

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Local Hometown Heroes to be honored on town square Labor Day Weekend

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Mayor Liz Ordiales and the Chatuge Rotary Club are starting a new tradition to honor the service members of the community with Hometown Heroes banners to be displayed on the Hiawassee Town Square.

Celebration highlighting the installation of the 14 banners – promised earlier this year by Labor Day Weekend – will take place over Labor Day Weekend on Saturday, Aug. 31, at 6 p.m. on the square.

The ever-popular Enchanted Music on the Square will follow as a special military tribute concert by Bill Rinaldo, complete with slideshow, inside the Civic Center at 7 p.m.

“We are very fortunate



The Hometown Heroes banner for Cody Williams, USN.

that we live in a community that has so many retired military veterans and active military personnel,” Ordiales said previously. “I felt it was the right thing to recognize their service and to give them their due honor.”

Moving forward, the city and Rotarians will pay tribute annually to seven retired and seven active-duty service men and women by displaying their pictures and branches of military service on personalized banners that will appear on the square.

The Hometown Heroes banners will showcase photos of each hero with the American flag, and all 14 banners will be on display at the same time.

Each banner will stand 5 feet tall and 2.5 feet wide and share a pole with another

flag, enabling each display to highlight one retired service member and one active member of the military with a uniform picture.

“We thought that this was a great way to showcase our local service men and women on our square,” Ordiales said. “It’s the center of our town, and we thank them so much for their service.”

“Whether it’s back then, now or in the future, we need to honor them and thank them for their service.”

Initially, the plan was for 10 banners, but Ordiales said there was such a demand that they added four more banners to be displayed.

Veterans and their families will be in attendance, as will the families of the active troops to represent them as

well, Ordiales said.

The celebration will feature free hotdogs, drinks and cookies for the community, Ordiales said, and the city will introduce a new mailbox flag receptacle on the square for worn and tattered American flags.

After flags are flown for a long time, they become damaged from the wind and other elements, and the mailbox will provide the community with a place to properly dispose of their damaged American flags after replacing them with new ones, Ordiales said.

The local Veterans of Foreign Wars post and Boy Scouts of America troop will properly retire the tattered and worn flags.

“The flag, when it is

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Commissioner Bradshaw: ‘We are not going to raise our taxes’

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw announced his plans to accept the rollback millage rates for 2019 county and fire property tax collections during his regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 20.

The rollback millage rate and property tax digest will be advertised in upcoming editions of this newspaper – the legal organ of the county – starting next week.

“We are not going to raise our taxes, the millage rate will not be raised,” Bradshaw said. “We are going to accept the rollback.”

Added Bradshaw, “2007-2008 is the last time our millage rate was raised, and

we have had a lot of additions in our county since then. Foster Park isn’t here, and that’s a lot of electricity, a lot of water and extra employees up there.

“But with the hard work we have been able to do, we have been able to make all of this work without jeopardizing services, so we’re very proud of the work we’re doing.”

In old business, Bradshaw decided to table the abandonment of Olin Hughes Road “until the next called county meeting or the next county meeting,” he said.

Before the regular meeting started that Tuesday, Bradshaw, along with County Attorney Robb Kiker, held a special called meeting for a public hearing on the abandonment of Olin Hughes



Cliff Bradshaw

Road in Young Harris.

Olin Hughes Road appears on the Georgia Department of Transportation’s mapping system as County Road 38, but

See Taxes, Page 6A

Complete Count Committee volunteers meet for 2020 census awareness prep

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Towns County Complete Count Committee convened for the first time on Thursday, Aug. 22, at the Towns County Emergency Operations Center building on Jack Dayton Circle in Hiawassee.

Leading the meeting was local business adviser Patrick Malone, who has been hired by the governments of Towns and Union counties and the cities therein to coordinate the census outreach efforts of one Complete Count Committee per county.

There are currently 13 volunteer members of Towns County’s Complete Count Committee who will serve as well-known “trusted voices” in the community to raise census awareness over the coming months leading up to the April 2020 census-taking date.

As committee members, their primary task will be to help Malone spread the word throughout the community about the importance of the census at the local level, with a goal of getting as many people as possible to fill it out next spring.

In the Aug. 22 meeting, Malone narrated a PowerPoint presentation created by the Georgia Census 2020 Initiative to familiarize committee



Patrick Malone

members with their census-promoting responsibilities.

The decennial census – recurring every 10 years – is mandated in Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, with the first census having occurred in 1790.

Some of the main purposes of the census are to reapportion congressional and state legislative districts, to act as a historical record, and to be the basis for community services planning, business planning and expansion.

The census is also used to determine the distribution of billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities, with some \$675 billion being distributed each year to local,

state and tribal governments for schools, roads, health care and social services, according to the presentation.

“Georgia receives more than \$2,000 per person in federal funds as a result of census data,” Malone said, pointing out that Georgia’s rural assistance programs received \$1.4 billion in fiscal year 2016 alone. “This is the most of any U.S. state.”

The 2020 census will be the first census to be conducted primarily online, though people may still submit forms by telephone or U.S. mail.

“Every household will have the option of responding

See Census, Page 6A

No municipal elections necessary for Hiawassee, Young Harris in 2019

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Neither Hiawassee nor Young Harris will have to hold municipal elections this year, as only one candidate qualified per open council seat during each city’s qualifying period last week.

In Hiawassee, qualifying for the Nov. 5 election ended Friday, Aug. 23, with exactly three candidates qualifying for the three council seats that will open up in 2020.

Qualifying candidates were incumbents Anne Mitchell and Nancy Noblet, as well as former and longtime council member Jay Chastain Jr.

Chastain qualified for the seat currently being held by Hiawassee City Council Member Kris Berrong, who did not submit qualifying paperwork to run again.

Regardless of the current uncontested status of the council seats following Hiawassee qualifying, potential write-in candidates actually

have seven days from the close of qualifying, or through Aug. 30, to declare their intent to run with the Towns County Elections Superintendent.

Over in Young Harris, only incumbents qualified for the three council seats up for election in November, and qualifying ended there on Wednesday, Aug. 21.

Matthew Miller, Terry Ingram and Steve Clark will reprise their city council roles when they swear in to new terms in 2020.

Sheriff’s Office, Macedonia Baptist Church hold Chaplains Training



Participants in the Chaplains Training Class hosted by the Towns County Sheriff’s Office and Macedonia Baptist Church this summer.

News Special
Towns County Herald

MACEDONIA – The Towns County Sheriff’s Office and Macedonia Baptist Church hosted a two-day Chaplains Training Class July 29-30.

Ricky Thrasher of Chaplaincy Ministries taught the class, with the following pastors attending:

Steve Awtry of McConnell Baptist Church, Brian Schmidt of Calvary Alliance Church, Billy Nicholson of Pine Top Baptist Church, Jeremy Pearson of McConnell Baptist Church,

Steven Taylor of McConnell Baptist Church, Danny Byers of McConnell Baptist Church, Donnie Jarrard of Enotah Baptist Church, Bradley Thomas of Macedonia Baptist Church and Justin Jarrett of New Union Baptist Church.

The Chaplains Training Class covered the introduction to Law Enforcement Chaplaincy. The class helped those attending to understand how they can assist, and minister to those in need during stressful situations.

Other topics covered by the class included stress

management, death notifications and suicide prevention.

The Sheriff’s Office would like to extend its sincere appreciation to Macedonia Baptist Church for helping host the training and offer a thank you to all the pastors who attended the class.

There will be additional Chaplains Trainings hosted by the Sheriff’s Office in the near future, and any pastors who would like to attend can call the Sheriff’s Office at 706-896-4444 to put their names on a list to be included.

TVA Board votes NO on rate increase; no rate increases through 2030

By News Special
Towns County Herald



KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors approved a number of forward-looking actions designed to add

flexibility and stability to the public power model serving more than 10 million people in TVA’s service territory at its Aug. 22 meeting.

The board approved both an FY20 budget that does not increase wholesale power rates and sets a new strategic direction through 2030, and an updated Integrated Resource Plan that provides directional guidance for meeting the Tennessee Valley’s energy needs for the next 20 years.

“Since 2013, we’ve been focused on strengthening our financial foundation to allow us to better meet future needs,”

TVA President and CEO Jeff Lyash said. “Through hard work and dedication to that goal, we’ve achieved many of our 10-year goals in only six years, which allows us to keep our wholesale rates steady.”

The \$10.59 billion FY20 budget continues to emphasize efficiency and operational excellence while balancing investments, existing assets, new capabilities and debt reduction.

“Our success to this point has come from a disciplined approach to how we run our business, which has allowed

See TVA Rates, Page 6A

Labor Day Weekend to feature plenty of musical offerings, outdoor fun

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Labor Day Weekend is often viewed as one of the last major summer weekends for families to get out and enjoy seasonal activities together, as kids are back in school and it may be more difficult to find the time to take part in big community events.

With the exception of the Hometown Heroes celebration on Aug. 31 at 6 p.m. on the Hiawassee Town Square, there are no major activities or festivals planned in Towns County over the long Labor Day Weekend.

But Towns County Chamber of Commerce President Candace Lee said there’s still plenty to take advantage of in the region that can be fun for the whole



Sawyer Brown & Exile

family.

“We want to work with other areas, such as Hayesville and other places around us, because when people come here and live here, a trip to another town really isn’t a whole lot, so we try to provide information

of everything going on in the area,” Lee said.

With this in mind, local residents can make a short drive over to Hayesville, North Carolina, on Aug. 30 to participate in a free Friday

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Blue Ridge 1,681.46
Chatuge 1,922.77
Nottely 1,771.17

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SPORTS FOOTBALL
Aug 30 @ Gilmer Co. 7:30 PM

SOFTBALL
Aug 27 @ Prince Ave 4:45 PM

PATRIOT DAY WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Schedule See page 2A

We Are Towns County Schools
See page 3A

Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary

BOOK SALE
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