

# Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, March 13, 2024

## 12 candidates qualify at county level

### COUNTY COMMISSIONER



Cliff Bradshaw (R)  
Incumbent

### TOWNS COUNTY SHERIFF



Ken Henderson (R)  
Incumbent



JR Murray (R)

### CLERK OF COURT



Eric Barrett (R)



Chris Clinton (R)



Sandy Morgan (R)

### TAX COMMISSIONER



Michael Anderson (R)  
Incumbent

### CORONER



Tamela Cooper (R)  
Incumbent

### PROBATE JUDGE & MAGISTRATE



David Rogers (R)  
Incumbent

### BOE POST 1



Brandon Grimsley (NP)  
Incumbent

### BOE POST 4



Roy Perren (NP)

### BOE POST 5



Caroleen Woods (NP)  
Incumbent

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
editor@nganews.com

The 2024 election season took shape by the end of qualifying last week, with 12 candidates officially declaring their intent to run for county-level offices in the General Primary and Nonpartisan elections set for May 21.

Qualifying for federal, state and local office ran March

4-8, with local candidates submitting their paperwork to the Elections Office adjacent to the Towns County Civic Center.

Only Republican and Nonpartisan candidates qualified for county office, and with no Democrats set to challenge local Republicans in November, all county races will be decided by the end of Election Day on May 21 – unless a runoff is needed in the contest for

Clerk of Superior Court.

In fact, the results of the upcoming county elections are mostly known already, as all but two local races feature lone qualifiers.

One of the contested races is for the office of sheriff, for which Incumbent Ken Henderson and challenger JR Murray qualified last week. The two will face off May 21 for the Republican Party nomination,

and whoever wins will be the presumptive sheriff starting in 2025.

As for the other contested race, in light of longtime Superior Court Clerk Cecil Dye deciding to retire after this year, three candidates have thrown their name into the hat to succeed him in the position: Eric Barrett, Chris Clinton and Sandy Morgan.

The three will square off

for the Republican nomination in May, though a June 18 Run-off Election will be needed if no candidate receives a majority of the vote. Ultimately, whoever succeeds in the primary is set for an unchallenged win in the Nov. 5 General Election.

Incumbents in the remaining county offices up for grabs in 2024 breathed a sigh of relief last Friday when they learned that no primary or Gen-

eral Election challengers had stepped forward during qualifying.

Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw, Probate Judge/Magistrate David Rogers, Tax Commissioner Michael Anderson, Coroner Tamela Cooper, and School Board Members Brandon Grimsley and Caroleen Woods all qualified unopposed and should cruise to victory in *See Qualifying Candidates, Page 2A*

## City Council approves three new DDA members

By Brittany Holbrooks  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

In their March 5 regular meeting, Hiwassee City Council members accepted the resignations of three Downtown Development Authority Board Members and approved three individuals for addition to the board.

The Hiwassee DDA became embroiled in controversy late last year when it came to light that construction of the Paris Business Center did not have enough money to proceed without the city backstopping a large loan. Since then, multiple DDA members have announced their intent to leave the board.

Efren Lopez and Monica McKenna are coming off the DDA Board, as is Mayor Liz Ordiales as the city's representative.

After accepting the resignations, the council voted on who the new board members should be. In 4-1 decisions, with Councilwoman Patsy Owens against, former city police chief Paul Smith and former DDA program manager Steven Harper were selected to serve on the board.

"They're both backstabbers," Owens remarked after the voting, alluding to separate past allegations by both Smith and Harper that Mayor Ordiales had effectively abused her power in office.

Councilwoman Amy Barrett was selected to replace Ordiales as the city representative in DDA meetings, and the three new board members were



Hiwassee City Councilwomen Nancy Noblet and Amy Barrett in their March 5 regular city meeting at City Hall.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

expected to swear into their positions during the March 12 DDA meeting that occurred after press time.

Council members also approved a budget resolution for excess funds received after completion of the SPLOST cycle in 2026; the anticipated collection is \$1,080,000, and the council voted to use any funds that come in over this amount to pay down the Paris Business Center loan.

Also in the meeting, the council approved \$42,166.74 going to the Hiwassee DDA "paid to the city from the (Appalachian Regional Commission) grant for grant administration and technical work that occurred in 2022 and 2023."

"Back then, we had paid \$42,000 for the administra-

tion of the grant (for the Paris Business Center) and for some architectural work ... so (the ARC) has paid us that back," Ordiales said. "The DDA is requesting that they are able to keep that \$42,000 so they can put it towards the line of credit."

In the February work session, Economic Development Director Denise McKay asked that the \$42,166.74 be retained by the DDA to help pay for the 17% "private" portion of the Paris Business Center.

"On the buildings that we have, we can only use a certain percentage of the loan that we received on the public portion of it," McKay said. "Everything else has to go for the private. So, any payout that *See New DDA Members, Page 2A*

## Aqua Services chosen to treat parrot-feather weed



Map showing the 2024 season parrot-feather management area at the southern end of Lake Chatuge. Photo/MountainTrue.org

### News Special

MountainTrue and Save Lake Chatuge are excited to announce that a proposal from Aqua Services has been selected for control of the invasive parrot-feather in the southern end of Lake Chatuge this year.

The company will utilize two airboats, both capable of surface and deep-water application, to apply the herbicide ProcellaCOR at the appropriate rate(s) and depths. Customized rates will be ap-

plied to surface and subsurface plants depending on density, biomass and water depth.

On Monday, Feb. 26, the company conducted detailed mapping of the plants in anticipation of drafting a contract with MountainTrue. While invoices will be based on the actual amount of herbicide applied, the total cost of this year's treatment, including MountainTrue's 10% project management fee, is anticipated to be around \$220,000.

The initial application

will be performed when the water temperature is above 50 degrees Fahrenheit and the plants begin to put on new growth.

While the timing will be based solely on when the Aqua Services professionals feel that the treatment will be most effective, MountainTrue anticipates that it will occur no later than mid-April.

Four follow-up visits will occur at two-week intervals after the initial visit. *See Parrot-Feather, Page 4A*

2 Sections, 16 Pages

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Arrests - 2A Opinion - 6A  
Chamber - 7A Legals - 7B  
Church - 2B Obits - 3B  
Classifieds - 7B Sports - 6B

### Lake Levels

Blue Ridge 1,677.14  
Chatuge 1,918.23  
Nottely 1,762.49

### BASEBALL

3/15 vs. Washington  
Wilkes 5 & 7 PM

Lions Pancake Breakfast *See Page 3A*

TCHS Student of Week *See Page 7A*

Annual Easter Egg Hunt *See Page 4B*



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# New DDA Members...from Page 1

I have come in, they've divided it between public and private."

Without the reimbursement, McKay is concerned that the private portion of the project won't be able to be completed, as the DDA is "close to having" the \$605,000 required to finish the public portion thanks to loan.

The council also voted to spend \$1,750 - 50% of a facilitation fee - on a joint re-

present in May for the purposes of communication and planning between the City Council and DDA.

In other business, the city recently opened lawncare bids, with the lowest bid coming out of Andrews, North Carolina, for \$9,240. However, the bidder, used to pressure washing residences, had never bid on commercial properties before, and he ended up withdrawing his bid.

"He did not understand the bid well, and when I explained to him, I said, 'Hey, listen, this is what you're getting into: it's an every week thing; you're driving from Andrews.' His bid just didn't make any sense," Ordiales explained.

The next lowest bid came from HLG Services, owned by Ordiales' brother-in-law Hector Gonzalez. The \$20,020 offer was accepted

unanimously by the City Council on March 5.

In the February work session, Ordiales proposed that the city make a donation of \$20,000 from SPLOST proceeds toward treating the parrot-feather infestation of Lake Chatuge - an initiative being undertaken by MountainTrue and SaveLakeChatuge.org.

"This is a special purpose, a big deal," Ordiales remarked, and the donation was approved unanimously by the council in last week's regular meeting.

# Qualifying Candidates...from Page 1

November.

Roy Perren was the only qualifier for the School Board seat that will be vacated by Board Member Stephanie McConnell at the end of the year, so he will be joining the Board of Education in 2025.

Prior to qualifying, Perren served as chairman of the Towns County Board of Elections & Registration, and per state law, he came off the board when he qualified last week.

Candidates for federal and state-level offices selected

by area voters reported to the Secretary of State's Office in Atlanta to qualify last week.

The race for District 8 State Representative will see Republican Incumbent Stan Gunter getting a primary challenge from fellow Republican Dick Mills, and Democratic qualifier Charlotte Sleczkowski will face the winner of the Republican Primary in November.

District 50 State Sen. Bo Hatchett, the Republican incumbent, will face Democratic challenger June Krise in November.

Incumbent Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior Court Chief Judge Joy Parks was the sole qualifier for her judgeship in the upcoming Nonpartisan Election that will run concurrently with the May 21 General Primary.

As for Georgia's 9th Congressional District, Republican Incumbent Rep. Andrew Clyde will not face competition in the May primary, but to keep his seat next year, he will have to overcome Democrat Tambrei Cash in November.

## Food Pantry Food Distribution

The Food Pantry hours are Monday - Thursday 9 AM- 12 PM with the exception of distribution day. The Distribution is every other Wednesday 11 AM - 2 PM.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Richard Thomas at towns.pantry@ndocsbg.org or (706) 896-4783. TMar13.A1JH

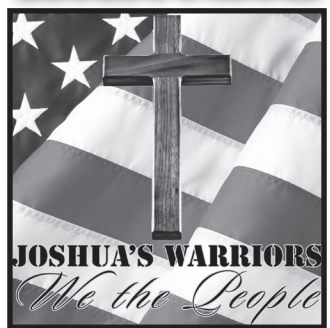
## Blythe Smith makes Missouri S&T honor list

Missouri University of Science and Technology announces the names of students who made the honor list for the Fall 2023 semester.

To be included on the honor list, students must have carried a minimum of 12 hours and had grade point averages of 3.2 or above out of a possible 4.0.

Local student includes Blythe Smith, Sophomore, Mechanical Engineering. TMar13.A2JH

## Your Patriot Reflection



### If You Can Keep It

Have we passed the apex of freedom in our country? Eric Metaxas, in his book, "If You Can Keep It" states that America is not a nation bounded by ethnic identity or geography, but rather by a radical and unprecedented idea, based upon liberty and freedom for all. He goes on to caution that it is nearly past time that we reconnect to that idea. If we don't, we may very well lose the very foundation of what made us exceptional in the first place.

Let me quickly cite just one example of how our freedoms are being compromised. In 2016 former Secretary of State John Kerry made this statement at a commencement address. "Americans must prepare ourselves for a "borderless world." We will have lost our identity and freedom for what? A world without borders is a world without citizens; a world without citizens is a world without the rights and privileges that attach exclusively to citizenship.

Rights and liberties exist only in separate and independent nations; they are the exclusive preserve of the nation-state, where the just powers of government are derived from the consent of the governed. Does that sound familiar to you? Our founding Fathers had it right, so lets dig in and make the maintaining of our Freedom a high priority.

A Patriot Reflection is presented weekly by www.joshuaswarriors.org. NTMar13.Z8CA



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

### VFW Bingo

The VFW Post 7807 in Hiawassee has Bingo every Sunday afternoon at 2:30 PM. Doors open at 1:30 PM.

We are located on Highway 288, Sunnyside Road, Hiawassee, Ga. Food and drinks will be available. Come join us and have fun! Starting January 16. For more info call 706 896-8387. NTMar13.A1JH

## Codependents Anonymous Weekly Meeting

Codependents Anonymous Meeting: Self-Help group offering a 12 Step Recovery Program meets on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Rivers of Peace, RCO 166 Josh Hall Road, Suite 4, Blue Ridge, GA 30513. All are welcome. NTMar13.Z2CA

# Arrest and Fire Reports

Local law enforcement provides the following information for publication. Names are spelled as they were when received from the law enforcement agencies. It is important to remember that the following individuals have been charged only and are presumed innocent until such time as they are found guilty by a court or enter a guilty plea. Addresses of persons under arrest are no longer available from Sheriff's Office.



## ARREST REPORT

Towns County Jail  
Sheriff Ken Henderson

- 03/05/24 Jody Richard Anderson, age 43, Blairsville, GA Probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge
- 03/08/24 John Richard Beni, II, age 33, Atlanta, GA Disorderly conduct (2), DUI-driving under the influence of alcohol, interference with government property- felony, marijuana possess less than 1 oz., open container in vehicle, possession of a schedule I controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine, willful obstruction of law enforcement officers by use of threats or violence (3)
- 03/08/24 Bobby Reyburn Croy, age 50, Hiawassee, GA Hold for White County, GA
- 03/10/24 Brittany Rose McKinney, age 24, Conyers, GA Aggravated battery, simple assault, willful obstruction of law enforcement officers-misdemeanor
- 03/10/24 George Samuel Poole, age 53, Hayesville, NC Failure to appear for fingerprintable charge-misdemeanor
- 03/07/24 Terra Michelle Silvers, age 37, Hiawassee, GA Probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge, serve four days per court
- 03/08/24 Stephanie Nicole Sullivan, age 35, Clarkesville, GA Probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge
- 03/07/24 Nathan Brent Bradley, age 32, Hayesville, NC Loitering (4)
- 03/04/24 Juan Diego Carbello Lopez, age 22, Hendersonville, NC Driving without a valid license (misdemeanor), speeding 45 MPH (20-35 miles over)
- 03/04/24 Kenny Jackson Cooper, age 44, Blairsville, GA Driving w/suspended or revoked license, knowingly driving motor vehicle on suspended, canceled, or revoked registration
- 03/03/24 John Wymond French, age 68, Grayson, GA DUI-driving under the influence of alcohol, failure to drive within single lane
- 03/05/24 Miguel Garcia Hernandez, age 49, Hayesville, NC Failure to appear for finerprintable charge-misdemeanor
- 03/03/24 Kenneth Neal Ingram, age 58, Cumming, GA Loitering or prowling
- 03/07/24 Charlie Cristine Russell, age 27, Young Harris, GA DUI-driving under the influence of alcohol, following too close, hit and run; duty of driver to stop at or return to scene of accident, open container in vehicle
- 03/10/24 Richard Donald Vaughn, age 57, Hiawassee, GA DUI-driving under the influence of alcohol, failure to drive within single lane TMar13.K1JH

## FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE REPORT

From: Fire Chief Harold Copeland



- 03/04/24 Medical assist, assist EMS crew (4)
- 03/05/24 Medical assist, assist EMS crew (5)
- 03/06/24 Medical assist, assist EMS crew (4) Motor vehicle accident with no injuries. Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional CO detector activation due to malfunction Dispatched and cancelled en route
- 03/07/24 Medical assist, assist EMS crew (6) Dispatched and cancelled en route (2)
- 03/08/24 Dispatched and cancelled en route Medical assist, assist EMS crew (3)
- 03/10/24 Medical assist, assist EMS crew Setting up LZ for Air Evac/EMS

## Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Group's March Meeting



The Alzheimer's Association Caregiver group will meet on Monday, March 18, 1:30 PM in the Parish Hall, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 777 Ledford Road, Blairsville.

The group is open to any caregiver of a person living with Alzheimer's Disease

or any other dementia. It is an open group meaning you can begin attending at any point.

The caregivers are able to share their experiences with others, support each other, and learn from each other.

The meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. For information contact the Alzheimer's Association at 800-272-3900 or email the facilitator Harriet Hoke at hhoke1234@gmail.com.

## Citizens For A Better America meeting

Are you happy about the way things are going in Cherokee County, NC, U.S. and the world? Lets work together for change! Citizens For A Better America are uniting to promote Freedom & Constitutional Rights, peacefully & patriotically.

Monthly meetings are the third Thursday of the month. Next meeting is March 21, at the Legends Steak

House in the private meeting room, 42 Tennessee Street, Downtown Murphy, NC. Meal orders at 5 PM, meeting is 6-7:30. This meeting is free & open to the public. United We Stand!

For more information: Website: <http://www.CitizensForABetterAmerica.com>; Email: [Contact@CitizensForABetterAmerica.com](mailto:Contact@CitizensForABetterAmerica.com); Call: (828) 361-5422. NTMar13.Z3CA

# School Board discusses ag facility, amends budget

By Brittany Holbrooks  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Board of Education met for its regular meeting on Monday, March 4, to discuss, among other topics, student accomplishments and an update on the new Agriculture Center.

2024 STAR Student Dhriti Patel, who earned her title for making the highest SAT score in her graduating class,

attended the meeting to receive an appropriately star-shaped award.

“She is a phenomenal, phenomenal young lady. You would probably be hard-pressed to find anyone who works as hard as that young lady, and we could not be more proud of her,” said TCHS Principal Bryan Thomason before Patel’s proud family, adding that she “is the embodiment of what it means to be a Towns

County High School student.”

Patel even received a hug from Board Member Stephanie McConnell, who voiced how proud she was of Patel and her achievements.

In other business, Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong announced that “a couple things have happened this year that’s going to cause us to increase our budget.”

The first impact on the budget came from the one-time payment to school employees around the winter holidays as ordered by Gov. Brian Kemp, which resulted in an increase of \$219,000 to the system. The second was a \$150,000 safety grant.

“You may ask, ‘So, if you’re receiving this money from the state, why are you having to show an expenditure?’” Berrong said. “Well, we are going to get it on the revenue side, but if we get it on the revenue side, we have to spend it.”

“And if we’re spending it and don’t increase the expenditure, then we get into issues with the state.”

Berrong also said that \$1.75 million had come to the School System by way of state

grant funding for the new Agriculture Center, compared with the \$2.4 million construction bid for the project.

“The construction managers are going to rebid a couple of the things that they felt came in high,” Berrong said. “I gave them approval to do that, but I wanted to go ahead and get the groundwork started as soon as possible. My hope is by April we will start some construction.”

Elementary School Principal Shannon Moss announced his retirement that evening with a letter read during the work session prior to the meeting.

Business carried on as usual, however, in honor of the upcoming School Board Appreciation Week March 11-15, Moss gifted each member of the board – along with Superintendent Berrong – an insulated backpack.

Middle School Principal Dr. Connie Hobbs revealed that the computer science class is making great use of its newly donated 3D printer.

Along with coasters be-decked with the Towns County Schools’ emblem, Hobbs shared art prints, wall décor, spiropographs and even clips



TCHS Principal Bryan Thomason was tickled to recognize 2024 STAR Student Dhriti Patel in the March 4 School Board meeting.  
Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

fashioned from the high-tech learning experience. The coasters were given to the board in advance of Board Appreciation Week.

For his part, High School Principal Thomason presented a card to the board jointly

with Hobbs, redeemable at the School Store for “TC merch.”

The Towns County Board of Education meets the first Monday of every month inside the Towns County Middle and High School Library, starting at 6 p.m.



School Superintendent Darren Berrong said last week he hopes construction can start next month on the largely grant-funded Agriculture Center.  
Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

# Hagberg winner of Paris Business Center Logo Contest

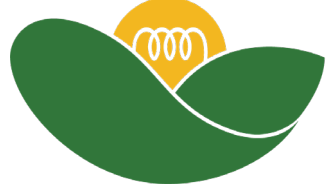
A Dalton, GA, native’s design was selected as the official logo for the Paris Business Center located in Hiawassee, GA Georgia College & State University student, Maryellen Hagberg, won the contest sent to more than 20 universities with graphic design programs.

Hagberg, who will graduate in Spring 2025, is an art major with an emphasis in Graphic Design. She hopes to one day work in a design firm where she can create brand identities.

“This logo is the first design that I have created that will be used commercially, so it is extremely important to me,” said Hagberg. “I love designing things that can have a double meaning, such as the sun also being a lightbulb in this design. It means a lot that my design will be part of the brand identity, and help business owners who go to the Paris Business Center (PBC) trust they are working with a company that will foster their ideas in a community-oriented



Maryellen Hagberg



Paris Business Center

Paris Business Center Logo

place,” she added.

While the PBC building is located in Hiawassee, the Center serves a three-state region, supporting existing business owners, as well as start-ups. “We appreciated Maryellen’s incorporation of the ideas of growth and energy into the logo design, as well as the full package she submitted showing the logo in all of its possible uses,” said Tyler Osborn, co-chair of the Hiawassee Downtown Development Authority (DDA). “Her design and presentation are very professional and impressed the entire DDA board,” he added.

The PBC is the first, and only, full-service, regional business development center, serving North Georgia, and parts of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. The PBC office will be in one of two newly renovated historic buildings in downtown Hiawassee (opening date Fall 2024.) The PBC and its partners help new or existing busi-

nesses start, expand, or retain their company through development of business plans; classes in marketing, book-keeping, human resources, management; as well as helping with finding financing options. The PBC currently serves clients through the Economic Development Of-

fice located in Hiawassee City Hall.

The Hiawassee Downtown Development Authority was formed by the Hiawassee City Council in 2019 and was established for the purpose of furthering the economic development of our lake and mountain paradise while preserving

Hiawassee’s history and serving its citizens and visitors alike.

The PBC Logo features the Blue Ridges Mountains where the business center is located and a rising sun with a light bulb, representing the new entrepreneurs the center will serve.

## Parrot-Feather...from Page 1A

ing each follow-up, applicators will survey the treatment area to assess the effectiveness of the prior treatment and provide spot treatments as needed based on survey results.

The company has also quoted a per-acre rate so that if unanticipated regrowth occurs later in the season after the four follow-up visits, the price of additional visits will be known.

ProcellaCOR was developed in 2010 and was subject to dozens of peer-reviewed scientific studies for several years, leading up to its ultimate approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2017.

The active ingredient of ProcellaCOR, florypyrauxifen-benzyl, has been utilized worldwide for many years as an herbicide on food crops such as rice.

It is applied directly into the water at the depth of the invasive plants. It is a systemic herbicide, meaning that the plant takes in the chemical and distributes it through its entire structure and roots rather than only killing the leaves.

The plant dies off over a period of two to four weeks and breaks down naturally. Since ProcellaCOR works slowly and there will be cool water at the time of the initial application, slow plant decomposition is expected with little to no effect on dissolved oxygen levels.

ProcellaCOR itself is short-lived and breaks down naturally and quickly, within three to four days.

According to the EPA Pesticide Product Label for ProcellaCOR, there are no restrictions for recreational purposes, including swimming and fishing, or for watering grass. The only restrictions for use of the treated water are for residential landscape plants and homeowner gardens.

Almost all hazards described in the label are for the people who handle and apply the herbicide.

Before selecting Aqua Services, MountainTrue and a team of five people from Save Lake Chatuge reviewed proposals and credentials from five companies. The team researched various potential methods of control, as well as several different herbicides, even going so far as to contact the manufacturers of the herbicides to speak with them about this specific project.

Many of the research papers found, as well as the species profile of parrot-feather on the Great Lakes Aquatic Non-indigenous Species Information System website, were written in whole or in part by Ryan M. Wersal, Ph.D., who is an Associate Professor of Aquatic Weed Science at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Dr. Wersal did his doctoral thesis on parrot-feather and is one of the world’s fore-

most experts on its treatment and control. MountainTrue and Save Lake Chatuge asked if he would help decide on a treatment plan, and he agreed.

After much exchange of information via email and phone, the local group met with him virtually, and he recommended using the Auxin family of herbicides for treatment over all other potential methods and chemicals.

ProcellaCOR was chosen because of its low use rate compared to the other auxin herbicides and because Aqua Services has used it with great success on other parrot-feather infestations.

While other companies also proposed using ProcellaCOR as a primary method of treatment, Aqua Services, based in Guntersville, Alabama, has been in operation in the South for more than 40 years, holds contracts with the Tennessee Valley Authority for aquatic weed management, and quoted the lowest price for the project.

Complete control of the parrot-feather infestation will take more than one year, but next year, there will be much less to treat, and there may be a period of years after that when no treatment is needed.

MountainTrue will maintain the monies in the Parrot Feather Treatment Fund in perpetuity for the control of invasive aquatic weeds in Lake Chatuge.

# 2nd Annual Purim Celebration in the Mountains March 24

Chabad of Rural Georgia is pleased to return to the North Georgia mountains to celebrate the holiday of Purim on Sunday, March 24, 2024 at the Young Harris College, Hatcher Dining Room in Rollins Center from 2 – 4 PM. A reading of the Megillah with a chapter-by-chapter poignant and down-to-earth elaboration will be provided by Rabbi Yonatan Hamburger, who is no stranger to the YHC campus or community. Audience participation is encouraged. Hamburger has taught fascinating and overflowing classes for the Institute for Continuing Learning (ICL) continuously since January 2023. Light refreshments will be offered.

The happy festival of Purim commemorates the Divinely orchestrated salvation of the Jewish people in the ancient Persian Empire from the wicked Haman’s plot “to annihilate all the Jews, young and old, infants and women, in a single day”. On March 24 we celebrate their survival by reading the story from an ancient scroll, called the Megillah, along with traditional foods, noise makers and costumes.

Chabad of Rural Georgia is a branch of the worldwide Chabad Lubavitch movement.



Rabbi Chaim Markozits and Rabbi Yonatan Hamburger reenact the first Purim celebration which took place 2500 years ago.

It serves the needs of Jews and curious non-Jews throughout Georgia who do not have access to organized Jewish life. It strives to make Judaism relevant and fun, while accepting and loving every individual as he/she is.

The event is free and open to the community. Donations will not be turned down. For more information and/or to RSVP for the event please contact Bonny Herman bon3bon@windstream.net or 706-851-9125 (or text).

## Accomplish your goals! Free GED Classes Available

If you never graduated from High School, now is your chance to accomplish your goal. Come see us at the North Georgia Technical College Adult Education Center and finally get it done! We

offer in- person classes to prepare you for the GED test and beyond.

Come by 38 Blalock Street in Blairsville or call us at (706) 439- 6342 to register and get your real life started!