

Residents gather in faith for National Day of Prayer event on May 2

By Jarrett Whitener
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Area preachers and attendees gathered at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center on Thursday, May 2, to observe the National Day of Prayer.

“The importance of prayer begins in the home, and that’s the bond of the dad and the mother coming together to worship God in truth through the word of God and in prayer,” said Lydia Long, who helped to organize the event. “If that gets reinstated, there’s no stopping us as a Christian culture, because the days are growing dark, and we must be about our Father’s business.”

The ceremony opened with an invocation by Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and presentation of the colors. Sheila Eller sang “God Bless America.”

Before the different prayers began, state Sen. John Wilkinson offered words of gratitude for the pastors, clergy, veterans and public safety of the area and the state.

“Thank you all very much for being here,” said Wilkinson. “I don’t want to take up any more of your time, but I sincerely appreciate all of you giving me the opportunity to be a part of this, and God bless you

and God bless America.”

Don O’Malley took the stand to give the first specified prayer of the morning, with a prayer for government leaders.

“As a nation sorely troubled and divided and racial issues, restore in us the goodness of your glory, oh God, and make us once again one nation under God,” said O’Malley.

Marvin and Tamela Cooper gave their prayer on the small businesses in the local area, asking that they all be successful while keeping their thoughts on God.

“I asked my husband to come with me today to pray for all small businesses, that we take His word into those businesses, and we cast it onto those within them,” said Tamela. “We do that with integrity, we do it from our hearts, and we love the people we are serving when we try to link them to Him by serving Him.”

Jeremy Pearson discussed the distance of America’s youth from scripture, saying he was hopeful that they could be drawn back in rather than pushed away.

“Our hearts are broken because we look around and see a generation that has no moral compass, that has come as far away from you as possible,”



Chief Deputy Terry Conner of the Towns County Sheriff’s Office speaking during the National Day of Prayer event in Towns County. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

said Pearson. “And we see them drift away from you every time, and it breaks our hearts to know that there are many who don’t acknowledge you, and there are some that spit in your face.”

“As we look at them, I just pray that their hearts would break for you. Lord, I pray that we wouldn’t fill your ears with complaints and we wouldn’t talk about how bad and awful this generation is, but we would step up to proclaim the good news, and we would teach them of your riotousness, strength, power and purpose.”

Following the prayers, Chris Rumpf sang a song

for the audience before the benediction of the ceremony.

Weekly Awake America prayer meetings are held between 10 area locations on Thursdays throughout each month, and anyone is welcome to attend.

“Since we have corporate prayer every week, every Thursday in this region,” said Long. “I invite people to come out to our 10 locations. We want to keep prayer alive and in your hearts.”

For more information on the weekly prayers, visit AwakeAmerica.info.



Pastor Bradley Thomas of Macedonia Baptist Church in the May 2 National Day of Prayer event at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center. Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Sheila Eller singing “God Bless America” to commemorate the National Day of Prayer on May 2. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Gibby...from Page 1A

Promotion, Design and Economic Vitality.

Attendees then separated into groups at four tables, with each group being assigned to one of the categories with a list of priorities. Participants were tasked with selecting the Top Three priorities in each category, which the city will use to develop its plan and objectives.

After the planning session, Gibby and McKay asked everyone to look at the tables on the way out and to vote on several more items that are being considered as a part of the city’s five-year strategic plan.



Residents taking part in a community feedback session meant to further the city’s strategic plan moving forward. Photo by Chad Stack

Kimsey...from Page 1A

Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima, and it stands proudly at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center today.

On the day of the May 11 memorial service for Kimsey, this family will be receiving

guests from 1 p.m. until the service begins at 2 p.m., with interment to follow at Laurel Hills Memorial Gardens featuring Military Honors presented by the North Georgia Honor Guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that people send donations to American Legion Post #23 at 1329 Sunnyside Road in Hiawassee.

Hiawassee...from Page 1A

water/sewer system is currently operating under, and the water rates resolution is scheduled to go before the council during the Tuesday, May 7, regular meeting.

The second reading and adoption for the proposed 2019-2020 budget will also occur on May 7.

The city’s approval for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Plan was granted by the state of Georgia and Gov. Brian Kemp. The plan, which is suitable for five years, will aid the city in case of natural disasters.

“We finally received the Mayors Park Land and Water Conservation Grant for \$40,000,” said Ordiales. “That only took four months, but that’s OK, because it’s \$40,000.”

Up for discussion under new business that evening was the Mural Project Plan, which will allow the Young Harris art program and the Towns County High School art students to paint murals on the bare walls inside the city limits.

Police Chief Paul Smith presented the monthly police



Top of Georgia Speech Contest winner Samantha Church delivering her speech on the benefits of dual enrollment in the April 29 work session. Photo by Chad Stack

report, announcing that the Towns County Lions Club had donated a car to the police department. Chief Smith also introduced the implementation of a four-way stop at the intersection of Bell Street and Frank Street.

Ordiales had requested that the chief look into that new project to assist with traffic in that area.

Joint Economic Development Director Denise

McKay announced the signing of an application to become a Main Street Affiliate, stating the program would open doors of opportunity for the city.

The City Council will convene on Tuesday, May 7, at 6 p.m. in the council chambers room in city hall. The next work session will take place on Monday, May 20, at 6 p.m. in the upstairs training room at city hall.

Three additional cases of measles confirmed in Georgia - DPH urges Georgians to be vaccinated



The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has confirmed three new cases of measles in the metro Atlanta area. The three individuals are all members of one family – none of whom were vaccinated. Although the risk of becoming sick is low, DPH is notifying individuals who may have been exposed to the virus and may be at increased risk for developing measles. Including these three additional cases, the statewide total of measles cases in 2019 is six.

Measles is a highly contagious, serious respiratory disease. It is particularly dangerous for infants who cannot be immunized until they are at least 12 months old and young children who have only received one dose

of measles vaccine.

“Measles can be prevented through vaccination,” said Cherie Drenzek, DVM., MS, chief science officer and state epidemiologist, Georgia Department of Public Health. “Keeping immunization levels high is critical to preventing outbreaks or sustained transmission of measles in Georgia. It also provides herd immunity for those who cannot be vaccinated.”

The MMR vaccine is safe and effective. Two doses of MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles; one dose is about 93% effective.

Measles spreads when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes and respiratory droplets travel through the air. Measles virus can live in the air and on surfaces for two to three hours. Almost everyone who has not been vac-

inated will get measles if they are exposed to the virus.

Symptoms of measles include: Fever (can be very high); Cough, runny nose and red eyes; Tiny white spots on the inner lining of the cheek – also called Koplik’s spots; Rash of tiny, red spots that start at the head and spreads to the rest of the body (spots may become joined together as they spread).

People with symptoms of measles should contact their health care provider immediately. Do not go to the doctor’s office, the hospital, or a public health clinic without first calling to let them know about your symptoms. Health care providers who suspect measles in a patient should notify public health immediately.

For more information about measles, log on to <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>. NT(May8,28)CA

Money penny...from Page 1A

the county on various drug and other related offenses.

The operation was actually a nine-month evaluation of the department using an in-house drug agent that began in May 2018 and ran through January 2019.

During the nine-month investigation, “Operation Trial Run” resulted in 37 suspects being arrested on over 150 drug

and various other charges.

Numerous search warrants were taken and executed throughout Towns County during the operation.

More than \$81,000 worth of illegal drugs were taken off the roads and out of residences within the county.

The operation resulted in the seizures of a residential home, vehicles, cash and

firearms valued at over \$322,000.

Once these seizures have been successfully completed and awarded back to the Sheriff’s Office, these funds can be used for law enforcement purposes to combat other illegal activity within the county.

Parade...from Page 1A



The Georgia Mountain Fair Parade has been a tradition for decades.

Soccer Booster Club, the city of Hiawassee, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Lions Club and VanKeith Insurance.

“The Georgia Mountain Fair and the parade are a part of our heritage and used to be the biggest thing in town,” said Ronnie Phillips, who is a committee member.

Thomason, Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw and Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong, who also attended the April 30 committee meeting, feel the same way as Phillips.

“The Georgia Mountain Fair and the parade have been a staple of this community for many years,” said Berrong. “I think it’s vital for the school system to work hand-in-hand with its community partners to make sure this annual event continues to thrive.”

Added Bradshaw, “The

fair and the parade have always been a huge part of our community, and when Hilda called to ask for help, I wanted to do whatever I could, because we all want to see the fair continue to grow and thrive.”

Prize money for float builders will be as follows: First Place, \$2,700; Second Place, \$1,700; and Third Place, \$600.

The theme for this year’s parade is “Making Memories Since 1950,” so folks should think about constructing throwback floats.

During the April 30 meeting, committee members and Thomason developed a plan to reach out to contacts, assigning each member certain businesses and organizations to reach out to about participating.

Berrong will contact the high school athletic teams and

the band director about having the Indian Raider Marching Band march in the parade.

Committee member Frank Riley, who is the executive director of the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council, planned on entering two applications last week, and he also agreed to contact the Towns County Fire Department about building a float.

Vicki Ellis of the Towns County Sheriff’s Office will contact local business owners, such as Manny Carrion of Carrion Tree Services and the Sand Bar, and the Tri-County Racetrack.

The 69th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair runs July 19 through July 27. For more information and to print out parade applications, visit GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com.



This year will mark the 69th anniversary of the Georgia Mountain Fair Parade, and organizers hope to see more community support than ever in 2019.