

TCSO makes seven more drug arrests following searches, traffic stops

News Special
Towns County Herald

Having made seven more drug arrests in the last week and a half, investigators and deputies with the Towns County Sheriff's Office continue to demonstrate their strong push to arrest drug suspects throughout the Towns County area.

On Sunday, Oct. 13, a deputy responded to a call at a residence located on Jim Watson Road in reference to a domestic dispute.

Upon arrival and further investigation, the deputy arrested Ira Brent Wilson, 46, of Hiawassee, for possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug-related objects.

On Monday, Oct. 14, investigators and deputies searched a Hiawassee residence located on Deer Run Road for a suspect wanted on an active Towns County warrant.

Upon further investigation, the following suspects were arrested: Jack Douglas Cothren, 49, of Hiawassee, for possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug-related objects; Dena Robin Beasley, 48, of Hiawassee, for possession of drug-related objects.

Also on Monday, Oct. 14, a deputy made a traffic stop on a Chevrolet Z-71 pickup truck along Georgia 17 in Young Harris.

Upon further investigation, the driver, Frederic Debray, 62, of Blue Ridge, was arrested for possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana, driving on a suspended license, and failure to maintain lane.

On Tuesday, Oct. 15, deputies arrested Cassie Cooper, 21, of Hiawassee, on a drug court violation. Upon further investigation, Cooper was charged with possession of a dangerous drug and crossing the guard line with a dangerous drug.

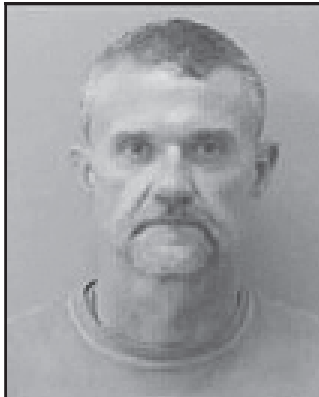
On Thursday, Oct. 17, a Towns County deputy made a traffic stop on a Chevrolet Trailblazer for a traffic violation along Georgia 75 N.

Upon further investigation, Logan Reeves, 23, of Hayesville, North Carolina, was arrested for possession of marijuana and failure to maintain lane.

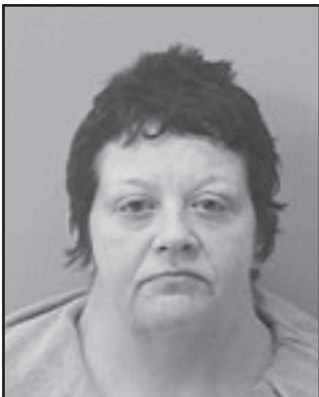
On Friday, Oct. 18,



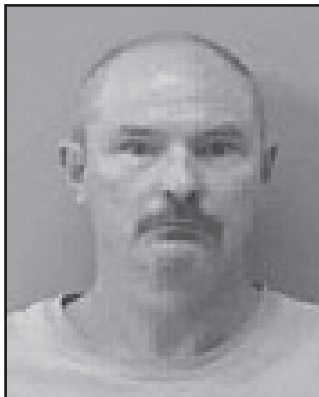
Ira Brent Wilson



Jack Douglas Cothren



Dena Robin Beasley



Frederic Debray



Cassie Cooper



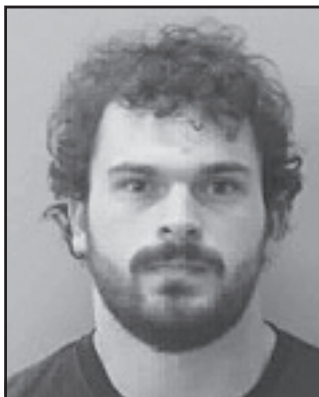
Logan Reeves

deputies searched a residence off Brenda Lane in Hiawassee for a suspect wanted on a probation warrant.

Upon further investigation, Joseph Garrett, 23, of Hiawassee, was arrested on an outstanding probation warrant, plus possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug-related objects.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office will continue its strong effort to seek out the drug suspects within the Towns County Area, and additional arrests will be forthcoming, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The above cases will be forwarded to the Enotah Judicial



Joseph Garrett

Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

S.A.F.E. Inc. Volunteer Training Workshop

S.A.F.E. Inc. will be holding a volunteer training workshop November 4th & 5th from 1 PM - 5 PM and the 6th & 7th from 9 AM-1 PM.

S.A.F.E. stands for Support in Abusive Family Emer-

gencies, and is the Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Advocacy program serving Towns, and Union counties since 1989.

There are several areas of need for volunteers, at our



emergency shelter, our child advocacy center, and at both our thrift stores.

If you would like to register for this training, or would like more information about volunteering with S.A.F.E., please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Vicki Franklin at 706-379-1901, or email her at vfranklin@safeservices.org.

Crash...from Page 1A

He leaves behind his caregiver and best friend, Peggy Kibbey; daughter and son-in-law, Teresa and Curtis Foster; daughter, Cynthia Pollard; son, Glyn Pollard Jr;

grandchildren Lauren Singley, Ryan Wooten, Sean O'Kelley, and Jayson, Dustyn and Westley Pollard; along with six great-grandchildren and a number of nieces, nephews, extended

family and many friends. Banister Funeral Home of Hiawassee had charge of his arrangements.

Fiddle King...from Page 1A



"Highway 60" of Blairsville placed first in the Bluegrass Band competition of the 2019 Fiddlers' Convention.
Photo by Jarrett Whitener

4-point difference deciding Watts as the 2019 Fiddle King.

"Look, I'm 53 years old, and you heard my little testimony, but this young man right here, when he was 10, asked me when he would start winning," Watts said of Andral. "I told him that his day was coming, and his day came tonight."

"In my eyes, he should have this, but we are going to take it the way the judges called it, and I want you to know that I love the show and being out here to do it."

Andral and Watts have competed together for years, but they are also friends who help each other get better at competitions.

"I'm just so happy for Johnny, and this has been a lot of fun to be able to play fiddle with someone that I've known for so long," Andral said.

The following competitors won trophies at the 2019 Official State Fiddlers' Convention, with First Place/State Title rankings leading off each of the following categories:

Beginning Fiddle (age 15 and under): MacKenzie Bell of Horse Branch, Kentucky; and Jake Stewart of Anderson, Alabama.

Harmonica: Jerry Adams of Simpsonville, South Carolina; Johnny Roquemore of Mansfield; and Rob Percy of Smyrna, Tennessee.

Buck Dancing: Maggie Stephens of Monroe; Kris Berrong of Hiawassee; and Jake Stewart of Anderson, Alabama.

Dulcimer: Bobby Nobley

of Wedowee, Alabama; Rob Percy; and Kenneth Enfinger of Blakely.

Dobro: Rob Percy; Weston Stewart of Anderson, Alabama; and Wyatt Richards of Jasper.

Old-Time Banjo: Elliot Sperin of Clarksville; Rob Percy; and Weston Stewart.

Mandolin: Tyler Andral; Brian Stephens of Monroe; Jay Shuler of Braselton; and Mitch Simpson of Cornelia.

Banjo: Brian Stephens; Weston Stewart; Josh Hicks of Hartwell; and Taylor Faulring of Free Home.

Guitar - Flat Pick: Tyler Andral; Matthew Taylor of Maryville; Brian Stephens; and Josh Hicks.

Guitar - Finger Style: Steve McKay of Swansea, South Carolina; Matthew Taylor; Brian Stephens; and Justin Echols of Decatur, Alabama.

Bluegrass Band: Highway 60 of Blairsville; Turkey Creek of Kingsport, Tennessee; Missouri Boat Ride of Ball Ground; and 501 Central of Marietta.

Junior Fiddler (age 49 and under): Tyler Andral; Jacob Johnson of Lincoln, Alabama; Jonah Graves of Brasstown, North Carolina; Marina Lindblom of Bloomingdale.

Senior Fiddler: Johnny Ray Watts; Tim Laughlin of Bristol, Tennessee; Charles Chandler of Weaverville, North Carolina; and Rob Percy.

The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds hosts family-friendly events throughout the year, with the next big offering being this weekend's Appalachian Brew, Que and Stew Festival on Saturday, Oct. 26.

For more information, visit GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com.

Teachers...from Page 1A

2020 Teacher of the Year," Sandler said. "It's not often that physical education teachers are chosen. I really try hard to show and prove the important role physical education teachers play within the school."

"It really meant a lot to me that my teacher peers recognized the hard work and love I pour into the students and school."

As a physical education teacher, Sandler said it was her belief that every child should have the knowledge and understanding of overall wellness.

"My job is to teach the whole child," Sandler said. "When students leave my gym, I want them to understand the importance of being physically active and making healthy choices for a lifetime."

This year's Middle School Teacher of the Year is Christie Melton. She began her career with Towns County Schools 13 years ago at the board office, and she moved over to teaching at the schools six years ago.

Last year, she earned an educational specialist degree in curriculum and instruction from Piedmont University, and she is currently teaching eighth-grade Language Arts at the middle school.

"TCMS has many teachers who are worthy to receive this recognition, and the honor humbles me," Melton said. "I am thankful the Lord has blessed with me the opportunity to teach at Towns County."

Added Melton, "TCMS is a community of professionals who love to teach and want to do all they can to serve their students. We have an excellent administration, faculty and student body. I love being a TCMS Indian!"

History teacher and head baseball coach Shannon Floyd was selected as this year's High School Teacher of the Year.

Floyd grew up and



In the Oct. 14 BOE meeting, sophomore Lexy Butler spoke on her recent experience winning First Place at the Georgia Scholastic Press Association Fall Conference last month.
Photo by Chad Stack

graduated here. In fact, he was a senior on the 1988 State Championship Baseball Team, and he received a baseball scholarship to Piedmont College and graduated with an education degree in social studies.

He went on to get a master's degree in history from Piedmont, and he continued his education even further, earning a leadership degree in administration from Lincoln Memorial University.

Floyd is in his 27th year as a teacher at Towns County High, where he currently teaches U.S. History, World History and Civics.

"I am truly honored to have been selected by my peers as Teacher of the Year," Floyd said. "I feel each of those teachers are far more deserving than myself. I am thankful and truly blessed to be here at TCHS, surrounded by such a great group of men and women at our school."

"It is also a great honor to teach at TCHS because of the great students that I get to

hang out with each day."

Also during the meeting that Monday, High School Principal Roy Perren introduced sophomore Lexy Butler, who won First Place during the Georgia Scholastic Press Association Fall Conference last month.

Butler placed first out of 33 entrants in one of the two on-the-spot photography and social media contests on Thursday, Sept. 19, with a prize-winning photo displaying the intersection of technology and photography.

She originally went to the Fall Conference to learn more about journalism, and on her way to the conference, Butler said she learned about the contest.

Students were only allowed to take photos that day at the conference, and the theme was "intersecting."

"I think I won because the judge thought that I had an interesting concept of the intersection between technology and photography itself in real life," Butler said.