

# Towns County Herald

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## County, cities to host 9/11 memorial event on Sept. 11 to 'Never Forget'

By Mark Smith  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

It's been 18 years since nearly 3,000 Americans lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and this year, Towns County is teaming up with Hiwassee and Young Harris to host a 9/11 memorial ceremony.

The event will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Hiwassee Town Square, starting at 9:45 a.m., and folks will want to get there with plenty of time to spare so they can help carry out the dictate that America and her citizens "Never Forget" what happened that fateful day.

For the organizers behind

the upcoming remembrance, it will be especially important to educate those members of the public under 21 years of age who might not remember the tragedy that befell the U.S.

"It's very important that we recognize and remember the people who lost their lives, but we need to teach our history to our youth, too," Sole Commissioner Bradshaw said. "A lot of them can tell you about Pearl Harbor, but they can't tell you about (9/11)."

Bradshaw, Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales and Fire Chief Harold Copeland met at the courthouse on Thursday, Aug. 29, to iron out the details of the Sept. 11 memorial event, with Young Harris

Mayor Andrea Gibby being represented by Ordiales.

Copeland observed in the meeting that this will be the first time the cities and county have put on such an event to memorialize Sept. 11, and Bradshaw said they're already considering options for next year.

U.S. Army veteran Bob Fair brought the idea for the event to Bradshaw's attention a few weeks ago, and Bradshaw said he decided without hesitation to make it happen.

Ordiales will serve as master of ceremonies for the event, and the Appalachian Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums of Blairsville will initiate the event at 9:45 a.m.

with patriotic tunes.

Gibby will officially open the ceremony with welcome remarks at 10 a.m., followed by an invocation by Associate Pastor Danny Byers of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church.

Colors will be presented by the North Georgia Honor Guard, and Towns County High School student Summer Rahn will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Ordiales will lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and Copeland will speak on the meaning of 9/11, after which, a bell will toll for each category of victim of the attacks: those at Ground Zero, those at

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The Stars and Stripes fly on a makeshift flagpole over the remains of the south tower of the World Trade Center in New York, destroyed by a terrorist airliner crash Sept. 11, 2001. Photo by U.S. Air Force Capt. Jim Fabio

## City thanks vets, active duty service members for being Hometown Heroes

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Saturday, Aug. 31, marked a special day for Towns County, as Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales, the Chatuge Rotary Club and the community paid tribute to local veterans and families of active military with a ceremony celebrating the new Hometown Heroes banners on the Town Square.

The unveiling of the banners started at 6 p.m. on Saturday with hotdogs, drinks and cookies, followed by Bill Rinaldo with Enchanted Music on the Square performing a military tribute at the Civic Center.

"If you look around, we have so many veterans and active military families in our community," Ordiales said. See Heroes, Page 8A



Local Iwo Jima Veteran Bud Johnson shared his gratitude for living in such a veteran-friendly community during the Aug. 31 ceremony for the Hometown Heroes banners. Photo by Chad Stack

## Authorities thwart threats against student, school in Clay County, NC

News Special  
Towns County Herald



HAYESVILLE, NC – The Clay County Sheriff's Office received information late Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 28, of a potential threat to Clay County Schools, and there was an immediate, all available hands-on-deck response to put an end to it before it began.

This was a rapidly evolving scenario that took a lot of effort to coordinate resources

in a short amount of time.

Ultimately, those resources included: School Administration; the Sheriff's Offices of Clay and Cherokee counties in North Carolina; the NC State Highway Patrol; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the NC State Bureau of Investigation; and assistant district attorneys from District Attorney Ashley Welch's office.

"Our students and community did an excellent job by reporting the information immediately, and we are very thankful, and fortunate that it was brought to law enforcement's attention when it was," the Clay County NC Sheriff's Office said. "Not only did work immediately begin to identify and locate the source of the threat, but efforts were being made to document and

preserve evidence as well as setting a plan into motion to confront the source.

"As information developed, every aspect of the scenario was considered and prioritized, with the safety of our students, the schools and the general public being of the highest priority. Everyone involved was fully committed and remained on scene actively working their assigned responsibilities well into the early morning hours of Thursday (Aug. 29)."

Law enforcement in two separately organized groups simultaneously made contact at two locations approximately 10 miles apart.

The suspect was located, identified and taken into custody without incident at a residence in the Andrews, North Carolina.

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## Hiwassee to accept rollback millage rate; Carl Grizzle honored in meeting

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The city of Hiwassee is expected to adopt the 2019 rollback millage rate of 2.095 mills in a meeting on Monday, Sept. 23, at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor Liz Ordiales discussed the city's plan to adopt the rollback rate in the Monday, Aug. 26, City Council work session.

"Once again, our millage rate is going to go down, from 2.17 to 2.095," Ordiales said. "Needless to say, we are going to adopt that if you guys feel like that is the right thing to do. I am going to propose that we take the rollback."

At 100% collections, the 2019 rollback rate will generate \$183,213 in total property tax revenues for the city, which is still \$8,608 in additional tax revenues over 2018, a 4.93% increase from last year due to



Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales showing off the new sign for Carl Grizzle Way in the Aug. 26 City Council work session. Photo by Chad Stack

growth in the tax digest.

Also in the work session, Ordiales recognized Water Department Manager Carl Grizzle, announcing that, in honor of his 30-year-

anniversary as a Hiwassee employee, the city would be changing the name of MC Bear Road to Carl Grizzle Way.

Ordiales recently met See Hiwassee, Page 8A

## Bradshaw awards anonymous donor funds to three local causes

By Chad Stack  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, a local resident who wishes to remain anonymous has made a \$5,000 donation to go toward good causes in the county.

"He wants to give back and help people in need – he's just a great citizen," Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw said of the anonymous donor.

Bradshaw accepted and agreed to distribute the \$5,000 donation, and he divided it up three ways on Monday, Aug. 26, at the courthouse.

Bradshaw presented three \$1,666.66 checks that Monday: one to Teresa Stephens of the Towns County Food Pantry; another to Malinda Gray of Almost There Ministry; and the last to Towns County School Resource Officer Donnie Jarrard.



L-R: Teresa Stephens, Donnie Jarrard, Malinda Gray and Cliff Bradshaw at the Towns County Courthouse.

Bradshaw talked about how great it was to live in a community with so many giving people.

"It means the world to me that people love each other and care about each other."

See Bradshaw, Page 8A

## Longtime U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson to resign seat at end of 2019

News Special  
Towns County Herald

MARIETTA, Ga. – On Wednesday, Aug. 28, U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson of Georgia issued a statement detailing his decision to leave the U.S. Senate in December.

"After much prayer and consultation with my family and my doctors, I have made the very tough decision to leave the U.S. Senate at the end of this year," Isakson said. "I have informed Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp today that I will resign my Senate seat effective Dec. 31, 2019.

"I am leaving a job I love because my health challenges are taking their toll on me, my family and my staff. My Parkinson's has been progressing, and I am continuing physical therapy to recover from a fall in July.

"In addition, this week I had surgery to remove a growth on my kidney."

Continued Isakson, "In

my 40 years in elected office, I have always put my constituents and my state of Georgia first. With the mounting health challenges I am facing, I have concluded that I will not be able to do the job over the long term in the manner the citizens of Georgia deserve.

"It goes against every fiber of my being to leave in the middle of my Senate term, but I know it's the right thing to do on behalf of my state. I look forward to returning to Washington on Sept. 9 when the Senate goes back into session. "And after Dec. 31, I look forward to continuing to help the people of Georgia in any way I can and also helping those who are working toward a cure for Parkinson's."

Isakson's Senate term ends in 2022, and there will be three years left in the term when he vacates the seat in December.

Isakson, 74, was diagnosed with Parkinson's



U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson disease in 2013. In July, he fell in his D.C. apartment and suffered four fractured ribs and a torn rotator cuff.

On Monday, Aug. 26, Isakson underwent surgery at WellStar Kennestone Hospital in Marietta to remove

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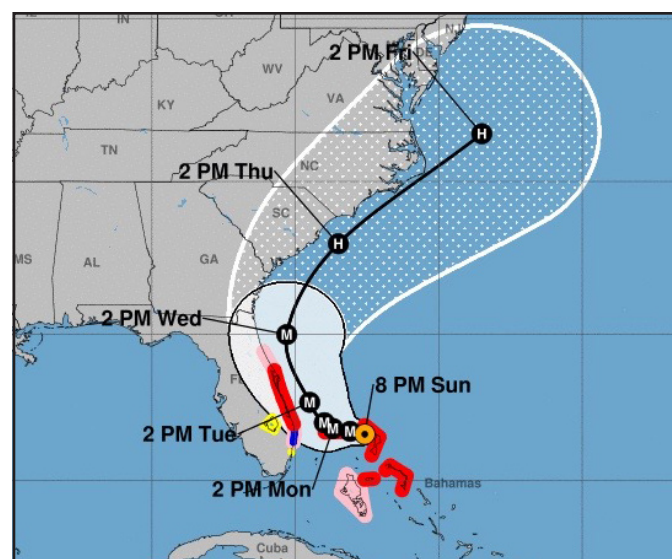
## Hurricane Dorian strengthens to Category 5 storm over weekend

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

Hurricane Dorian intensified to a Category 5 storm off the coast of southern Florida Sunday, and though it was not expected to have a major impact on this area as of press time Monday, the storm's track could change throughout the week.

Reaching sustained winds of 160 mph by Sunday, Dorian's trajectory was modeled to take a more eastward approach up the coast and away from mainland U.S., with extremely hazardous conditions forecasted for the Eastern Seaboard.

"There is an increasing likelihood of strong winds and dangerous storm surge along the coasts of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina later this week," the National Hurricane Center said Sunday. "Residents in these areas should continue to monitor the



The potential storm path of Hurricane Dorian as predicted Sunday evening. Graphic/National Hurricane Center

progress of Dorian." The National Weather Service in Atlanta said over the weekend that "there is still a lot of uncertainty regarding the storm's track later in the

week," noting that "a very small westward shift will mean larger impacts across Georgia, so continue to monitor the storm and be prepared."

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**SPORTS FOOTBALL**  
Sep 6 @ Union Co 7:30 PM  
**SOFTBALL**  
Sep 5 vs. Prince Avenue 4:45 PM

September is  
**Suicide Prevention Month**  
See page 2A

**Operation PUP Rabies Clinic and Mum Sale**  
See page 6A

**Apply NOW to Add Veterans' Names to Monument**  
See page 2A