

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

www.townscountyherald.net

Publication Number 635540 Volume 89 Number 14

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

## TCHS Academic Bowl Team heading to national championship

News Special  
Towns County Herald

The Towns County High School Academic Team recently capped an 11-win season with a second consecutive playoff appearance in the North Georgia Playoff Tournament in November.

An exercise in endurance, players and coaches alike burned the midnight oil and 300 miles of road to make it there by 8 a.m. after the state playoff football game in Pelham the night before.

The varsity squad took down Gainesville to reach the semi-final, but fatigue and a strong Lumpkin County team seemingly brought the season to an end.

A couple of weeks later, an unexpected surprise arrived in Coach Ken Camp's email.

The National Academic

Quiz Team (NAQT) organization deemed TCHS's body of work the last two years to be worthy of one of 96 national bids to play for the Small School National Championship.

TCHS will have the opportunity to compete against small public schools, with 500 students or less, from as far away as Michigan, after toiling away to 25 wins the last two years in a league where the next smallest school is White County at 800 students.

Towns, which has 339 students, held its own against squads as large as Lambert, 3200 students, because there are no GHSA classifications for academics.

"I think the fact that we keep winning these David and Goliath battles says a lot about the quality of our students and

teaching here," said Coach Camp.

Academic team is akin to team Jeopardy! in that it requires a wide breadth of knowledge and quick thinking, as a jump of play might see questions jump from calculus theorems to NFL quarterbacks to biblical history.

Behind the talents of Jackson Taylor, the 2016 team won 14 matches, a division championship, and narrowly missed playing for a state title.

In 2018, the team will have a chance to add to their 11 wins in Chicago behind Captain Kendall Floyd, and Coach Becky West is excited for the trip.

"We certainly want to win, but I think the chance to travel together and represent

See TCHS, Page 6A



The Towns County High School Varsity Academic Team

## City Council packs them in at Hiawassee City Hall

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Assistant Editor

In front of a standing-room only crowd of residents, Hiawassee City Attorney Thomas Mitchell swore in Patsy Owens as a member of the Hiawassee City Council in the Jan. 29 work session.

The council has not enjoyed the full voting status of five members since then-councilmember Liz Ordiales took over as mayor pro tem in April of last year, though it is complete once more now that Owens has come aboard.

Bonnie Kendrick, the new city clerk, also swore in to her position during the meeting, and Hiawassee Mayor Ordiales explained that former city clerk Cenlya Galloway would be working solely as the clerk of municipal court.

Ordiales also welcomed guest speaker Haley Zuber of Towns County High School, who talked about the technological future of agriculture.



Photo by Shawn Jarrard

The 2018 Hiawassee City Council with Mayor Liz Ordiales and City Clerk Bonnie Kendrick.

As previously reported, Mayor Ordiales has decided to reintroduce the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Franchise Fee Ordinance, and she reiterated her position in the Jan. 29 work session.

Councilmembers voted

on a first reading of the new franchise fee ordinance in the Feb. 6 regular council meeting, the results of which were unavailable at press time.

Pending approval of the first reading, the council will get the chance to vote

on a second adoption in a follow-up meeting, and the ordinance will go into effect this May if adopted.

Mayor Ordiales has

See Hiawassee, Page 6A

## Business partners arrested for depositing counterfeit check



Dennis Lynn

Michael "Jerz Mike" Osborne

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Assistant Editor

BLAIRSVILLE – Two business associates found themselves behind bars last weekend for having deposited

a counterfeit check, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Michael David Osborne, aka Jerz Mike, 46, of Towns County, and Dennis Lamar

See Counterfeit, Page 6A

## Towns FBLA students advance to state level competition



Towns County FBLA competitors are excited after the Region Leadership Conference Awards Ceremony.

By Chase Rogers  
FBLA Reporter  
News Special

The 2018 Future Business Leaders of America Region 13 Leadership Conference was held at Madison County High School in Danielsville on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018.

Members of Towns County FBLA had 39 competitors in 22 different business events who contended with competitors from other FBLA chapters in Region 13 for a chance to advance to state competitions.

The Awards Ceremony was exciting to say the least – a record 24 competitors will be advancing to state level competitions.

The following Region Winners will be advancing as state competitors:

Vannah Chastain in Business Communications; Sarah Bastian in Business Communications; Chase Crawford in Business

Communications; Caleb Clark in Economics; the team of Nick Bradley and Caleb Clark in Entrepreneurship;

Andy Chambers in Computer Applications; Ryan Tyler in Spreadsheets; Sara Beth Hobbs in Spreadsheets; Chase Williams in Future Business Leader; the team of Taylor Cornett and Emily Williams in Business Ethics;

Kenzie Smith in Client Service; Brooke Barrett in Job Interview; Corrina Luchenbach in Business Presentation; Danny Reagan in Graphic Design; the team of Kendall Floyd and Chase Rogers in Emerging Business Issues;

Kyra Tallent in Word Processing; Chase Rogers in Word Processing; Kaitlyn Crowder in Word Processing; Kowzie Livingston in Financial Math; Jessica Taylor in Financial Math; and Sadie Eller in Personal Finance.

The following competitors also placed in the Top 10 in Region 13, but will

not be advancing to state level competition:

The team of Taralee Arrowood and Hannah Whitehead in Entrepreneurship; the team of Kennedy Henson and Abby Mauldin in Sports and Entertainment Management; the team of Sara Perry, Zandra Churchill and Cara Galloway in Public Service Announcement; and Chase Crawford in Impromptu Speaking.

FBLA competitors that also competed at region level are:

Wesly Calhoun in Business Communications; Taralee Arrowood and Hannah Whitehead in Economics; Remington Parker and Maci Walls in Intro to Business Communications; Journey Hunter in Financial Math; and Gage Denton in Information Technology.

Additionally, Towns County FBLA was given two Chapter Awards.

The Region 13 Largest See FBLA, Page 6A

## Young Harris cancels election after qualifying no-show

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The City of Young Harris has canceled its March 20 special election due to a lack of qualifying candidates.

Last fall, Young Harris City Councilman Stuart Miller resigned from his Post 3 position during the November regular council meeting, stating personal reasons.

At the time, Miller had two years remaining on his term, and the city took the necessary steps to hold a special election to fill Miller's seat.

"Nobody qualified for the election, so that's the reason we're canceling this one," said Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby. "The council will have to call for the another election probably by the first or middle



Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby

of summer, but they'll have to make the decision as to when that will happen. The council will remain as it stands until then." While the empty council seat is definitely a problem that

See Young Harris, Page 6A

## Jackson of NGA Tech talks economic development

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Carol Jackson of North Georgia Technical College spoke about new educational programs promoting regional economic development in the weekly meeting of the Mountain Movers and Shakers on Friday, Feb. 2.

Jackson is Associate Vice President of Economic Development for North Georgia Tech, and she formerly served as District 50 state senator.

As a technical college, North Georgia Tech focuses on encouraging specialized crafts and Work Ready certifications, such as those of electricians and welders, to send qualified



Photo by Lily Avery

Carol Jackson is the associate vice president of economic development for North Georgia Technical College.

2 Sections 16 Pages  
Lake Levels  
Blue Ridge 1,670.40  
Chatuge 1,918.57  
Nottely 1,762.24

Inside  
Arrests 2A  
Chamber 7A  
Church 4B  
Classifieds 6B  
Opinion 4A  
Legals 7B  
Obits 5B  
Sports 2B

Wrestling  
State Tournament  
@ Macon Centreplex  
Friday and Saturday  
Feb 9 & 10

Towns County Schools  
Dual Enrollment Meeting  
See page 7A

'Don't kill your Crepe Myrtles'  
Feb 8th  
City Hall  
See page 7A

AARP Foundation  
Tax Aide  
Fridays thru April 13th  
See page 5B