

# Robotics...from Page 1A

Innovative group text cell phone tornado alert notification system that completes the cycle of communication with feedback information plus GPS location. Community members can join the group voluntarily for free without sharing their cell phone number. The group administrator can then judge areas of concern based on responses, location, and whether or not the person completed the cycle of alerts including an all clear at the end.

The three competitions mentioned above occurred in the morning while the final competition Robot Performance was held in the afternoon.

Teams compete three times each on a mission table to demonstrate their robot's ability to complete challenges.

Out of 22 teams the Disaster Masters won a first place trophy for the Robot Performance category with a best score of 362.

Only two teams scored

in the 300s. All scores for the day were then collected and tabulated for teams to advance. On Wednesday of the following week it was confirmed that the team would advance to the Super Regional which opens the possibility of then advancing to state competition.

Disaster Masters would like to thank TCMS Principal Dr. Darren Berrong, Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams, faculty, staff, students and community for all of their support.

They also would like to thank Hiwassee's Dairy Queen for its sponsorship. Finally, Disaster Masers would like to thank mentor Jo Ray Van Vliet and her family for all of their assistance.

The current roster for the Disaster Masters competition team, includes J.W. Rosser, Kaitlyn Crowder, Connor Kelley, Sylvan Schuette, Owen Davenport and Jared Edwards with Dr. Daren King as coach.

# Shop...from Page 1A

fully, this year the department raised enough money to help around 60 local children.

In addition to treating these deserving kids to a shopping trip to the Wal-Mart in Blairsville, they also get to enjoy a pizza party with the other kids, volunteers, and police.

These kids who truly deserve to have a Merry Christmas are able to go to the store and spend money on themselves to ensure that they get whatever is on their Christmas list this year.

However, many of these kids use the money to buy for their parents, families, and even households.

Although Hiwassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright says that they "try to encourage the kids to buy something for themselves to enjoy."

This is more than a shopping trip for the Hiwassee City Police Department, this is a way for to interact with children from the local community, and to try to make a



It was a tremendous effort by HPD and Volunteers during the Fifth Shop With A Cop event. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

their families with a Merry Christmas, and that is why "this program is such a blessing" according to Chief Wright.

Also, this program is aimed at the children who sometimes get left out with other donation programs.

Through this program those "in-between" kids have a bright Christmas, and their parents are able to celebrate the holidays without worrying about deciding between paying some of the bills and having their children do without, or buying a few items and possibly having no electricity, or water.

Through donations received throughout the year, Chief Wright and the Hiwassee Police Department, along with volunteers, are able to make Christmas for these older kids happier and brighter, and Chief Wright thanks all of those who have volunteered their time, money, or effort, and especially thank you "for making Shop with a Cop possible."

# Rates...from Page 1A

Regrettably, Stancil said, the number of City customers and volume usage has been declining over recent years due to the poor economy.

"Our new rates must reflect increasing costs of maintenance and upkeep on aging systems," he said. "Generally, we have proposed increasing our base rates by 5 percent and reducing the minimum base to 1000 gallons monthly."

"Each customer will see an increase in their monthly bill ranging from under \$1 monthly - the exact increase dependent upon each customer's usage and location," Stancil said. "Higher volume

users and those customers located greater distances from the Treatment Plant will see larger increases.

"We are also looking at a cost of living adjustment to connection fees for new customers," Stancil said.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please call City Hall.

For more details or to obtain a copy of the proposed 2014 Utility Rate Ordinance, please contact Hiwassee City Manager Rick Stancil at Hiwassee City Hall, 50 Riverstreet, Hiwassee, GA 30546 or telephone (706) 896-2202.

# Awards...from Page 1A



# Battle...from Page 1A

girls made it to the Class AA State Tournament last year and sport a 6-1 record, including a win over the Towns County Girls, as of this writing on Wednesday, December 18.

Included in today's Towns County Herald Sports Section is our annual edited and updated review of winners, details from some of the earlier tournaments, and a look at some of the teams and

individuals who have played in previous tournaments.

For many readers, most of the quite lengthy article will be largely old news with a few updates, but the extensive information is provided for newcomers to the area, visitors to the tournament who have not previously had access to the information, and for some of us who are seniors who may like to refresh our memory.



The battle is set for Stephanie Patton, Sheyenne Seabolt and Dallas Manus for this week's tourney. Photos/Lowell Nicholson



Photos by Lowell Nicholson

to present the awards to the participating students.

"This is a great way for the kids to get started becoming involved with our government," Halfon said. "And the kids participating all wrote terrific essays."

The topic for the middle school essay was "What Patriotism Means to Me?"

This is a written essay contest consisting of 300-400 words, and the essay must be in the student's own words, and be typed.

The first and second place essays from the local VFW Post 7807 were submitted to the District judging, and there is a chance that those students could continue to the state level; as of yet, there was no word regarding the District judging according to Halfon.

From Towns County Middle School, the Patriots Pen Essay winners were as follows, Samuel Wood and Hayley Stowers both received an award for participation along with a \$20 prize for participation.

Third place winner, Jordan Hope Hyatt received an award and \$50.

Second Place went to Sara Beth Hobbs, an 8th grad-

er, who received \$100 plus a plaque, and First Place went to Sadie Eller whose winning essay received \$200 and a plaque, and Sadie is also in the 8th grade.

The High School students participated in the Patriotic Audio Essay Competition which if win at the state level receives a grand prize scholarship for \$30,000.

Like the winning essays from the middle school, the top two essays from the high school have been submitted to the District for judging and they also have a chance to compete at the state level.

This audio contest is open to students in grades 9-12, and has to be a recorded, original 3-5 minute essay submitted on standard tape or CD, and must be submitted along with the typed transcript of the audio essay, and the topic for the contest was "Why I'm Optimistic about our Nation's Future."

The winners from Towns County High School were similar to the middle school format, but there were a few more participants.

According to Halfon, "there has been no word from the state level yet."

Michael Austin, Mia Manto, Scott Marshal Ledford, Ashley Smith, Alana Calhoun, Alexis Stephens and Willem DeVries.

Third Place went to Stephanie Patton who received an award and \$50 in prize money.

Second Place went to 11th grader, and last year's 1st place winner, Danielle Diehl, who received \$100 and a plaque.

This year's First Place winner was 11th grader, Kevin Reardon who received a plaque and \$200.

In addition to the awards presented to the students, the VFW Post 7807 also presented "Teacher of the Year" awards to one middle school and one elementary school teacher.

Each of these teachers had to be nominated by another faculty member, and for those nominated a biography and curriculum vitae were submitted to the District where both of these teachers won the District Level Teacher of the Year award and the district has submitted their information for state judging.

According to Halfon, "there has been no word from the state level yet."

Both of these teachers received a plaque and \$200.

Sherril Behrens was nominated and named as Middle School Teacher of the Year and Lindsey Walker was named as the TCES Teacher of the Year.

Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams was present during the awards ceremony and it was mentioned that the Towns County Middle School, in particular, has won several awards lately.

"I am extremely proud of all of the schools, the students who participated in these essay contests, and super proud of the teachers who received awards, they deserve it because like all of our teachers in Towns County, they work extremely hard," Williams said.

TCMS Principal Dr. Darren Berrong, was on hand during the ceremony and wanted to ensure that the local VFW was thanked graciously for "all that they do for the community, and the kids of Towns County."

It is truly wonderful what the VFW does by supporting the students with sponsorships, and cash, and, "the school appreciates it, and I know the kids appreciate it" he said.