

Towns County Herald

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Indians Basketball headed to historic Championship Game

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald

The Towns County Indians traveled to Chattahoochee County March 6 to take on the Panthers in the program's first ever Georgia High School Association Class A Public Final Four round of the basketball state playoffs.

And the Indians emerged victorious over Chattahoochee County, winning by a score of 59-45 to advance to the school's first ever basketball State Championship game this Saturday, March 13.

Towns County opened the Final Four match with an 8-0 run after senior Kolby Moss and juniors Jake McTaggart and Kyle Oakes made it to the basket.

The Indians' defense held the Panthers scoreless through most of the first quarter, preventing the Panthers from

getting their first basket until the 2:30 mark, though they went on a run of their own in the closing minutes of the quarter to tie the game up at 15 all.

For the first three minutes of the second quarter, the game remained tied, but midway through, the Panthers took their first lead of the game with a three-pointer.

Following another Panther basket and a lead increase to 20-15, Indians Head Coach Rob Benson called a timeout to regroup and get his team back under control.

The Indians then proceeded to put together a few good offensive plays to cut the lead down to 21-23 with just under a minute left in the half, and the Panthers put in another two points to take a 25-21 lead with just under 20 seconds before halftime.

Junior Collin Crowder hit a buzzer shot just as the two-pointed to end the first half, and everyone hit the locker rooms with the Panthers leading 25-23.

Chattahoochee County started the third quarter with possession, scoring a 27-23 lead, but the Indians' big man Jake McTaggart answered right back with two points of his own on a nice pass from Kolby Moss to keep Towns within two points at 27-25.

After a Panthers miss, McTaggart drained another two-pointer on a pass from senior Aiden Berrong to tie the game up at 27 in the opening minute of the third quarter.

Both teams took turns getting to the basket for most of the third quarter. With just under three minutes left in the third and a tie at 33, Moss took

See Final Four, Page 2B



The Towns County Indians celebrated victory in their first Final Four matchup in program history at Chattahoochee County High School on March 6. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Local businesses, community support basketball team



The Towns County Basketball Team accepted a \$3,000 donation from Carrion Tree Service on Monday, March 8. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

The Towns County Indians have made school

history by advancing to the final round of the Class A Public State Championship Basketball Tournament, and the community has been there

every step of the way. From businesses to individuals and more, community support has been a

See Community Support, Page 5A

Johnson & Johnson vaccine to make Public Health debut

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

To date, the two-dose Moderna vaccine has been the primary preventive tool for COVID-19 in North Georgia. That's about to change, however, following the Feb. 27 emergency use authorization of the single shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine by the Food & Drug Administration.

Aside from being administered at the Blairsville VA Clinic, the recently approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine has yet to debut for public use in Union or Towns counties, though doses are expected to arrive very soon in District 2 of the Department of Public Health.

"We are receiving small



Betty Thomas of Young Harris was excited to receive her first Moderna shot March 5, administered by student Physician Assistant Elisabeth Cawley, on rotation with Synergy Health from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Seabees celebrate turning 79 with All Military Ball

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS — Navy Seabee Veterans of America Island X-3 Georgia and veterans from other military groups came together to celebrate the 79th Anniversary of the U.S. Navy Seabees at the Ridges Resort on Saturday, March 6.

The local Island was founded by Ed Crenshaw, Richard Hoibraten and other "plank members" in 2015, with the intent of honoring the history of the "CBs," or Construction Battalions, dating back to World War II.

"A couple of guys and I got together to start a Seabee



More than 144 people attended the 2021 All Military Ball at the Ridges Resort, marking a major success for the Navy Seabee venture. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Georgia Senate unanimously approves Miller statue bill

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

The Georgia Senate voted unanimously March 1 to provide for placement of a monument in honor of the Honorable Zell Bryan Miller upon the capitol grounds of the state capitol building.

Co-sponsored by 13 Republican and four Democratic state senators, Senate Bill 140 recognizing the late Georgia Governor

and U.S. Senator has advanced to the state House of Representatives, with no set timeline on when it may become law.

"Zell Miller's impact will be felt by Georgians for generations to come," said District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch, a bill co-sponsor. "Zell will forever be recognized as the father of the HOPE Scholarship in Georgia."

"It is very fitting we

See Zell Miller, Page 8A



Zell Miller

Students Kade McConnell, Zoe Geraty win VFW contests



L-R: Sophomores Abby Pate and Will McConnell were joined by freshman Kade McConnell to round out the Top Three for this year's Voice of Democracy contest. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

For another year running, students from Towns County High and Middle Schools participated in patriotic essay contests sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Garrett-Owenby Post No. 7807 of Hiawassee.

Established in 1947 as a

youth scholarship program, the VFW's Voice of Democracy audio-essay contest provides high school students nationwide an opportunity to express themselves via "a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay."

"Each year, nearly 64,500 ninth through 12th-grade students from across the country enter to win their

share of more than \$2.1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program," per VFW.org.

At the middle school level, students compete in the Patriot's Pen youth essay contest "for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards."

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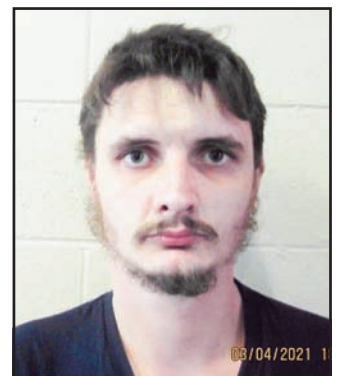
TCSO drug bust takes down 'major drug dealer'

News Special
Towns County Herald

The Towns County Sheriff's Office made a drug bust on Thursday, March 4, resulting in the arrest of a suspected major drug dealer, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Drugs confiscated were packaged for sale along with scales, needles and other paraphernalia.

Joseph Tyler Patterson, 29, of Hayesville, North Carolina, was arrested on the following charges: trafficking of methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of THC wax, and failure to maintain lane



Joseph Tyler Patterson

Sheriff Ken Henderson is continuing to make good on his promises to the citizens of Towns County and commends their hard work and determination of his officers.

Additionally last week, the sheriff launched "a more

modernized and user-friendly website" at www.townscountysheriff.org.

The new website features a photo of Sheriff Henderson with one of the new black and white patrol cars and a personal message from him to the community.

Furthermore, the new site contains a wealth of information pertaining to the operations of the Sheriff's Office, including how to request a crash report or anonymously report criminal activity, plus a list of all deputies and jailers. There's even a "Thank a Deputy" feature.

"I am proud to be your sheriff and look forward to serving the people of Towns County," the sheriff's message reads in part. "I have been in

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Blue Ridge 1,674.53
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Towns vs. Hancock Central
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@ Macon Coliseum 12:30 PM

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