

Green presents historical document to City of Hiawassee

By Mark Novak
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Historical Society President Sandra Green presented a framed original 1929 Hiawassee tax digest to Mayor Liz Ordiales on Monday, March 26.

Green presented the document just as the mayor finished discussing the city's budget at the March Hiawassee City Council Work Session at city hall.

"This is very appropriate since you were just talking about your budget," said Green. "This is the 1929 tax digest for the City of Hiawassee. This is the original, and you'll see the Bank of Hiawassee, and their city tax was \$21.70, but they only paid \$21.30. We're not sure why."

Mayor Ordiales went over some of the city's recent financial statements during the work session.

"Actually, they're not that bad," said Ordiales. "We had, remember, a really bad January, so January here, the police here had \$8,700. We didn't have court because of the snow, so the income we had was whoever came in to pay their tickets."

Added Ordiales: "The good part is we collected \$50,326 in property taxes and \$7,000 in business licenses, so generally, it kind of helped an awful lot there. Bottom line, we're negative \$5,400, which is not so bad considering everything that was going on in January."

Mayor Ordiales was happy to announce that city businesses have done a terrific job paying for their business licenses.

"By the way, everybody has paid for their business licenses," said Ordiales.

The mayor also discussed an upcoming council meeting action item to approve an agreement with Greg Fender for right of way management concerning the recently passed Franchise Fee Ordinance.

"Greg Fender, who has helped us tremendously with our right of way management with dealing with the EMC, he's helped (City Attorney Thomas) Mitchell come up with definitions and all that," said Ordiales. "He offers a program that, for \$1,000 a year, he manages all our franchise fee paperwork and he makes sure we get what we are supposed to get."

Mayor Ordiales also talked about a visit she was paid by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.



Photo by Mark Novak
Sandra Green presenting Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales with a 1929 tax digest.



Photo by Mark Novak
Young Elijah Moody of Eastgate Life Academy shared his speech about embracing the future with those attending the March 26 Hiawassee work session.

"They would like for us to review new construction before it goes in to make sure that we are following the EPD rules," said Ordiales.

The Mayor would like the building inspector Randy Day to do the inspections in the city to make sure builders are complying with EPD rules.

"Our building inspector can do that, we would just have to raise how much we pay them," said Ordiales. "Right now, we pay them 75 percent of the building permit. It would go up to 80 percent and he would do all that."

"So, I think it's a pretty good idea, and he would do it right when it's happening,

verses if we wait, by the time we call EPD and that stuff is all over the place."

The motion to approve Randy Day to do the EPD inspections was set for the April 3 city council meeting, which occurred after press time.

A motion to name Bonnie Kendrick as the new Pension Secretary was heard at the April 3 meeting. She will be handling all the pensions for the city through the Georgia Municipal Association.

Regular meetings of the Hiawassee City Council occur at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month, at Hiawassee City Hall.

GA Mountain Fair committee hopes for '10-mile-long parade'



Photo by Mark Novak
A meeting of the Georgia Mountain Fair Parade Committee on Thursday, March 29.

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At least 10 floats have already entered to win the top prize of \$2,500 for best float at the July 21 Hometown Pride Parade put on by the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

The Georgia Mountain Fair Parade Committee met on Thursday, March 29, to discuss the upcoming parade.

So far, the Towns County Republican Party, Van Keith Insurance, Mountain Regional Library, Towns County Public Library, Towns County Indian Raider Band, Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council, the City of Hiawassee, The Towns County Historical Society and several others have entered.

New to the 2018 parade are bigger than ever cash prizes for the float competition: \$2,500 prize for the best float, \$1,500 for Second Place and \$500 for Third Place.

"I would like to see a parade 10 miles long, and the sheriff will be mad at us for trying up traffic," said Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton, who was unable to attend the meeting, commented at a later date about having a 10-mile-long parade.

"I would love to see that level of participation from the community," said Clinton. "We could manage the traffic. We have great people in the

Towns County Public Safety Department. We are always happy to help and be part of such a great community."

Thomason is seeking more bands to participate in the parade.

"Does anybody around the table know of any bands?" said Thomason to those gathered. "I've even tried the military bands."

Towns County Chamber of Commerce Membership Coordinator Crystal Wagner made flyers to start advertising for the parade and has sent out applications to all chamber members.

Charley Andrews representing the VFW will be having a float in the parade and working with the local Iwo Jima Veterans to participate as the grand marshals of the parade.

"Right in this town we have six World War II Iwo Jima Veterans," said Andrews. "That is a mixture between four males and two females, and they are looking forward to it."

Thomason will be reaching out to the Georgia Department of Agriculture to participate this year.

"Years ago, the Georgia Department of Agriculture brought in the Watermelon Queen and brought the commissioner in on the float," said Thomason. "When they got through, they had a big team set up on the fairgrounds, on the lake, and they sliced up watermelon and gave

free watermelon to all the customers."

Parade committee members are also working on getting the local Scout troops involved in the parade, and Matt Turpin, president of Georgia Mountain Fair Inc., is reaching out to all the car clubs seeking their participation in the parade.

Local marinas, restaurants, trucking companies, ready mix concrete companies, car dealerships, construction companies, hospitals, builders, churches, all businesses and everyone in the community are urged to get involved in the parade, to get free exposure for their business, and to support the community.

"If they don't have trailers we have some," said Thomason.

If anyone has any questions or needs assistance, there are numerous committee members that can assist and direct them in the right direction on how to participate in the parade.

Contact Hilda Thomason to get a float, business or organization registered today at (706) 896-4191.

"Prize money was all donated to the Georgia Mountain Fair by Bob Cloer, to see the community get back involved in the parade," said Thomason recently. "We really want participants, and we want to say a big thank you to Bob Cloer for donating the money."

Bleed...from Page 1A

able to stop the bleeding." Due to the occurrence of school shootings and mass trauma events, these programs have been implemented across the country.

"Students and teachers that have been involved in mass casualty incidents have died because no one stops the bleeding," said Moody. "The police officers go in and stop the threat, and no one stops the bleeding, so many of these folks have non-life threatening injuries and they bleed out."

"So, that's why we're all here today, it's all about stopping the bleed."

Added Flight Medic Tommy Benefield: "Talking about stop the bleeding, when do we need that? It started because of the school shooting, Columbine, Sandy Hook. After Sandy Hook is when this initiative came out, because kids bled to death and died that didn't need to die. We're trying to teach teachers how to do this stuff."

Georgia emergency medical staff are trained to go in and save lives, not wait outside.

"We're not taught to stay outside anymore until it's safe," said Benefield. "They've decided for these big instances at schools that this is not feasible. Kids were dying,



Photo by Mark Novak
Teachers and staff of Towns County Schools learned valuable lessons on stopping bleeding during the training.



Photo by Mark Novak
Multiple medical professionals were on hand to make sure teachers understood the lessons being taught that day.

teachers were dying, when we could be going in there and saving lives."

Using the kits, Benefield provided hands-on training for the faculty at the school, teaching them how to use the emergency medical supplies.

The kits are equipped with two rolls of compressed gauze, a pressure bandage, a tourniquet, a pair of trauma shears, a sharpie and two pair of gloves.

"The scissors are to expose the wound," said Benefield. "If I'm bleeding from my leg, you've got to get those pants off."

"If we're talking about someone bleeding to death or a mass casualty situation or severe trauma, there is

no modesty left. I promise you when you show up at the trauma room in Northeast Georgia, I'm going to cut all your clothes off. It's to not miss injuries."

Teachers were trained to get an injured person on the floor, how to apply pressure to wounds and how to wrap a tourniquet to stop bleeding near a wounded area.

Georgia launched the nationwide "Stop the Bleed" campaign in 2017, which puts the knowledge of first responders and the military into the hands of the public to save lives by stopping uncontrollable bleeding in emergency situations, according to GeorgiaTraumaFoundation.org.

FBLA...from Page 1A



Corinna Luchenbach, Kenzi Smith and Taylor Cornett at the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Atlanta.

Other competitors that advanced from region to state competition were:

Sarah Bastian in Business Communications; Vannah Chastain in Business Communications; Kenzi Livingston in Financial Math; Jessica Taylor in Financial Math; Sadie Eller in Personal Finance; Caleb Clark in Economics; Zandra Churchill in Business Law; Caden Pyrlk in Journalism; Evan Berrong in Journalism; and Kendall Floyd in Journalism.

Towns County High School and Georgia FBLA will be represented favorably at the national level as 12 TCHS students prepare to compete this summer against other finalists from across the nation.

The following students will represent Georgia FBLA at the 2018 FBLA National Leadership Conference in Baltimore:

Sara Beth Hobbs and Ryan Tyler in Spreadsheet Applications; Chase Rogers,

Kyra Tallent and Kaitlyn Crowder in Word Processing; Emily Williams and Taylor Cornett in Business Ethics Team; Kenzi Smith in Client Service; Corinna Luchenbach in Business Presentation; Nick Bradley and Caleb Clark in Entrepreneurship Team; and Andy Chambers in Computer Applications.

Congratulations to Towns County FBLA, and good luck at national competitions in Maryland!

Board of Health meeting and Called Hearing

The Towns County Board of Health will hold its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. in the 911 Conference Room located at 1104 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris, GA.

Immediately following the BOH Meeting, the Board will convene for a Called Hearing of a Dangerous Dog Declaration Appeal. TRAP4/FDSH

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Egg Hunt...from Page 3A

ter bunny.

Local churches also came together to help volunteer for the event, and church members set up tables where the children could pick up word searches, get temporary tattoos, have balloon animals made for them, and participate in other crafts.

Churches that were involved included: McConnell Memorial Baptist Church, Macedonia Baptist Church, Enoch Baptist Church, Old New Baptist Church and Cornerstone Baptist Church.

The Hiawassee Baptist Association and the Georgia Mountain Resort Ministries supplied baskets that were involved

in a raffle after the children finished their hunt.

These baskets included items that both parents and children could enjoy.

"We wanted to give the parents a little treat as well," said Andrea Smith, who helped volunteer for the raffling of the baskets. "It's just a good outreach for everybody to come together as a community."

The groups of volunteers also supplied snacks and beverages for the participants of the event, and all of the activities including the snacks were free of all charge to the public.

The Recreation Department hopes to host the event

again next year, and include a younger age group that would be for families with toddlers.

"The addition of the toddler group is something we would like to address going forward," said Youngblood. "We just want to better the event and carry on something that has been going on for years."

They hope that the inclusion of a broader group will help bring more people out to the event, allowing them to have more activities that everyone in the community can enjoy.

For more information on events and upcoming activities hosted by the Towns County Recreation Department, visit the Facebook page or website at TownsCountyRec.com.