

# Towns County Herald

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## STARs Smith, Ewing shine in Lions Club banquet

By Brittany Holbrooks  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Lions Club 2022 STAR Student Bazya Smith and STAR Teacher Sarah Ewing of Towns County High School at Daniel's Steakhouse on Feb. 22.

Following supper, Julie Payne of the Lions Club shared a bit of history on the recognition, noting that the Lions Club has sponsored Towns County's involvement in the PAGE Foundation's Student and Teacher Achievement Recognition program for approximately 64 years.

In order to qualify for the position of STAR student, a high school senior must hold one of the Top 10 highest-ranked GPAs in their graduat-

ing class and obtain the highest single-sitting score on the SAT from among their peers.

Once results are calculated, the selected student then becomes a STAR teacher, an instructor who had the most impact on their educational career, to include influence over scholar, to include influence over wisdom in general life skills or even emotional support needed to navigate high school.

In this case, creative senior Bazya Smith, known for her athletic endeavors, chose her art teacher Sarah Ewing, who was in her first year as an educator when she first met Smith, then a middle schooler.

"I've had Bazya since eighth grade; that's when I met her, (and) that's when I started teaching, five years ago," Ewing said. "And she has just been the most joyous, wonderful student to teach that I can even

imagine. We've had so much fun over the years."

During her turn at the microphone, Smith said she was grateful and honored and wanted to take a moment to thank not just her teacher, but her family as well for their role in her success. Additionally, she told the Lions Club a bit about herself.

"My hobbies include drawing, painting, cooking, crocheting and exercising," Smith said. "I have run cross country and played soccer for the past four years, along with participating in one year of basketball and two years of wrestling."

She also cited an extensive list of extracurricular activities in both her school and the community.

"And, like most teenagers," she finished, earning a

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L-R: Towns County Lions Club President Ronnie Whelchel, TCHS Art Teacher Sarah Ewing, 2022 STAR Student Bazya Smith and TCHS Principal Roy Perren on Feb. 22.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

## Bradshaw, Paris attend ATVG meeting in Knoxville

By Mark Smith  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Association of Tennessee Valley Governments is an advocate program representing nearly 1,000 local governments that reside within the seven-state Tennessee Valley Authority region, including Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Towns and Union counties are members, as is the City of Blairsville, with Towns just joined in mid-2021. At the end of January, Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw attended the first ATVG meeting of 2022 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

According to the organization's website, the mission of ATVG is "to serve the mutual interests of local governments and their partners in both the public and private sectors in the seven-state Tennessee Valley region."

Continuing, "We advance the interests of our members at the national, regional and state levels. We use our



Towns County Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw and Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris during a January trip to Knoxville, Tennessee, for the first Association of Tennessee Valley Governments quarterly meeting of 2022.

Photo/Submitted

strong, collective voice to work on a nonpartisan basis for solutions to critical issues that affect us all."

Founded in 1981, ATVG is a non-profit 501(c)(4) public interest organization. Executive Director Mike Arms leads the organization.

The Association of Tennessee Valley Governments

looks at and works on Tennessee Valley Authority issues, Arms said, essentially making the ATVG an association of the local governments that are served by TVA, the largest public power company in the United States.

"When we meet, our first item is always a TVA update

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## Iwo Jima Vet Bud Johnson honored in ceremony Feb. 21

By Mark Smith  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – On Feb. 21, the Towns County Recreation Center hosted the 77th Iwo Jima Memorial Ceremony honoring the sacrifices of the nearly 7,000 American servicemen who perished at the hands of the Imperial Japanese Army in the 36-day Battle of Iwo Jima in February and March of 1945.

Most of the nearly 7,000 soldiers killed and the approximately 13,000 wounded were United States Marines, Leathernecks. Some were from U.S. Army support units attached to the Marines.

And still others were U.S. Navy, who were responsible for getting the Marines from the ships to the beaches of Iwo Jima, and those corpsmen and doctors took care of the wounded.

One such sailor was the late Clarence "Bud" Johnson, retired Navy Chief Quartermaster, who was serving aboard the USS Silverstein on Feb. 23, 1945, and witnessed the now famous raising of two American flags on Iwo Jima's



Marine Corps League Unicoi Detachment 783 Commandant Alton "Doc" Coleman with Marine Corps League National Commandant Johnny Baker in last week's Iwo Jima Remembrance in Towns County.

Photo by Mark Smith

Mt. Tachi.

A Buwaco resident for many years and constant advocate for veterans, Johnson passed away Jan. 1, 2021, at the age of 98.

He was honored last week for his 33 years of service to his country along with the late Woodrow Sanders, U.S. Army (ret), whose Army

unit was attached to the Marines at Iwo Jima. Tributes to both men were given by Scott Drummond, U.S. Coast Guard (ret).

The ceremony was sponsored by the Marine Corps League, Unicoi Detachment 783, representing Towns and Union counties.

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## First annual 'Day of Service' held at Cupid Falls Park

By Jeremy Foster  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – On Tuesday, Feb. 22, the first ever "Day of Service" program was instituted at Cupid Falls Park.

The program was introduced jointly by the City of Young Harris, Enotah Garden Club, Towns-Enotah Master Gardener Association and Young Harris College with a bevy of student athletes.

A brand-new non-profit organization known as Mountain Beautification and Revitalization Association was also there to lend a hand, and Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby was happy to attend as a showing of support for the cause.

Mark Franza is a Master Gardener with TUMGA and has been with the association for over a year now.

"We are working on putting in a riparian buffer along



Young Harris College freshmen student athletes Sophie Bearden and Shelby Mullins help TUMGA President Nancy Peters-Benjamin plant a tree in Cupid Falls Park Feb. 22.

Photo by Jeremy Foster

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## Powell swears into federal Energy Board position

By Mark Smith  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Hiawassee resident Jim Powell, who was appointed by the Biden Administration as

the federal representative to the Southern States Energy Board in October 2021, was sworn into office by Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales at City Hall on Feb. 14.

"I am honored that Presi-

dent Biden has chosen me for this appointment," Powell said after the initial announcement in October. "I look forward to working with the Southern States Energy Board and its

See Powell Swearing In, Page 7A



Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales, right, swearing in Jim Powell to his federal position on the Southern States Energy Board at City Hall on Feb. 14. Also pictured: Powell's wife Karen.

Photo by Mark Smith

## Qualify next week for 2022 Election Cycle

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

Qualifying for the Towns County Board of Education and other elective offices will take place next week ahead of the May 24 General Primary/Nonpartisan Election.

Nonpartisan School Board seats up for countywide election are Post 1 Macedonia, Post 2

Hiawassee, and Post 3 Young Harris, with qualifying fees set at \$36.

Qualifying will begin at 9 a.m. on Monday, March 7, and run through Friday, March 11, at noon inside the Towns County Board of Elections & Registration Office at 67 Lakeview Circle, Suite A, in Hiawassee.

Candidate checklists for qualifying and other information can be found by visiting

the Secretary of State's website at <https://sos.ga.gov/candidate-resources>, or at the Board of Elections Office. All qualifying candidates will be viewable at [sos.ga.gov](https://sos.ga.gov) after they qualify.

Four county-level offices are up for election, including the three Board of Education posts as well as the Nonpartisan Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor if petition requirements are met

for the latter. No partisan county offices will appear on the ballot.

Federal and state candidates will also be qualifying next week, but instead of submitting their paperwork locally, they must do so at the State Capitol Building in Atlanta.

State-level offices up for election in the General Primary are Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney, District 8 State Representative and District 50

State Senator, plus two Enotah Superior Court judgeships that will appear on the May 24 Nonpartisan Election Ballot.

Various other state-level offices will appear in the primary, including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Agriculture Commissioner, Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner, State School Superintendent, Labor Commissioner, and Public Service Commissioner District 2.

The Towns County electorate will get a chance to vote

on two federal-level offices as well: U.S. Representative from the 9th Congressional District of Georgia and a U.S. Senate seat.

April 5 will be the earliest day to register to mail an absentee ballot for the General Primary, and April 25 will be the last day to register to vote in the General Primary/Nonpartisan Election.

The 2022 General Election will be held on Nov. 8 and will feature the election of political party candidates who clear the primary round of voting.

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Blue Ridge	1,673.54
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**SOCCER**

3/2 vs. Lake Oconee

5 & 7 PM

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@ Movers and Shakers

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**Justin Moore**

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# Powell Swearing In...from Page 1A

member states and territories on energy programs and to advance the president's 'Build Back Better' initiative."

According to <https://www.sseb.org/>, the Southern States Energy Board is "an interstate compact" composed of governors and state legislators from 16 Southern states, two territories - Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands - and a presidential appointee, in this case Powell.

The mission of the board is "to enhance economic development and the quality of life in the South through innovations in energy and environmental policies, programs and technologies."

"They coordinate energy issues throughout the Southeast," Powell said. "And it's all types of energy issues, whether it be fossil energy, nuclear energy, renewable energy, what-have-you."

"My job is to serve as the

liaison between the states and the federal agencies that have an interest in energy issues in those states."

The Southern States Energy Board is not a regulatory body like the Environmental Protection Agency, but a policy organization based in Norcross that coordinates energy policy between the states and the federal government, according to Powell.

"For instance, what are we going to promote?" Powell said. "Are we going to promote more renewable energy? Are we going to promote more efficiency? It could be a variety of things. It's mostly electricity, but it could be natural gas or other forms of energy as well."

"I did this back in 2014 for about a three-year period (as an appointee of the Obama Administration)."

Powell went on to comment on the transition of the

automobile industry from gasoline-powered vehicles to electric vehicles, saying, "Ford has already said they're transitioning away from internal combustion engines."

Georgia Chamber of Commerce President Chris Clark said on Feb. 2 at an Eggs and Issues Breakfast in Blairsville that Kia had changed its name from Kia Motors to Kia because the company is transitioning to electric motors for their vehicles.

"They actually have electric powered over-the-road 18-wheelers now," Powell said. "The transition is coming. (Clark) is absolutely correct. Get ready. The question is, how long is it going to take? Is it going to be five years or 10 years?"

"And the big issue is on batteries. The battery technology needs to improve quite a bit and the cost needs to come down."

# STARs Banquet...from Page 1A

few chuckles, "I love watching TV shows and movies."

After graduating in May, the STAR student has her sights on Georgia Southern University's Armstrong Branch in Savannah. Recently, she applied for a scholarship to their Honors College, and while there's been no word on the result, she eagerly awaits hearing back from them.

In the meantime, Smith explained that she chose the Armstrong Branch "because it's the largest producer of undergraduate health professionals in Georgia."

She's not sure what branch of health care she wants to go into, but she looks forward to examining her options with a pre-med degree. Smith's mother, Dr. Kilee Smith, is a family medicine doctor in Hiassee, so her pursuit of health care will be a family tradition of sorts.

Smith chose Ewing as her STAR teacher because of "the significant impact she has had on my life."

"She has introduced me to different styles of art such as sculpting, papier-mache and sticker designing, which has definitely been one of my favorites," Smith said.

Naturally drawn to art, Ewing taught her student to embrace her talents and further develop a passion for creativity. Last year, Smith put together a butterfly insert for the Towns County School System Art Show.

"When she says she hung butterflies, she made 200 origami butterflies and hung them from the ceiling, and when you walked into the art show last year, it was like you were walking into another world," Ewing described. "I mean, it was incredible. It was just something I could have never imagined, and she came to me with the idea."

Ewing also said that Smith was the first student she really began encouraging to enter art contests and helped put together portfolios with, and in that way, the teacher learned

from the student, and Smith was always around to help.

"She has helped make stickers for our art program, and we sell them, so she's actually helped fundraise a lot of the money we use to then buy the supplies that we need," Ewing said.

Ewing addressed Smith a final time before the two STARs shared a tearful embrace at the end of both speeches.

"It has been an absolute joy to teach you over the years, and I'm going to miss you," Ewing told her.

Of note, Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren, who presented Smith with her award, was himself nominated as a STAR student "in the program's teen years," and it was interesting to see one STAR bestow the honor onto another.

To close out the night, Lions Club President Ronnie Whelchel addressed the rest of the organization, reminding them of upcoming events and thanking them for their involvement and attendance.

# ATVG Meeting...from Page 1A

- what's the latest on TVA," Arms said. "Then, we'll have two or three items of interest which are usually interesting to everybody."

"In Knoxville, for instance, we had a session on cybersecurity. TVA's cybersecurity expert came in a talked about different things they're doing for cybersecurity. And we had a local government that had been attacked. We got their IT director to come in and talk about it."

"What I think is of value to ATVG - Knox County (Tennessee) has 480,000 citizens, so the mayor has a chief of staff and an IT director and so forth. A lot of our smaller counties, they don't have all the wherewithal to have bigger staffs (like Knox County)."

"So, a lot of times the mayor or the sole commis-

sioner also has the same local government issues, and many of our smaller counties really don't have the staff to be fully engaged, so we try to offer topics and subjects that will help them learn what's going on throughout the valley."

"When we come back to Brasstown Valley Resort (in 2023), I know we'll be talking about lake levels and tourism and how important the quality of our lakes is to the economy of those counties (with Lake Nottely and Lake Chatuge)."

"One other thing that I think is of value," said Arms, "is local government people get to meet other local government people. We always have networking time. We have a social hour before dinner."

"And it gives a chance for Lamar Paris (for example) to meet a county commissioner

from Alabama, a county mayor from Tennessee - in Mississippi they call them supervisors. They all have different names and different local government charters, but they all deal with the same issues, so it's a good cross-pollination of local governments."

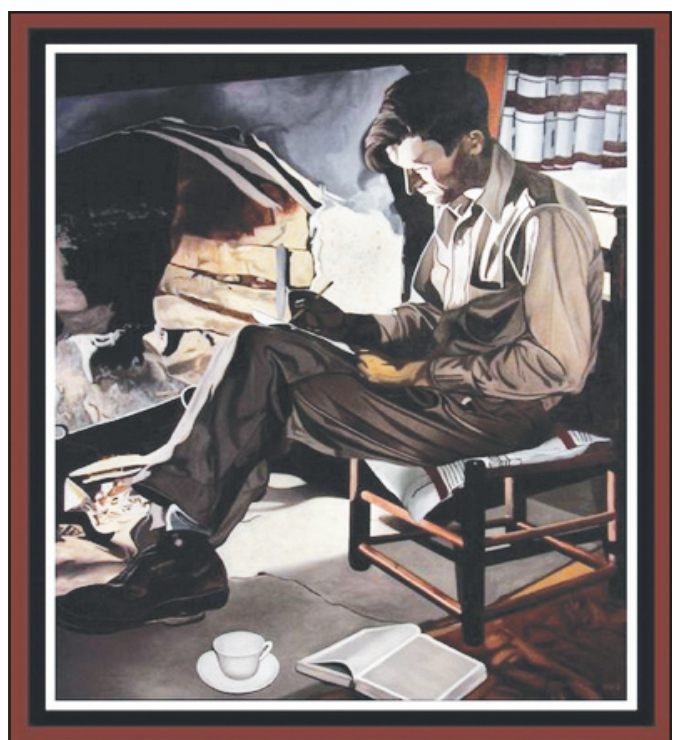
In this way, local government leaders can gain exposure to more efficient ways of doing things and find previously unheard-of solutions to their respective problems and issues, and Bradshaw and Paris both agreed that their ATVG memberships are beneficial for their respective counties.

ATVG Memberships are available to city and county governments. Affiliate memberships are available to businesses/corporations, nonprofits and individuals. For more information, visit <https://atvg.org>.

# Remembering Reece: 'Laying By' last plowing of season

There is always something to do on a farm, whether it's plowing, harrowing, planting, attending the livestock, harvesting the crops, or laying by. Farmers of that era could quickly tell you that "Laying By" refers to the last plowing for the season. Howling winds can be bone chilling. Snowfalls can be deep. Such was the case on the Reece Farm in the mid to late 1940s and early '50s following the end of World War II, when Byron Herbert Reece was struggling to keep up the farm work in order to help his aging and ailing beloved parents. In the Appalachian foothills surrounding the beautiful Choestoe Valley, the unpredictable weather could be harsh; but, it could provide some potential productive writing time for Hub Reece, as he was affectionately called by his family and close friends.

Time was of the essence to Reece. These two well-known poems indicate how he felt about time and priorities. "There Never Was Time" and "I Am A Farmer First And A Writer Second." For him, because his farm work provided food and security for his family, it was a priority. He hoped that his writing, which he loved equally with farming, would someday be successful in catching the eye of a publisher who would recognize his ability. (It did catch the eye of New York Publisher, E.P. Dutton and Company, resulting in publication of his four volumes of poetry and two novels.) He never made any significant money; however, he became acknowledged nationally as possibly the best writer of his time. Finding enough time usually entailed writing by lamplight or firelight. When the winter sun set behind the barren hardwoods



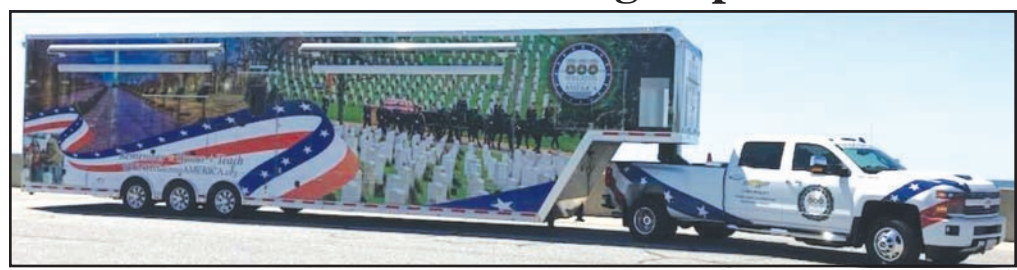
The draperies are not just a decoration, as beautiful as they are. They, and the matching cushion on the chair, were lovingly hand sewn by Hub's mother, Ms. Emma. They were intricately made of heavy fabric and pleated to ward off the cold air. This painting weaves so much emotion and behind-the-scenes history into the image. There is so much that is unsaid, yet apparent in this portrait. This beautiful oil painting by Al Garnto is on display at the Zell and Shirley Miller Library in the Special Collections (Reece) Section on the Young Harris College campus.

and the last glimmer of light on the horizon faded, the long and cold nights were accentuated by the early evening darkness. Hub found that such times were perfect to record his innermost thoughts and feelings, to express what had been forming in his mind all day as he worked on the farm that he loved.

\*\*\*Thank you for reading and your continued interest in "Remembering Reece." The purpose of the Byron Herbert Reece Society is to preserve, perpetuate and promote the literary and cultural legacy of the

Georgia mountain poet/novelist. In addition to enhancing both knowledge of and appreciation for his writings, efforts will be made to honor his way of life, with particular emphasis on his love of nature and his attachment to farming. The Reece Society is grateful to the North Georgia News and Towns County Herald for the opportunity to publish articles about Reece's life and legacy and to provide a medium by which those who have never read his works can know the genius who lived among us. *Jerri Duncan Gill, Chairman*

# Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit National Tour making stop in Blairsville



## Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit

Wreaths Across America (WAA) local sponsors The American Legion Ira Weaver Post 121 and Blairsville Daughters of the American Revolution are proud to announce a local stop for the WAA Mobile Education Exhibit (MEE) national tour.

The MEE started its tour at the WAA Headquarters in Maine and will be in Blairsville Thursday, March 17 for a scheduled event that is both free and open to the public. The event will take place at the new Union County Sports Center parking lot on Glenn Gooch Bypass.

"The goal of the Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit is to bring community together and teach patriotism while remembering the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes," said Karen Worcester, executive director, Wreaths Across America. "However, over the last year, in light of the current health crisis, we feel this exhibit has taken on even more meaning by providing the opportunity for people to safely participate in something that is both educational and inspiring, while supporting and giving back to the communities it visits."

The MEE achieves this goal by bringing the local community, veterans, active-duty military and their families together through interactive exhibits, short films, and shared stories. The exhibit serves as a mobile museum, educating visitors about the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes as well as to serve as an official 'welcome home' station for our nation's Vietnam Veterans.

All veterans, active-duty military, their families, and the local community members are invited and encouraged to visit, take a tour and speak with WAA representatives and volunteers. They can also share more about the national nonprofit, and the work its volunteers do to support our heroes and their communities year-round.

The public tours for the MEE are free and open to the public with social distancing, sanitation and COVID-19 safety procedures in place to protect the health of all visitors in accordance with the CDC's recommendation for large gatherings stemming from concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the media, dignitaries, veterans and other interested groups are urged to come, ask questions, share stories and experience this one-of-a-kind exhibit.

Wreaths Across America is the non-profit organization best known for placing wreaths on veteran's headstones at Arlington National Cemetery. However, in 2021 alone, the organization placed more than 2.4 million sponsored veterans' wreaths at 3,100 participating locations nationwide. Throughout the calendar year

you can tune in to Wreaths Across America Radio, 24/7, to learn more about the mission and those who support it across the country, as well as the hundreds of local charitable efforts nationwide that are funded through wreath sponsorships.

You can sponsor a veteran's wreath anytime for \$15 at [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org). Each sponsorship goes toward a live, balsam wreath that will be placed on the headstone of an American hero as we endeavor to honor all veterans laid to rest at noon on Saturday, December 17, 2022, as part of National Wreaths Across America Day.

For more information on the Blairsville stop contact Ron Tanner at 706-400-9452 or [iwpost121@gmail.com](mailto:iwpost121@gmail.com). Also learn more about the MEE at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nK6rgTEndQU>.

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# Day of Service...from Page 1A



YHC student athletes Addison Conley and Abrianna Self doing some clean-up at Cupid Falls Park for the first ever Young Harris Day of Service last week. Photo by Jeremy Foster

different sections of the creek, which are a series of plantings that will help to stabilize the banks of the creek from erosion," Franza said. "When trees get bigger, their root system gets bigger, so it helps balance it out.

"One interesting thing we will be doing is that each individual tree will have a nametag that will be informational and tell the common name and botanical name for each one so it can be educational for the public.

"Right now, we are in the first phase of the project, and we will be also planting some ornamental grasses around the bases of the trees to beautify it more, which is our ultimate goal here at the Cupid Falls."

TUMGA President Nancy Peters-Benjamin offered her thoughts that Tuesday on what the project means to the com-

munity.

"Cupid Falls Park is something that is shared by all of the people in Young Harris and of the college," Peters-Benjamin said. "It is a great place where people can come and walk trails, use tables to picnic, and have everyone be together in nature.

"The idea of the park is that you want to maintain what you have, and we want to keep the vitality of this park so it will be available forever so everyone can always enjoy this beautiful spot in nature."

Carol Townsend and Tish Lashley are project managers for the Enotah Garden Club, and they noted that about 60 students came to help with the project, interchanging in groups over two-hour work intervals.

"This whole thing was instigated by the college," Townsend said. "The student athletes wanted to keep their

campus clean and pretty, and we all decided we wanted to work together to help keep this park and our town thriving and beautiful.

"This is very important, because when events like this are inspired by a community

of young people of the college, they are learning the purpose of giving back to the community and what it means to be involved in seeing what is going on in the community and caring about it, and that is just a great lesson."

# Iwo Jima...from Page 1A



L-R: Towns County Sheriff Kenneth Henderson; MCL Commandant for Georgia Larry Heard; MCL Junior Vice-Commandant for Georgia Rex Delk; MCL Judge Advocate for Georgia Lisa Delk; MCL National Commandant Johnny Baker; MCL National Vice-Commandant for the Southeast Division Jerry Holt; MCL Commandant for South Carolina Jim Stone; Towns County Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw; Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales; and local MCL Commandant Alton "Doc" Coleman. Photo by Mark Smith

In addition to veterans of all American military branches from a variety of campaigns dating to World War II, local dignitaries attending the ceremony were Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw, Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales and Towns County Sheriff Ken Henderson.

"It's an honor (to be here)," said retired U.S. Marine Corps Command Sgt. Maj. Johnny Baker, National Commandant of the Marine Corps League. "If you look around this room, there's history in this room.

"Where did we get such men to go out there and give their lives for a cause that they believed in? Many of them were 18, 19, 20-year-old Marines," said Baker, referring to those thousands who died at Iwo Jima.

Baker went on to describe the raising of two flags on Mt. Suribachi on Feb. 23 – a second, larger flag just hours later replacing the first to send "a wave of strength to the battle-weary fighting men below," according to the Naval History and Heritage Command website.

Retired USMC Chief Warrant Officer Jimmy McKeral Jr., who is pastor of Christ For All People Ministries, served as the keynote speaker

for the event. He discussed honor, dedication and remembrance in a monologue entitled "The Truth Is."

"Wow! What an awesome thing to pause for a moment and contemplate all the Marines who went before us," McKeral said. "Not just the Marines – soldiers, sailors, airmen, coast guardsmen, national guardsmen, men and women who laid down their will to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. That's an uncommon thing. It deserves great honor; it deserves great respect.

"My friends, my fellow Americans, we need to stay in unity. Look to your left and look to your right and realize those are not your enemies. We're Americans," McKeral said. "We don't need to be ashamed of the values that (made) this country great, like honoring the men who fought at Iwo Jima.

"And let's not forget the people who were at home, who were praying and sacrificing and rationing, and women going into factories, and Rosie the Riveter, and all these wonderful people who cried out to God, day and night, because the existence of America was at stake.

"We were attacked by Japan. We were attacked by

Germany. And if you want to rewrite history, you can try and do it – but it does not change the truth. America was at stake, but we rallied together as Americans.

"Come on, somebody! We rallied together around a flag that actually means something. I've carried too many boxes with fallen veterans and fallen servicemen to not have respect for the American flag," exclaimed McKeral. "It's OK to be proud of the flag."

In describing the nearly impossible feat the soldiers and sailors accomplished at Iwo Jima at the cost of so many lives, McKeral characterized the moment as "uncommon valor as a common virtue," employing Admiral Chester Nimitz's 1945 comment after the Battle of Iwo Jima.

"We need to realize the truth in America. History is not here for us to love or hate. History is here so we don't repeat it. Hey, let's stand up for America, amen?" McKeral said to a standing audience and a vigorous round of applause.

And guests continued to stand until McKeral invited them to be seated.

The ceremony ended after a memorial wreath presentation and retiring of the colors. Cake and coffee were

# Habitat for Humanity Spaghetti Dinner Benefit & Silent Auction

Earlier this month Habitat for Humanity selected Brandy Snow and her family to be Habitat homeowners. Habitat for Humanity is in the beginning stages of planning the construction of Snow's new home. Habitat is accepting donations, and volunteer help during the home build. Habitat is eager to see the community come together for Snow and her family as they break ground on the newest Habitat

home project.

Marina Station, located at 3399 US-76 in Hiwassee, Georgia, has partnered with Habitat for Humanity to raise funds for its newly selected homeowner. The restaurant will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction on Wednesday, March 2nd from 11 AM - 8 PM, donating 35% of spaghetti dinner sales and all proceeds from the silent auction to the Habitat home build

for Brandy Snow and her family.

Community involvement is the key to creating affordable housing for faithful members like Brandy Snow. Questions, or interested in ways to get involved? Call Habitat for Humanity at 706-745-7101.

If you have further questions about the Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction, please contact Marina Station directly at 706-298-8209.