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Veterans, community remember the fallen on Memorial Day

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Each year, thousands of Americans set aside the business of daily life on Memorial Day to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Countless brave men and women have gallantly laid down their lives in service to their country so that citizens of the United States can enjoy everyday freedoms, and many gathered across the country on Monday, May 29, to commemorate and recognize those sacrifices.

Last week, Towns County residents paid their respects to such veterans with the annual Memorial Day Ceremony, held at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center.

Usually, the service is held at the Towns County

Veterans Park, however, the possibility of inclement weather moved the ceremony to the new recreation center.

The ceremony began with a recognition of all veterans who were present, those who served during the War in Afghanistan, Vietnam War, Korean War, World War II and active members of the military, as well as local officials and service members.

Retired U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Fontaine, of Suches, served as this year's keynote speaker.

Fontaine enlisted in the military in October of 1960 after completing his education at the University of Massachusetts.

Throughout his career, Fontaine worked his way through the ranks, serving a tour in Vietnam and working in New Jersey, Vermont and

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Members of local veterans' organizations with memorial wreaths. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Keen observation leads to break in stolen trailer case

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Not even a month on the job, and already Hiwassee Police Officer Brandon Barrett has blown a burglary case wide open.

At around 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 23, Officer Barrett noticed a suspicious truck parked at the car wash on Bell Creek Road — someone was asleep in the passenger seat of the truck.

Acting Hiwassee Police Chief Paul Smith responded to the scene, and upon further investigation, Smith and Barrett concluded that the 2006 Dodge Ram 1500 matched the description of a truck captured on security footage in an April 17 trailer theft from the premises of the A to Z Outlet.

"We can't go into the



Hiwassee PD was able to put this truck at the scene of a recent trailer theft at A to Z Outlet.

details as to how we identified it, but we did confirm that it was the vehicle used to steal the trailer," said Smith, adding that the truck is being held while the investigation remains ongoing.

The passenger who had been sleeping in the vehicle was questioned but not arrested,

though multiple suspects out of North Carolina have been identified regarding the theft, according to Smith.

Unfortunately, the stolen trailer has yet to be located, though some of the items that were stored in the trailer

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E-SPLOST, state reimbursements yield bigger school budget

By Shawn Jarrard
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Staff Writer

The Towns County Board of Education will adopt its FY18 tentative budget as final in its regular monthly meeting on June 12.

In anticipation of the June 12 adoption, board members voted in their May regular meeting to advertise the tentative budget in the May 17 edition of the *Towns County Herald*, the legal organ of the county.

The school system runs a balanced budget, so looking at the tentative budget, the total expenditures and revenues for fiscal year 2018 each equal \$18,102,025.

The budget is made up of two main parts, the General Fund and All Other Funds.

For FY18, the board office budgeted the \$14.3



Towns County Board of Education member Robert Williams with Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong. Photo/Lily Avery

million for the General Fund and \$3.8 million for All Other Funds.

Day to day operations of the school system are handled through the General Fund, and the board office anticipates

taking in roughly \$12.9 million in FY18 revenues, split largely between state and local monies, with some federal funds.

The remaining \$1.4

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Seafood Festival packs them in at Mayors Park

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS — The second annual North Georgia Highlands Seafood Festival brought lovers of great food, live music, and local artists to Young Harris over the weekend for the three-day event.

Ten different seafood vendors, beer, wine, music and more than 50 fine arts and crafts exhibits brought locals and tourists alike to Mayors Park in downtown Young Harris. The festival also featured a "Pirates Booty" auction on Saturday afternoon that raised more than \$900 for the Towns County Food Pantry. Also, \$1 from all online ticket sales went to Popies Feed the Hungry, an outreach to bring food, clothes, and shelter to

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The Annual North Georgia Highlands Seafood Festival in Young Harris Mayors Park is a huge source of tourism to the area. Photo/Todd Forrest

CLEA hosting fundraiser for Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes

By Lily Avery
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Staff Writer

Towns County CLEA, or Citizen Law Enforcement Academy, will be hosting its biggest fundraiser of the year in an effort to support the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes with the Annual Fundraiser Dinner and Auction on Saturday, June 17, at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center.

Attendees will enjoy live music, raffle drawings, auctions and much more at this year's fundraiser, as well as a scrumptious home-cooked meal catered by Brother's Restaurant.

All funds garnered from the dinner tickets and raffles throughout the evening will go



Sheriff Chris Clinton

toward the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes organization. Last year, the event raised just

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EMC committee nominates members for upcoming election

By Shawn Jarrard
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YOUNG HARRIS — Elections are just around the corner for the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors, meaning three seats will be up for grabs in September.

Members of the board serve three-year terms, and the seats up for election this year are those currently filled by Charles Jenkins of Union County, Steven Phillips of Towns County and Chris Logan of Clay County.

The EMC Board of Directors has experienced a fundamental change in leadership in the last few years,

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A view from inside Anderson Music Hall during last year's BRMEMC Annual Membership Meeting.

Speed sign makes Main Street safer for motorists, pedestrians

By Shawn Jarrard
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The average speed of motorists heading through Downtown Hiwassee over Memorial Day Weekend was 27 miles per hour, according to the Hiwassee Police Department.

But how did HPD know that?

The recently installed radar speed sign, of course.

"In the past couple of months, we've had quite a few complaints about the speed of folks traveling on Main Street, primarily in front of the Post Office," said Acting Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales. "So, we purchased

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Acting Hiwassee Police Chief Paul Smith and Jesse Cook with City Maintenance installing a new speed sign last week on Main Street.

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