time he got out to the parking lot, the man had already left. "I wish I had just asked him his name," said Davis remorsefully. "We talked at length, approximately 35 minutes. I wish I had just opened the bag right then and there," said Davis. Davis said he took the

flag up to the VFW Post and told the other members what he had in his possession and what had happened. Davis told them, "Boys, there ain't no way we're going to burn this flag. I'll move heaven and earth to try to find this man." Davis told the *Towns County Herald* that he is hoping that this man will see this article and come forward so they can do justice by him, his heroic father, and the flag. He's asked that if anyone knows who donated this flag, that they please contact him at (706) 896-2774 (home) or (706) 781-5743 (cell). "Hopefully this man will see this in the paper, remember talking with me, and contact me," Davis said. "We would love to be able to give his father recognition for his service to this great country," said Davis.

# VFW Awards at Towns



# VFW Honors students, teachers at Towns County Schools...continued from page 1



Frank McKinney

to have them here today." "We get great support from your teachers and administrators. We do this because we care about you guys and we think you are going to be great adults and some of you will be great military people, men and women," said Greenwald



TCES Teacher of the Year Lisa Cole

as he addressed a select group of students. Greenwald, on behalf of the VFW, made the following teacher presentations: Frank McKinney accepted a plaque of appreciation and a \$200 check on behalf of the TCHS band; a

# Certified...continued from page 1

fully demonstrated its commitment to law enforcement excellence by meeting all applicable standards as established in the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program. "Therefore, upon recommendation of the Joint Review Committee of the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program, this agency is hereby recognized as a Certified Law Enforcement Agency." "I appreciate Sheriff Nicholson and his staff for coming down here tonight. A lot of the stuff I learned working in Gilmer County under Stacy is what I wanted to bring to Towns County," Sheriff Clinton said. "A lot of people have put a lot of work into this. I want you to be proud of the men and women of the Towns County Sheriff's Office. "The deputies have risen to the challenge using best standards and practices," said a very proud Sheriff Clinton.



Sheriff Chris Clinton and the men and women of the Towns County Sheriff's Office. Photo by Libby Shook

Sheriff Clinton recognized and presented a certificate to Certification Manager Cory Ingram for his hard work in ensuring that "all our policies were in order and that we were demonstrating best management practices."

Clinton described Ingram as having "an incredible work ethic and always has his nose to the grindstone." In closing, Clinton thanked the public for coming out to show their support for this historically relevant

event. "We really appreciate you. I appreciate you," Sheriff Clinton said. "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Sheriff," a humbled Sheriff Clinton said.

# Media Center...continued from page 1

with great pleasure and honor that I present this plaque to his family tonight." "We, the family of Mr. Montgomery Wilson, wish to express our thanks to the Towns County Board of Education, Superintendent Melissa Williams, and Chairman Larry Kimsey, for recognizing the many years of service he gave to the students of Towns County," Kerry Wilson said. School Board member and Towns County Historian Jerry Taylor reflected on the life of Montgomery Wilson as he stood before the family, administrators, and other guests. He spoke eloquently with great reverence, humor, and heartfelt feelings as he described Mont Wilson to those present. Taylor shared many of

Mont Wilson's many accomplishments in education. Wilson served as principal and teacher at the Lower Hightower School in 1954 and began teaching at the newly completed Macedonia School in 1955. He served as principal of Macedonia Elementary School from 1958 through Jan. 1, 1961 when he became principal of Hiawassee Elementary. During this period he attended Western Carolina University, receiving his Master's Degree in Elementary Education and Administrative Degree (1961). Mont Wilson served as principal of the new Towns County Comprehensive Elementary School from 1977 until his retirement in 1980. During his years as an administrator in Towns County, he was active in the Georgia

Association of Educators serving as president, and briefly became involved in politics, serving in the Georgia House of Representatives in the mid-1950s. "It didn't take him long to come to his senses and return to education," said Taylor jokingly. "My first encounter with Mr. Wilson was in 1961 when he became my principal. I remember him as a kind and gentle soul devoted to the well-being of his students and teachers," said Taylor. "I remember him bending down to talk to students on their level, whereas we all knew the previous principal had an electric paddle. There was never a thought that Mr. Wilson had one," said Taylor. Taylor shared with the guests that in 1976, Mont

Wilson "was instrumental in organizing the Towns-Union Educators Federal Credit Union and 'yours truly' would become the loan officer," said Taylor. "I personally know of its benefits and am still quite an active member and am glad that Mr. Wilson persevered in that endeavor for the common good of local educators and their families," said Taylor. "I well remember the night of Oct. 6, 1986 as we were gathered around the table celebrating my late wife's birthday. The phone rang with the news that Mr. Wilson had passed away. We were stunned," said Taylor. "I am thankful for the life of Montgomery Wilson and the legacy that he has left behind. Towns County is a better place for him having passed this way," said a sincere Taylor.

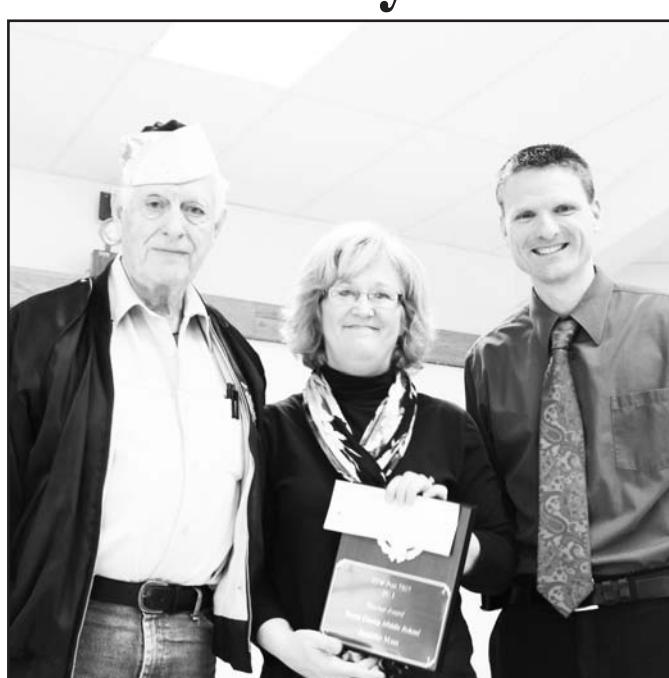
# Lions' Christmas...continued from page 1

are children between the ages of 5 and 12 years. Their goal is to make sure that no child goes without a Christmas gift. Through the assistance of Towns County Family Connection and Towns County Elementary School, a referral list is provided to the Lions Club. Children who had been identified by the school as being in need also received a gift certificate to local merchants for clothing for their children. A parent who wished to remain anonymous said that he

lost his job in February. He has three children and said he had not been able to find work since. He said that if it were not for the Lions Club and other organizations who were willing to help the community at Christmas, that his children would not be receiving Christmas presents this year. In addition to the donated toys and gift certificates, four bicycles and two scooters were also donated to the Lions for distribution. One of the bicycles was donated by Aaron Tippin when

he performed at the Georgia Mountain Fair as the opening act. The beautifully decorated trees were donated to families that might otherwise not have a tree for Santa to put gifts under on Christmas morning. According to Lion's Club President Julie Payne, "more than 150 children received toys for Christmas this year." "This is an annual event that the Lions sponsor and we love to see the smiling faces of

the children as they visit with Santa, eat cookies, and receive gifts," said Payne. Lions Allan and Deborah Saylor were at the exit doors wishing the parents and children a "Merry Christmas" as they left with their gifts and goodies. Payne extended her thanks on behalf of the Towns County Lions Club to all the local businesses and people of the community who donated toys and money to help make Give-a-Christmas another huge success.



TCMS Teacher of the Year Jennifer Moss

hard and they care about you," said Greenwald. Greenwald and Norton also presented a plaque and \$200 dollar check to the winner of the TCMS Patriot's Pen Essay Award, Marshall Ledford and to the winner of the TCHS

VFW and will be entered at the state level. The following students were also recognized for their essays and received \$10 each in presidential dollar coins: Middle school students, Emory Elizabeth Patton, Brook Anne Crews, Kobe Denton Ashley Smith, Cadence Nichols, Jesse Tittle, Sheldon Ross, Victoria Boyd, Jade Ledford, Rosa Jane Clinton, Joshua Goeltz, Courtney Giles, Nicole Smith, and Carmen Carroll. High school students, Katlyn Hallman, Stephanie Patton, Garrett Bradshaw, Alana Calhoun, Kellsie Cowart, Michael Austin, Misty Lindemuth, Madelyn Elling, and Anna Sutton. Congratulations to all the students who participated in the VFW essay contests. They are to be commended for their patriotism to this great country. The VFW does so many good deeds within the community and once again held true to their motto, "We honor the dead by serving the living."

## Bagpipe instruction

The Appalachian Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums Bagpipe Band is offering free instruction to all who want to learn how to play the Great Highland Bagpipe or to learn Regimental Drumming.

The band meets each Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 12 noon in the Parish Hall of Saint Clare's Episcopal Church for instruction and practice. For further information, call 706-781-3382 or 1-828-557-3812.

## Free Adult GED Classes

Registration for Free Adult Ed (GED) classes will be January 2, and January 3, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are located at the Shirley Miller Bldg. beside the library. Your GED credential can be the door to a brighter future!

Register now by calling 706-439-6342. Adult Ed will be on break from 12/24 until Registration day.