

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

www.townscountyherald.net

Publication Number 635540 Volume 88 Number 47

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Chamber of Commerce sponsors Business Showcase

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Chamber of Commerce hosted its third annual Business Showcase on Thursday, Sept. 28, filling the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center with more than 100 businesses from Northeast Georgia and Western North Carolina.

More than 1,000 area residents flocked to the recreation center last week to see the best of what these businesses have to offer, and stock up on sales and specials as the holiday season is fast approaching.

Bigger than ever before,

both event featured vendors, chamber members and non-members, from Union and Towns counties, as well as countless others in the region, and served as an opportunity for businesses to hold raffles, give out samples of their product or simply hand out flyers in order to network across the area.

"There were a lot more here this year than last year," said Candace Lee, Towns County Chamber of Commerce President. "The parking lot stayed full and there were no empty places in the parking lot throughout the evening, so that was really good."

"I'm guessing there were just over 1,000 people here

this year, which is incredible. We had a lot of people that did not have a booth there this year that walked around and said that they want to be on the list for next year.

"We had a lot of the businesses that were good to see. They got a lot of leads. Then, the retail stores that were selling stuff said that they either got a lot of orders or had some good sales."

"So, I'm pretty happy with how everything went. I saw people buying and really taking advantage of what the businesses had to offer."

Vendors included every product and service, from

See Showcase, Page 9A



Over a thousand people attended the Business Showcase at Foster Park on Thursday, Sept. 28. Photo/Lily Avery

Paul Smith completes GACP chief training in Duluth

News Special
Towns County Herald

Hiwassee Police Chief Paul Smith attended the Chief Executive Training Class for newly appointed chiefs of police and heads of law enforcement agencies at the Dr. Curtis E. McClung Training Center in Duluth from Sept. 18 to Sept. 27.

The 60-hour course, administered and provided by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, or GACP, is required by state law for all newly appointed heads of law enforcement agencies.

The curriculum is designed to give newly appointed law enforcement administrators and command staff personnel training on police management, as well as inform them of laws and policies affecting their departments.



Hiwassee Police Chief Paul Smith

Topics covered in the course include: Managerial Liability and E.E.O.C. Laws, Police Manpower Allocation & Staffing, Community Policing,

Budget Administration, Political & Practical Realities, Risk Management; Evolution of Ethics, Media Relations,

See Chief Smith, Page 3A

City Hall misses opportunity to fix elected official pay pre-election

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

During the Hiwassee City Council work session on Monday, Sept. 25, the Council shared that the salaries for elected city officials will not be changed due to an oversight regarding the second reading of the ordinance.

"There was a discussion about this back in May," said Thomas Mitchell, Hiwassee City Attorney. "There was direction given during the May 30 meeting. Then, during the regular meeting in the month of July, there was a first reading held for elected official salaries, setting the Mayor's salary at \$26,000 and setting the council member salary at \$200 a month."

"Then, providing that if the Mayor Pro Tem that we've had this year ends up



Hiwassee Mayor Pro Tem Anne Mitchell, City Clerk Cenya Galloway and City Attorney Thomas Mitchell. Photo/Lily Avery

...serving for a longer period of time, I think a month or two months, then the Mayor Pro

Tem in that role would receive compensation. We gave an

See City Hall, Page 9A

Joshua Dream Ranch hosting corn maze spectacular in October

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Residents of the North Georgia Mountains should get ready, because the family-friendly Joshua Dream Ranch Corn Maze is set to open this Saturday, Oct. 7.

The folks behind the maze would like to invite the community to attend the grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony, to be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, conducted by the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.

From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday in October, weather permitting, families can head on over to the corn maze for a cool day of unique entertainment.

More than 100 volunteers have come together since April

See Corn Maze, Page 9A



Left to Right: Landon Lynn, Jason Lynn, Debbie Forcier-Lynn, Wesley Guined and Gino Zalunardo.

Superintendent Berrong talks education with Movers and Shakers

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Everything education was the topic of discussion during the Mountain Movers and Shakers meeting on Friday, Sept. 29, at Sunshine Grill.

The group heard from Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong, who spent the morning discussing budget changes, SPLOST projects and school successes over the past year, and since he took the reins as superintendent two years ago.

See Berrong, Page 8A



Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong. Photo/Lily Avery

Hiwassee Police Chief on what to do after witnessing a crash

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Tragically, more than 30,000 Americans die in traffic accidents each year, though that's only a fraction of the total number of annual car accidents.

To put that into perspective, in September alone, there were at least 11 motor vehicle accidents in the small mountain city of Hiwassee, and already this year, more than 1,100 people have died on Georgia roadways.

For people who witness a car accident, should they choose to follow the example set by the Good Samaritan, there are certain things they can do to both help the people involved and to remain safe as bystanders.

"If you witness a car accident and you are driving as well, make sure that you are safe - pull off the roadway and get to a safe position so that



Hiwassee Police Chief Paul Smith at the scene of a Sept. 28 accident at the intersection of Main Street and Bell Creek Road. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

you don't cause an additional accident," said Hiwassee Police Chief Paul Smith.

Chief Smith added: "Once you're safe, take out your phone and call 911. Let the dispatchers know where

the accident is, how many vehicles there are, if anyone's injured. If you're not sure on that, just call anyway, that way we can get the process started

See Crash, Page 8A

Mayor Andrea Gibby: 'We will have a Christmas tree'

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Visitors to Young Harris may have noticed that something's different in Mayor's Park - the great big Christmas tree has been cut down.

The City of Young Harris has held a Christmas tree lighting and program every year since 1970, complete with children caroling, visits from Santa Claus, cookies, refreshments, and of course, an annual Christmas tree lighting.

Sadly, the longstanding Christmas tree that faithfully served to light up kids' imaginations for more than two decades had to come down in August, as it had suffered either a disease or insect-related death - a humbug, perhaps? - and was a hazard in the park.

For years, children have been playing in and around the



The old Young Harris Christmas Tree in Mayor's Park had to be cut down recently because it was dead. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

tree in Mayor's Park, and the city waited as long as it could to see if the old tree would spruce back up.

Alas, that did not happen.

"We've known for several years that we were going to have to do something different, and we just kept putting it off until we didn't

See Tree, Page 9A

2 Sections 16 Pages
Lake Levels
Blue Ridge 1,676.73
Chatuge 1,920.43
Nottely 1,766.08

Inside
Arrests 2A
Chamber 4B
Church 6B
Classifieds 8B
Opinion 4A
Legals 9B
Obits 7B
Sports 2B

Football
HOMECOMING!
Fri. Oct 13th
vs. Athens Christian
7:30 PM

Historical Society Meeting
Oct. 9th
See page 7A

8th Annual Fall Festival
Cooking Contest
See page 7A

Fire and Smoke Alarm Boot Drive
Sat. Oct. 14th
See page 8A