

# Towns County Herald

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## Crowder, Peacock don royal headgear at Prom '22

By Jeremy Foster  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Prom is always a special seniors getting one last chance to form enduring memories from some of their final moments together as a class.

And Saturday, April 23, was just such an occasion for Towns County High School students and their dates during the 2022 Junior/Senior Prom at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center.

Students attended in classic classy prom style and enjoyed other but not just with each other but also with the teachers, coaches and principals each has come to know and grow close to over the years.

Roy Perren has headed up the High School for a total of 12 years, so he's seen his fair share of proms, and each graduating class has something different to

offer than the next.

"They were a great group of kids," Perren said of the Class of 2022. "I have been around them their whole life since they were little, and I know they are all going to go on and do great things in all of their future endeavors."

Brian Hunnicutt is the Head Coach for the Indians Basketball Team and was there to see his students, athlete and non-athlete, wrap up their high school careers with a night all their own.

"It is sad to see this group go because they were all just a really fun-having group of kids who still worked very hard on their sports, their schoolwork, and any other activity they were involved in," Hunnicutt said. "They all went well and represent the county well."

Athletic Director Jim Melton agreed, saying of the graduating students: "This group of kids who I have seen

grow up will achieve all of the great things they want to in life."

Rollie Thomas is the head coach of the Boys' Soccer Team and was there to DJ the event.

"I have watched these kids grow up from elementary students to high school students and now into future community leaders," Thomas said. "I was fortunate to work with every student this year."

"They have a lot of class and ambition, and hopefully some of them will stick around to take on the future community responsibilities here."

Senior Kevin Gowen moved to the North Georgia Mountains last September from Washington-Wilkes and went on to become an Indians wrestler, and while he hasn't been here long, he has certainly made the most of it thanks to a welcoming environment.

"I am going to miss everybody that I grew close to

and got to know, but I am definitely going to miss receiving the most," Gowen said. "Since I moved here everyone was so nice to me, and I want to thank all of the students for that."

"I plan on going to welding school after I graduate and keep coming back each season to help coach wrestling."

Alongside Gowen was Wrestling Head Coach Brandon Rowland sharing how he felt about the graduating class.

"Kevin, Hannah Wecker recently receiving a scholarship to take wrestling to the next level, and every student that I have coached or taught, all have a good head on their shoulders and are very driven and will fulfill whatever dreams they have," Rowland said.

Of course, with every prom comes a pair of coronations, and at the halfway point of the dancing and music came the unveiling of the 2022 Towns

See Prom 2022, Page 8A



TCHS 2022 Prom King Collin Crowder dancing with Queen Kayla Peacock after the duo received the support of their classmates via crowns on Saturday. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

## TCSO seeking public's help in school bus hit-and-run

News Special  
Towns County Herald

Towns County Sheriff's Office received a call reporting a hit-and-run accident involving a Towns County School Bus at 6:40 a.m. on Monday, April 25.

Thankfully, no injuries were reported.

The incident occurred at Georgia 17 and US 75 South. The driver of the vehicle struck the bus and left the scene. The vehicle is gray in color and should have significant damage to the left front.

At press time, the driver was still at large. Anyone with information is being asked to please contact the Towns County Sheriff's Office by calling 911.



## State, federal candidates answer questions at forum



The Towns County Civic Association hosted a Candidate Forum to hear from federal and state candidates John London, John Barge, Michael Boggus, Andrew Clyde, Mike Ford, Gregory Howard, Ben Souther and Richard Woods. Photo by Mark Smith

By Mark Smith  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

As a service to the community, the Towns County Civic Association hosted a nonpartisan candidate forum for people to meet, hear the platforms of, and catch a glimpse into the guiding philosophies of several federal and state candidates via public gathering on Saturday, April 23.

Hosted at the Anne Oliver Mitchell Auditorium at Towns County High School,

among Democratic invitees, only Michael "Mike" Ford, candidate for U.S. Representative for Georgia's 9th Congressional District, appeared at the forum.

All seven Republican invitees attended: candidates for U.S. Representative for Georgia's 9th Congressional District Incumbent Andrew Clyde, Ben Souther, J. Gregory Howard, Michael Boggus, and John London, and candidates for Georgia State School Superintendent Incumbent Richard

Woods and John D. Barge. Each candidate was given two minutes to introduce themselves and two minutes to respond to each question posed by the moderator, Roy Perren, whose day job is principal of Towns County High.

Democrat Ford introduced himself as a U.S. Army veteran advocating good government, responsive government and telling the truth.

Republican candidates described themselves as patriots. See Candidate Forum, Page 8A

## Rhododendron Festival open weekends thru May 22



The Rhododendron Festival highlights the breathtaking beauty of the Hamilton Gardens during the next four weekends of the festival. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

By Brittany Holbrooks  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Walking into Hamilton Gardens in springtime is like entering a different realm altogether. Like a fantasy romance novel, the blossoms glide down from the flowering cherry trees,

sprinkling the shaded benches in a flurry of pink snow.

In every direction along the trail, bursts of color from orange and red to pink and purple paint the landscape naturally in the form of native azaleas, rhododendrons, dogwoods and other local flora.

While it may sound too good to be true, this alluring attraction can be enjoyed for the next four weekends just above the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in Hiwassee, with the first weekend of the below. See Rhododendron Fest, Page 3A

## 'Operation Sting' continues taking drugs off the street

News Special  
Towns County Herald

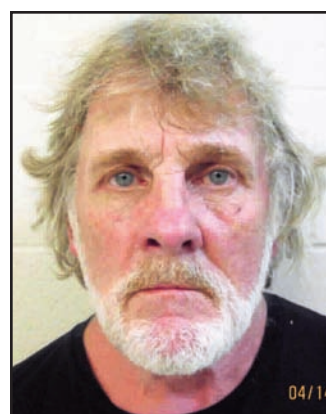
During a multi-agency safety road check on Georgia 66 near the Clay County, North Carolina, line, a Towns County Sheriff's Office K-9 alerted on a vehicle on Thursday, April 14.

A search of the vehicle resulted in the confiscation of several drug-related objects, a plastic container with marijuana, and several plastic bags

containing a crystal-like substance that field-tested positive for methamphetamine.

Roger Alan King, 58, of Warne, North Carolina, was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana less than one ounce, and possession of drug-related objects.

Sheriff Ken Hender. See 'Operation Sting,' Page 8A



Roger Alan King

## North Carolina man accused of murdering fellow resident

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

A Clay County, North Carolina, man has been charged with murder after allegedly shooting and killing a fellow resident the evening of Saturday, April 16, according to the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

The motive for the shooting, which took place in the driveway of the victim's residence, was not clear by press time, as the incident is still under investigation.

Paul Madison Purvis, 47, was the victim in the shooting. Originally from Boston, Massachusetts, Purvis was a Clay

County resident at the time of Sheriff's Chief Deputy Todd Wingate said.

Ryan Weston James, 33, has been charged in the shooting and is being detained locally on a secured bond of \$1 million. Originally from Longview, Texas, James was residing in Clay County at the time of his arrest, Wingate said.

"At approximately 8:44 p.m., Clay County deputies responded to Mountain Laurel Drive in reference to a report of someone being shot," according to an official press statement. "When deputies arrived, they found the male vic-

tim deceased and the suspect had fled the scene.

"A short time later deputies located the suspect and took him into custody."

James allegedly shot Purvis a single time in the head with what investigators believe to be a handgun, Clay County Sheriff Bobby Deese said.

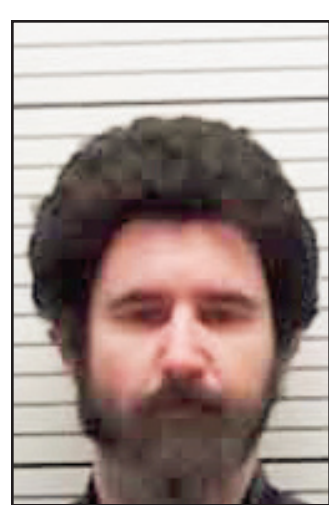
"We've executed numerous search warrants, including at the suspect's residence," Deese said. "We seized several guns from that house, so we're still doing some forensic examinations" to determine if any of the seized firearms was used in the shooting.

Results of an autopsy

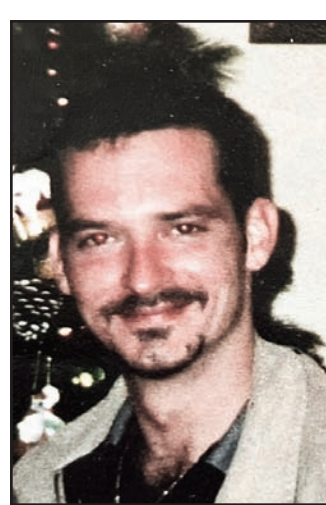
via Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center are pending to determine what gun might have been used to kill Purvis, as "gunshots are tough to look at on the human body and tell what caliber it is, so there's some testing that needs to be done," Deese said.

According to his obituary at Towns-Rose Funeral Home, Purvis was a construction worker in carpentry.

"Surviving is a son, Tristan Purvis; a daughter, Cortney Purvis; a brother, Hank Purvis; and grandchildren, Kamari and Addison," per the obituary. "No services are planned at this time."



Ryan Weston James



Paul Purvis

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See page 1B



# Early voting begins Monday ahead of May 24 elections



By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

Advanced in-person voting for the General Primary Election and Nonpartisan General Election will begin next week in the Towns County Board of Elections & Registration Office, located inside Suite A of 67 Lakeview Circle in Hiawassee.

Early voting will run weekdays Monday, May 2, through Friday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., even during lunchtime.

People too busy to cast in-person ballots during the three weeks of weekday early voting will get a chance to participate in one of two weekend early voting opportunities: Saturday, May 7, and Saturday, May 14, also from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Elections Office.

Election Day voting for both the General Primary and the Nonpartisan General Election will take place Tuesday, May 24, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Hiawassee and Young Harris precincts of Towns County.

To view the Republican and Democratic sample ballots to see which political party candidates are running

in the General Primary, and to read the various political party questions directed at the electorate, check out the inside of this week's newspaper.

Also included on the political party sample ballots are candidates for the Nonpartisan General Election, which will feature a separate ballot option for individuals wishing to vote nonpartisan only.

All voters will need to have an acceptable form of identification to cast ballots, such as a government-issued driver's license or identification card.

Voters looking to mail their ballots may pick up the two-sided "Application for Georgia Official Absentee Ballot" from the Elections Office or print one by accessing the "My Voter Page" at <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/>.

The "My Voter Page" website contains other valuable information, such as registration status, precinct information, downloadable sample ballots, mailed absentee ballot status and voter participation history.

"Absentee ballots may be requested any time between 78 and 11 calendar days prior to Election Day," per [georgia.gov](https://georgia.gov). Absentee ballot applica-

tions can be returned by mail, fax, email as an attachment, or in-person to the Elections Office no later than Friday, May 13.

People who have voted absentee-by-mail in the past will need to submit a new application this election cycle if they want to receive an absentee ballot in the mail.

When mailing a ballot, voters may list their Georgia ID or driver's license number instead of copying their ID, or if they do not have a state-issued ID, people may submit the last four digits of their Social Security Number.

Voters are encouraged to request and return their absentee ballots early to give their ballot "enough time to travel through the mail and resolve any issues that may arise when voting by absentee ballot," per [georgia.gov](https://georgia.gov).

Folks wanting to utilize the official drop box to turn in their absentee ballots can find it in the Elections Office during early voting hours. Voters may also drop completed absentee ballots off at the Elections Office through 7 p.m. on Election Day.

April 25 was the voter registration deadline to participate in the May 24 elections.

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 next month.

## Rhododendron Fest...from Page 1A



The annual Mile-Long Yard Sale enjoyed terrific community support over the weekend at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

tradition having kicked off April 22-24.

The Rhododendron Festival is nearly as old as the garden itself, as both were established about 40 years ago, and the festival in bloom season has become a particularly sought-after event in North Georgia.

"This is one of my favorite gardens," admitted Dianne Shu, who lives just across the street from the property. As a hiker, she appreciates the entirety of the trail year-round, but this spring, her daughter, Katrina Chen, came down from Boston to stroll through the enchanting site with her.

Together, they have been enjoying the breathtaking views not just of the dogwoods and perennials but also of the lake and, farther back, the mountains turning green with the advent of spring.

But the face of the '80s-era Rhododendron Festival looked a bit different than it does today. Although it still serves as a fundraiser for landscaping and plant care, it didn't have nearly as many features to enjoy, such as live music and a food truck.

Gardens Head Curator Catherine Luckenbach pointed out that the pavilion had a fresh coat of paint and was open for public use, reservable for special events such as weddings. She also described plans to install a big new water feature in the garden, set to finish up by the end of the week.

Along with that, more organizations and events are working in tandem with the gardens.

"We will be selling wine up here. We have our wine license; I think a glass of wine and the gardens just go together wonderfully," said Luckenbach, previewing the Hiawassee Highlands Wine Festival May 7 that will feature four varieties of white wine and three varieties of red.

Throughout the Rhododendron Festival, guests can buy their very own hand-picked rhodies, geraniums and other flowers. And visitors without green thumbs can peruse the work of the vendors scheduled to return each weekend selling wares that include metal and wood sculptures, hand-painted artwork, and even beauty products.

Perhaps most convenient for the budding gardener would

be to visit INKA, a lawn and patio decoration collection established by The Enotah Garden Club to raise money for various local organizations that assist children.

INKA's glass-blown and ceramic yard ornaments in the shape of decorative plates and other fine China add character to any little – or big – stretch of garden in need of a glam-up.

And to think, Fred Hamilton's blooms aren't even at their peak. The gardens will grow even more vibrant as spring wears on, with most buds popping out within the next two or three weeks.

The winding path through the tamest area to walk was recently covered in mulch, making it easier to follow the trail and slightly smoother to traverse.

For guests with mobility disadvantages, fear not, for there are golf cart tours available. The route includes the base trail and makes a pit stop at a gorgeous view by the lake, also affording the chance to check out the historical Fishing Hole Rock, which now sits beside a dock.

Those particularly struck by the scenic beauty can choose to sign up for the Friends of the Garden Membership, which offers three reward tiers based on monthly donations of \$25, \$50 or \$100. Friends of the Garden gain access to exclusive plant sales, events and even horticulture classes.

The thing that Hamilton Gardens needs most of all, however, is volunteers. There are only two full-time curators working around the clock to keep the grounds presentable and plants healthy, and plenty of work goes into putting it all together.

Always keep in mind that, as with any outdoors-related work, some activities can be strenuous. Share any and all health concerns with either a Curator or Volunteer Coordinator, and don't feel put off by a perceived limitation.

There are plenty of ways to help Hamilton Gardens continue to flourish, and they come in all shapes, sizes and skillsets. In fact, there is no formal requirement to become a volunteer, as on-grounds training is always available.

The Rhododendron Festival will continue every Friday, Saturday and Sunday between

now and May 22. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and noon-4 p.m. on Sundays. Parking is free, and admission into the beautifully blooming gardens is just \$5.

On the first weekend of the Rhododendron Festival, many gardeners were also attracted to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds below, which held the Mile-Long Yard Sale April 22-23. The venture featured small business owners as well as folks selling their gently used items.

"If you come here and don't find something to buy, you're not looking," said James Willias, who traveled all the way from Gainesville with his wife, Melissa, to sell the antiques, toys and other discarded treasures in the flea market that they set up two or three times a year.

"It's fun; we enjoy doing it. It's fun to come out and bargain with people," James added, with Melissa noting, "Everyone's wonderful; this is a great area. I mean, in the North Georgia Mountains, you can't beat Hiawassee at all."

Offering everything from books to boots, Joseph and Chasity Laudon are trying to downsize in preparation for a new home and lifestyle. Soon, they'll be living full-time in a camper and traveling, giving their three children a chance to experience everything the country has to offer.

"We're just blessed to be here and help out," Joseph said. "It's educational (for the kids), and it's also an opportunity to give to people in need. We had a sign up that said if you need clothes for an interview, just say 'interview' and take your clothes. You don't have to say anything else."

"Even the kids have been walking around to people, and they say, 'Everybody's so kind,'" said Chasity, pointing out the open, accepting nature of the community that came out to buy from and subsequently assist them in their journey.

Although there's no set date, the Mile-Long Yard Sale may return sometime this summer and fall thanks to past popularity.

For more information and to see what other events are coming up, such as the Memory Lane Classic Car Show April 29-30, visit [georgiamountainfairgrounds.com](https://georgiamountainfairgrounds.com).



# Prom 2022...from Page 1A



Towns County juniors, seniors and their dates had a blast dancing for several hours in their prom best April 23. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

County Prom King and Queen. Crowned that evening were senior Collin Crowder as King and senior Kayla Peacock as Queen.

King Crowder was a multi-sport athlete in his own right, and he shared his excitement on being selected King by his classmates and for his time in school.

"It is bittersweet to leave everyone," Crowder said, "but I feel I have done a good job of making friends here, and hopefully we can all keep each other in the future."

"I plan to go to North Georgia Technical College to get my electrical degree because I want to own my own business one day, and I will without a doubt come back to help coach basketball and baseball, because to me, Towns County has been a dream, and I want to do the same for the youth of the next generation."

Queen Peacock was a cross country runner and served on the yearbook staff, and she has her sights set on going to the University of Alabama in the fall to begin her career in

medicine. "I have made countless memories here and feel infinitely blessed with everything that I have and everyone I have gotten to know and be a part of in this great community," Peacock said. "I hope maybe one day, when I learn enough, I can come back and contribute to the youth and the rising scholars and athletes here in the future, so I can give back."

Congratulations to this year's Towns County High School Class of '22! Go Indians!

## Beta Delta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa Meeting recognizes Zandra Churchill



Back Row: Dr. Hilary Tallent, Missy Moss, Lisa Penland, Lisa Ledford, Margie Winkler, Judy Slaton, Wanda Gray, Betty Patterson. Front row: Dr. Jounida Bradley, Colleen Swanson, Zandra Churchill, Melissa McConnell, and Irma Flanagan.

At our April Chapter meeting held on Monday, April 18th, Beta Delta recognized Zandra Churchill as our state scholarship recipient. Zandra is a education major at Young Harris College. She is currently doing her student teaching at Towns County Elementary School. Thank you, Zandra, for choosing to become a teacher.

# Candidate Forum...from Page 1A

otic, advocates of Constitutional rights and government transparency, believers in individual and state independence, and as being in favor of reversing perceived trends toward socialism and government overreach.

On the topic of "Voting," the two-part question to U.S. Representative candidates was, "What are your thoughts on the John Lewis Voting Rights Act? And how would you address the security and integrity of our election/voting process for federal offices?"

Without exception, Republican congressional candidates were critical of the act, saying it would have wrested election control away from individual states, diminished election integrity, and, in effect, reversed important Supreme Court precedent.

Across the board, Republicans were of the opinion that the federal government should not be involved in elections, that states should have sole dominion over their election processes.

Ford, the sole Democrat, said he thought the John Lewis Voting Rights Act would have been a good thing resulting in a restoration of federal voting provisions rejected by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional in 2013. Ford also said he felt the 2020 General Election was legitimate in all respects.

State School Superintendent candidates' first question dealt with "Curriculum Development," asking, "What is the roll of the State Superintendent and local Board of Education versus parent involvement in setting the class curriculum being taught?"

Both candidates lamented the loss of parental voices and local school board control of curriculum due to the high level of technology in use today - Chromebooks, online classes and so forth. And both candidates supported transparency in Georgia's school systems and returning control of curriculums to the local level.

U.S. Representative candidates were then asked about National Security and Illegal Immigration: "What are your thoughts on the influx of illegal immigration, particularly at the southern border? What would be your approach to address the issue?"

Ford said that, as immigration problems are so "pervasive," U.S. congressmembers must work together and compromise to make "imperfect choices," because no one can get everything they want.

Republican candidates all said President Donald Trump's wall needs to be completed and that the current immigration system is a security, budgetary and health crisis.

Collectively, Republicans said it is a travesty that the current administration and Congress has allowed 1.2 million illegal immigrants, many from countries other than Mexico, to cross the southern border this year, essentially being given free rein to wander the nation unchecked.

Moving on, State School Superintendent candidates were asked, "What is your position on the classroom education of the topics of Critical Race Theory, and sex education to include transgender, alternative sexual persuasions?"

Woods responded that sex education falls under health standards and should be a family matter, not a school matter, and that teachers are not allowed to teach concepts that are divisive and discriminatory in nature, as will be apparent when, on May 28, the Govern-

nor signs HB 1084.

HB 1084, the Protect Students First Act, will prohibit the teaching of divisive concepts like Critical Race Theory, aka CRT, in schools, and calls on high school athletic associations to determine if biological men should compete in sporting events designed for biological women.

Barge said CRT has Marxist roots and that the 2019 and 2020 summer math conferences were teaching not math resources but "Keys to Access and Equity," which features CRT influences.

"We have to be vigilant to make sure these concepts are not there (in the schools)," Barge said.

Barge also said that sex education programs should be opt-in rather than opt-out.

"We have far too many things where schools are taking the roll of a parent, and a lot of these decisions need to be between parents and their children," Barge said.

Addressing Law Enforcement, U.S. Representative candidates were asked the following:

"The summer of 2020 was a tragedy of lawlessness for so many. Police precincts destroyed, city blocks in anarchy, riots, looting, burnings. Should the Federal Government step in and re-establish order? Should the police, border patrol, and other federal enforcement agencies be defunded and replaced with social counselors?"

Ford said the police - some are good, some are bad - need to be held accountable for their actions, and there should be no more George Floyd types of encounters, though he added that "no one in their right mind would vote to defund the police."

Though some differed on the degrees and timing of bringing in federal law enforcement in that sort of situation, Republicans were all agreed that defunding the police would be a mistake of enormous proportions.

Discussing Student State Testing, State School Superintendent candidates fielded the following question: "What is your position on student grade level/achievement testing?"

"If you test a student at the end of the year and find out that they didn't learn anything, what good would that do you?" asked Barge. He said his ideas and those of the federal "No Child Left Behind" program are very different. Testing should be redirected and reduced, he said.

"Let teachers do their job, and the tests will take care of themselves," Woods said. "Why do we test? What is the purpose of testing? I think it is to look at where we need to remediate, but also where to accelerate and push kids who are ready to move forward."

Next, U.S. Representative candidates were asked about Energy Security and Independence: "Should the U.S. re-establish the gas and oil production as was in place prior to the current administration? Should the Keystone and other fuel pipelines be completed?"

Every U.S. Representative candidate on the panel agreed that the Keystone XL Pipeline project, which the Biden administration stopped, and other pipeline projects are necessary for American energy independence.

Turning to Vocational Technical Education, candidates for State School Superintendent were asked: "Often overlooked, what is your position and what efforts and

funding should be placed on the State Vocational/Technical Educational Program?"

Both Woods and Barge said that they not only support vocational education but would expand it.

U.S. Representative candidates were asked about "Military Readiness and the Ukraine Tragedy":

"Is our military currently capable to properly participate and defend NATO and prevent a Russian attack on these countries? Is cybersecurity in the U.S. at risk?"

All U.S. Representative candidates agreed that cybersecurity is at risk here, with Howard further saying that it's an even greater security risk for America to be sourcing computers and computer parts from foreign countries, especially China, and Southern adding that cybersecurity should be the nation's biggest priority right now.

All U.S. Representative candidates agreed that the U.S. military has the strongest military in the world, and candidate Howard felt that restraint regarding potential involvement in another foreign war was appropriate.

Candidate Ford said America needs to find a way to control Russia President Vladimir Putin without starting World War III. He also mentioned the Russian radio station called Sputnik Radio, saying, "It's here; it's a dangerous game Putin is playing."

Candidate Boggus felt that America should bring soldiers home and not be involved in another foreign war at all, that America should be taking care of Americans at home.

Candidate London said the Biden Administration has demonstrated weakness in dealing with the Ukraine situation, and that the U.S. needed to stop purchasing oil from Russia.

Candidate Souther advised that the U.S. needed better intelligence before deciding what "to properly participate" means, whether that be helping with arms and equipment, or putting American boots on the ground.

Congressman Clyde said that, while the U.S. has a very capable military, there has been an emphasis in recent years on "woke ideology" rather than training. Clyde also said the U.S. was financing Putin's Ukraine war by purchasing \$70 million a day in oil, which he said needs to stop.

On Education Funding, State School Superintendent candidates were asked: "What is your plan to provide the necessary funding for state support of kindergarten, elementary, middle, high school, and college educational needs?"

Candidate Barge said he knows where the flaws are in the state funding formula, one of which concerns the 5-million holdback from K-12 school funding, which is redistributed to less affluent school districts.

Candidate Woods said the funding formula the state is currently operating under is from 1985, which is way out of sync with the needs of 2022 school systems.

"We've got to update the funding formula," Woods said.

Under the topic of "Federal Spending and The National Debt," U.S. Representative candidates were asked: "Should there be additional federal stimulus spending? History demonstrates that most societies fail due to irresponsible fiscal policies. What are the significant effects of the National Debt on the security of our country? What can be done?"

All U.S. Representative candidates agreed that more stimulus spending would be a mistake, and all but Ford agreed that spending on the federal level needs to be drastically cut, as the danger of U.S. dollar losing world reserve currency status looms, which would further exacerbate inflation.

In contrast to the Republican position on the National Debt, Ford said significant effects to the security of the country are "probably not as much as you might think." Ford disagreed with Clyde's statement that if a person or a business or a country continues to spend money they don't have, they eventually go bankrupt.

"Presidents propose budgets, but Congress decides," Ford said. "So, when you have a national budget that seems to be out of control, it's because of what congress does, not a president."

To learn more about each candidate's platform, visit their respective campaign websites.

## 'Operation Sting'...from Page 1A



Towns County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Gene Moss with Sheriff Ken Henderson posing with the latest drug bust resulting from Operation Sting. Photo/Facebook

son stated that a portion of "Operation Sting" involves initiatives that are proactive

approaches to keeping the local community and roadways safe.

