

## Towns GOP meets

The regular meeting of the Towns County Republican Party will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee.

This month is a special meeting with District 50 State Sen. Jim Butterworth and State Rep. Stephen Allison.

They will be reporting on their efforts on behalf of Towns County and soliciting input for the upcoming 2010 Georgia Assembly. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents are all represented by Butterworth and Allison and are invited to attend the meeting.

Sen. Butterworth had a very successful first term serving his constituents. The 50<sup>th</sup> Senate district includes Towns, Rabun, Habersham, Stephens, Banks, Franklin, and Hart counties along with a portion of White County. His efforts concentrated on promoting policies that recruit new industries and create jobs in the area, partnering with parents, educators and local schools to provide world class education for local children

and growing and protecting Georgia's water resources.

Rep. Allison represents Georgia's 8<sup>th</sup> House District which includes Towns, Rabun, Union and White counties. His efforts in protecting our pocketbooks resulted in HB 233 which put a moratorium on all property tax assessment increases for the next two years.

Additionally, Towns GOP members will be hosting a toy drive for the Marine Corps League's Toys for Tots. If you would like to support this endeavor, please bring a new, unwrapped toy or you may wish to donate money.

On Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m., a reception will be held in appreciation for State Rep. Allison at the Towns County Senior Center. If you haven't met Rep. Allison, this is a great time in a great atmosphere to come and speak with him.

For more details, visit the Towns County GOP's Web site at [www.townsgop.com](http://www.townsgop.com) or call (706) 897-7281.

## Deal for Governor moving forward

U.S. Rep. Nathan Deal is rounding out his statewide campaign staff for his 2010 gubernatorial race.

Deal, the last person to enter the crowded race for governor, is juggling his schedule between the pressing issues facing Congress in Washington and his looming gubernatorial bid.

Towns County Deal for Governor campaign chairman, Sam Fullerton, recently visited Deal headquarters to chat with the staff.

Deal's Gubernatorial Campaign headquarters is located at the Gainesville Municipal Airport. Owning a share of an airplane and being located at the airport has made this balancing act a bit easier for the Congressman.

Sixteen persons now serve on the Deal campaign staff and almost all of the 159 county campaign chairmanships have been assigned.

Serving with Fullerton as co-chairman of Towns County is Michael Barrett.

Deal has worked overtime in Washington to prevent Speaker Nancy Pelosi's government takeover of America's healthcare, to no avail. Many times he took to the House floor to speak out against the bill.

Deal is the ranking Republican on the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and during the bill's progress through the committee process, presented numerous amendments concerning the illegal alien problem. These efforts were defeated and American taxpayers, according to provisions in the current House bill, will be forced to finance benefits for illegal aliens.

Deal will be the featured speaker at a Towns County Republican Party meeting sometime before the primary election in July 2010.

## Tourneys...from page 1A

people will be here. We're expecting more than 1,000 people, most of which will be spending the night."

On Dec. 28 through Dec. 30 another impact high school event comes to town when the annual Battle of the States basketball tournament gets underway. That's when teams from at least three states outside Georgia come to compete in the annual Christmas tournament.

"People sometimes complain about the financial cost of our schools through the tax rate, but you never hear folks

talk about the hidden financial benefits our athletic programs bring to our community," Coach Stowers said. "It would be interesting to determine just how much the financial impact really is when everything is accounted for at the cash registers.

"Right now, I'd say every dollar that comes in during the slow months mean as much or more than the dollars that come in during the good months," Stowers said. "Our athletic programs are a hidden benefit to our community."

## Gibby...continued from page 1A

that helped clear out the brush and invasive plantings," Mayor Gibby said.

"We encourage people from around the county to join us in our efforts to build this park," she said.

"This will be a beautiful legacy, not only for Young Harris, but for our entire county and regional area," Mayor Gibby said.

"This park will have benches and tables along the paths and creek, places for children to explore, signs and audio for learning," she said.

"There has been interest from around the community about donating money for one or more

of these items to be placed in memory or honor of a loved one."

If anyone else is interested in doing this please contact Mayor Gibby at (706) 379-3171.

As for 2010, Mayor Gibby sees the year as a time for progress. She intends to complete the work on the new water tank and lines.

"This will also include expanding our ability to serve our customers around Timberline along with getting approval to expand our wastewater treatment plant," she said.

"We are hoping to obtain funding in 2010 in order to begin that expansion process."

## ARS rocks...from page 1A

partisan ARS crowd. For many during an era of pure Southern Rock, ARS provided a Rock 'N Roll alternative, a sound that was lighter and offered a more pleasant tone than the traditional Southern Rock resonance.

With 15 albums of outstanding songwriting and performances, ARS' music gave birth to the phrase *Rock 'N Roll Alternative*. Saturday, they brought back the memories of a time when fans couldn't get the sounds of *Imaginary Lover* out of their heads.

Marshall Tucker Band, another mover and shaker in the Southern Rock movement in the 1970s, took the stage following ARS.

They quickly discovered the boys from Doraville were a hard act to follow.

Made famous by their hits such as *Heard It in a Love Song* and *Can't You See*, the band quickly encouraged audience interaction throughout the show, bringing numerous fans from the crowd to perform with them onstage.

Marcus James Henderson, on flute and saxophone, stole the show with his musical skills.

He played songs with the band, including original MTB member Doug Gray on lead vocals and tambourine, that included *Blue Ridge Highway*.

"I thought it was a very good concert. One of the best I've seen," said Alex Venton from Pickens County.

For die-hard Marshall Tucker Band fans, the experience was a memorable one, especially for those who took the stage with the band.

## Mistletoe Market thrives again at NGTC

By Matthew Jarrard  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
[matthew.tcherald@brnmemc.net](mailto:matthew.tcherald@brnmemc.net)

Artists and patrons of all ages gathered in large numbers on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at North Georgia Technical College for the 2009 Mistletoe Market.

The event, held in the spacious Sugar Plum Tearoom. Proceeds from the show's events support the Artworks Artisan Centre in Hiawassee which funds children's arts and crafts summer camps every year.

Mistletoe Market perfectly defined the art of commerce throughout the weekend.

The Market's events began Friday evening as juried artists, specifically selected to attend from all over North Georgia and parts of North Carolina, donated special pieces from their collection. Money collected from a silent auction goes to ArtWorks, helping children af-

ford to hone their skills and passions in the arts.

"Children pay \$5 dollars for an art class that would normally cost them up to \$40 or \$50 dollars or more," explained Carolyn Barton, local artist and general manager for ArtWorks.

"This will help to double the number of classes that we'll do next year," she said.

Superior talent was on full display as painters, sculptors, mapmakers, jewelry designers, woodworkers, and sewing artisans demonstrated their gifts on the spot. Many are retired from a previous profession. Others are making a living in the art field while a few are fresh out of college.

Jessica Phillips, one of the youngest artists at Mistletoe, had many of her paintings on display. She began one that was soon finished by the end of the night, having it up for sale the very next day. Phillips, a 2009

Young Harris College graduate, painted both large and small scale portraits, many showing off the companionship of animals.

"It's odd because I was a science major and picked up painting just a few years ago. Van Gogh is a favorite of mine although I don't paint anything like him," she said.

Larry and Cathi Dietsch, owners of Destiny Alpaca in Young Harris, sold their hand-spun, soft as cashmere hats, scarves, socks, and tunics made from alpaca fiber from their very own alpaca farm.

"We can make alpaca hats while watching the football game," joked Larry Dietsch.

Other local talents present were Jean and Robert Mitchell from Hiawassee's Upper Hightower Pottery. Jean displayed her imaginative sculptures, at times having drawn inspiration from the likes of Dr. Seuss.

"I specialize in anthropomorphic sculptures, attributing physical features of both humans and animals, capturing a wide

range of emotion in both," Jean Mitchell said.

Her husband Robert keeps his hands busy at the wheel with his old-timey, traditional, yet original, glazed pottery collection. Like many of their fellow crafters at the event, their studio resides in their basement allowing them to feel right at home with their talents.

"The artwork of my wife and myself is completely separate but equal. We compliment instead of compete," Robert Mitchell pointed out.

Those lucky enough to have purchased any of the artistic assets were extremely pleased with their findings. Jessica Goode of Ellijay, along with her mom and dad, bought handcrafted ornaments as well as hats made from llama wool made by Jeanne Holliston of Crystal River Ranch in Hiawassee.

"We like the old-timey, vintage, hand-made look," said Goode referring to her purchases. "This is our second year coming here. It's such a wonderful place to be."

## Towns man faces drug charge

Some solid police work by Towns County sheriff's detectives Brian Wilson and Lt. Mike Davis has led to the arrest of a 48-year-old Hiawassee man on a drug charge and a charge of furnishing alcohol to a minor.

On Nov. 17, detectives Wilson and Davis followed up on leads related to a missing person case involving a juvenile from the night before.

Their investigation quickly led them to the residence of Curtis Cooper, 48, of Hiawassee, according to sheriff's reports.

The missing juvenile was discovered at Cooper's home. Detectives also learned that Cooper had provided alcohol to the juvenile. That evidence is now in the evidence room at the Towns County Sheriff's Office, according to sheriff's reports.

Cooper was arrested by Detective Wilson for furnishing

alcohol to the minor. Detective Wilson also secured an additional warrant for Cooper for the offense of possession of methamphetamine after it was discovered in Cooper's system during a probation drug screen.

The juvenile was safely returned to their family.

In an unrelated case, Deputy Mark Marshall, a Towns County K-9 handler and his partner Dexter responded to assist Clay County, NC during a search in that jurisdiction on Nov. 20.

Under the power of a Clay County, NC search warrant, a search by Marshall and Dexter revealed a felony amount of marijuana, scales, and untaxed liquor.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton said the Towns County Sheriff's Office is more than willing to assist any jurisdiction in their pursuit to keep community streets free of illegal drugs while assuring the safety of citizens.



Mistletoe Market patrons admire Glen Gudger's hand-crafted candles in a bottle. The ornaments closely resemble wind chimes. Photo/Matthew Jarrard

## TC Nutrition staff honored



From top, left to right, Cindi Dean, School Nutrition Director, Lady Kate Bryant, Becky Lusk, Assistant Manager, Margie Lovingood, Claudine McClure, Steve Holloway, Cathy O'Neil, Louise Kelly, Joyce Beck, Carole Shirley, Sandra Watson, Kathy Dills, Cafeteria Manager, and Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens. Not pictured, Angela Arrowood and Charles Erwin.

The Towns County School Nutrition Staff was recognized at the November 9<sup>th</sup> school board meeting for their outstanding performance. On August 26, 2009, Tony Berrong, Regulatory Compliance Specialist with the Towns County Health Department, along with Cail Collins, Deputy Director of Environmental Health, spent approximately 3 hours in the kitchen doing a very detailed inspection. Mr. Collins stated the Towns County School Cafeteria was the only school cafete-

ria in North Georgia he had been in that was following the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system. HACCP process is a control system that identifies where hazards might occur in the food production process and puts into place stringent actions to take to prevent the hazards from occurring. By strictly monitoring and controlling each step of the process, there is less chance for hazards to occur. Congratulations to our School Nutrition Staff for a job well done.

## Low honored by VFW



Towns County Middle school student Kaylynn Low recently was honored by the VFW for November.

## Gibby 'Top Dawg'



Deborah Dietzler, executive director of the UGA Alumni Association, paid a visit to Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby on Nov. 19 and presented her with the group's "Top

Dawg Certificate." The UGA Alumni Association is proud to honor those University of Georgia graduates who are mayors. Mayor Gibby is a 1987 graduate of UGA.

## Coach Paul...from page 1A

Regional Development Commission on Thursday at The Ridges Resort that the first player will be from Towns County.

It's a very familiar name. The soon-to-be first Mountain Lion has been an

integral part of Coach Jim Melton's Lady Indians' teams that have been a frequent visitor to the Class A state playoffs.

"She can shoot the lights out," Paul said afterward.

## Jim...continued from page 1A

giving to the community.

Meals on Wheels has numerous locations in Hartwell, Toccoa, Hiawassee, Homer and many other cities and counties throughout Georgia.

More information can be found at [www.mowaa.org](http://www.mowaa.org). The Food Bank of Northeast Georgia is hosting its second Annual "Beat Tech Food Fight" in the spirit of the in-state rivalry between the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech. The food drive lasts until Wednesday, Nov. 25 and the goal is 50,000 pounds of food.

For more details visit [www.foodbanknega.org](http://www.foodbanknega.org).

There are many other ways to give to your community; they can be found by visiting your local food bank or Salvation Army.

Spending time with our loved ones should come hand-in-hand with giving thanks this holiday.

It is important for us to give thanks to our community and troops and to let our fami-

lies and friends know exactly what they mean in our lives. Whether it is teaching your child a family recipe, throwing the football in the front yard with your neighbor or playing games with your cousins, it is important to build positive and lasting memories with your family and friends.

I would like to thank my constituents in the 50<sup>th</sup> senatorial district for supporting me. I look forward to serving you throughout the year and in the coming legislative session. Please feel free to contact my office at (404) 463-5257 with any comments or concerns you may have.

Happy Thanksgiving and Go Dawgs! Beat Tech!

Sen. Jim Butterworth represents the 50<sup>th</sup> Senate District which includes Towns, Rabun, Habersham, Stephens, Banks, Franklin, and Hart counties along with a portion of White County. He can be reached by phone at (404) 463-5257 or by email at [jim.butterworth@senate.ga.gov](mailto:jim.butterworth@senate.ga.gov).



Doug Gray, the voice of Marshall Tucker Band for all these years, croons while holding a young fan on Saturday night at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/Jessica Keaton