

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 90 Number 12

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Bradshaw hears from Strub on litter, Lee on Bassmaster benefits

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw welcomed Liza Strub and Candace Lee to his regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 15.

Strub is working with the commission and others in the community on various litter and trash initiatives that now fall under the umbrella of the Clean Sweep campaign in Towns County.

One of these initiatives is called "Secure Your Load," in which customers who aren't securing their garbage during transport to the Towns County Transfer Station are being asked nicely to do so the next time they visit.

It's the law that all trash

must be covered during transport anyway, but it has proven a difficult thing to enforce.

Fortunately, just talking to people is making a real difference, as the number of uncovered loads of trash at the Transfer Station have dropped significantly in the last few months.

"There's a group of us that have gotten together and talked about what we can do to educate people in Towns County on litter issues," said Strub, acknowledging the difficulty in getting through to target audiences generally. "So, what we're going to do is try to give a clear message about litter education and litter abatement over the year."

"And we're going to do this in different media, because people learn and understand

things differently. We're going to go through the print, we're going to do social media. We're going to do radio PSAs, in-person meetings. And one of the biggest things that you can show to people and get your message across is by your own actions and examples."

Strub said Clean Sweep Week will actually last two weeks this year, and her group looks forward to aggressively promoting Adopt-A-Road and Adopt-A-Spot projects moving forward.

Furthermore, Strub was scheduled to be a featured speaker at the Towns County Civic Association meeting on Jan. 22, and she and fellow litter warrior Grace Howard will be speaking with the Mountain Movers and Shakers soon.

Folks inside the

Towns County Schools and various student groups have demonstrated an openness to taking part in various litter initiatives moving forward, said Strub, and the signs at the Recycling Center are being recycled for clarity as to what goes into each of the bins.

"We're going to be doing this over the year," said Strub. "We're not going to blast it and do everything in January. We're going to roll this out little by little so that people get the message in all different kinds of ways."

Added Strub, "All of us as individuals can start to make a difference, just little by little. Our example is the best thing that we can do."

Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales, who attended the



Liza Strub discussed Towns County Clean Sweep in the Jan. 15 meeting of Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Annual Meeting, customer charge, broadband discussed in EMC meeting

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

YOUNG HARRIS—This September, the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC will host a weekday Annual Meeting at its own headquarters in Young Harris.

For decades, the Annual Meeting took place on the second Saturday in September at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in Hiawassee, only to change venues two years ago to the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center in Blairsville.

After analyzing 2018 Annual Meeting costs, the board asked EMC staff if holding the big meeting at EMC headquarters would help to



Jeremy Nelms

lower costs moving forward. And as it turns out, EMC staff were able to determine that the headquarters would likely do a fine job of hosting the Annual Meeting.

The board also asked the staff to see if there was any wiggle room in the bylaws for the Annual Meeting date, with the thought that the weekend might be a good way to encourage more member attendance, as Saturdays are highly attended for many people.

EMC staff came through again, isolating a September weekday as a likely candidate to host the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Ultimately, the staff recommended to the Board of Directors that this year's Annual Meeting be held in the covered truck area behind the main EMC building on Thursday, Sept. 26.

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Historical Society elects new board, gets history lesson from Taylor



The 2019 Towns County Historical Society Board consists of Mary Ann Miller, Frances Shook, Tyler Osborn, Jerry Taylor and Sandra Green.

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Historian Jerry Taylor, as usual, put on an entertaining presentation at the Jan. 15 meeting of the Towns County Historical Society, this time centered on local names and their Cherokee and natural origins.

Just prior to Taylor's presentation, however, ballots

were distributed among society members for a vote on the 2019 board members. A few nominees spoke as ballots were filled out and collected.

"I don't feel like a politician, so I really can't think of anything to say about myself other than what a passion I have for the Historical Society and for this county, and especially for the Old Rock Jail," said Sandra Green, the current

Historical Society president. "I feel like our leadership, our team, has done an excellent job for the last couple of years, and I have certainly enjoyed it."

"I appreciate everybody's support. We have grown the organization. I think from probably when I first started, we had maybe 20 people. Now, look around you. I think up until tonight, the highest number was

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Woods addresses BOE on mental health; Cornett resigns as football coach



Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong presenting an early birthday card to Board Member Dr. Kilee Smith in the Jan. 14 regular BOE meeting. Photo by Mark Smith

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Caroleen Woods, a Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteer, addressed the Towns County Board of Education at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Jan. 14.

Woods queried the

board about the relationship students have with the school psychologist and whether she might be able to help with a student in a case where she was the advocate for that student.

"Our school psychologist mainly does the testing portions for when students are referred to the special education

program," said Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong.

Continuing, Berrong said the school psychologist does not conduct treatment programs or counseling sessions or anything of that nature.

The takeaway was that

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TCSO arrests suspect for aggravated assault and cruelty to children

By News Special
Towns County Herald

Deputies with the Towns County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence on Sawbrier Circle in the Bald Mountain Park Community in Hiawassee on Monday, Jan. 14.

They were responding in reference to a dispute between neighbors involving a firearm.

Upon arrival, the deputies spoke with the victim and a witness who advised that a neighbor had pointed a shotgun at the victim and his 4-year-old son.

Deputies located the

suspect, and upon completing an investigation into the reported incident, arrested Bruce Lyle Gross, 63, of Hiawassee.

He was charged with two counts of aggravated assault and one count of cruelty to children in the first degree.

Deputies also located and seized the suspected shotgun allegedly used in the aggravated assault.

The investigation has been turned over to the Criminal Investigations Division for additional follow-up.

The case is active and ongoing, with additional charges likely.



Bruce Lyle Gross

Towns FBLA competitors advance to State Leadership Conference



Towns County Future Business Leaders of America at a recent competition.

By Corinna Luckenbach
FBLA Reporter

The 2019 FBLA Region 15 Leadership Conference was held at Madison County High School in Danielsville on Thursday, Jan. 10.

Members of Towns County FBLA had 25 competitors in 14 different business events who contended with competitors from other FBLA chapters in Region 15 for a chance to advance to state competitions.

The Awards Ceremony was exciting to say the least, as 24 Towns County competitors placed in the Top 10, of which 14 will be advancing to state level competitions.

The following students competed at Regional

Leadership Conference: Emily Williams in Business Communications; Jessica Taylor in Economics; Kendall Floyd in Political Science; Emily Williams in Public Speaking;

True Youngblood in Intro to Public Speaking; the team of Corinna Luckenbach and Kenzie Livingston in Public Service Announcement; Nick Bradley in Computer Applications, Chase Rogers in Spreadsheets, Kendall Floyd in Spreadsheets;

Gage Denton in Spreadsheets; the team of Chase Reece and Jamison Wood in Business Ethics; Summer Rahn in Business Presentation; Danny Reagan in Publication Design; and the team of Kennedy Henson and

Abby Mauldin in Management Decision Making;

The team of Kaitlyn Crowder and Claire Piquette in Management Decision Making; the team of Shane Sparks and Jayce Young in Public Service Announcement; Vanessa Floyd in Sales Presentation; Chase Crawford in Word Processing; Jessica Taylor in Word Processing; and Wesly Calhoun in Word Processing.

Additionally, Towns County FBLA received two chapter awards: the Region 15 Largest Chapter Award, which recognizes the chapter with the most members; and a Second Place award in the FBLA Sweepstakes.

For the second award, a trophy is given to chapters

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SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Jan 25 @ Prince Avenue 7 PM

Jan 26 vs. Fannin Co. 5 PM

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