

# Towns County Herald

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## TCHS Cross Country boys and girls are headed to state

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Thursday, Oct. 26.

In the area race, the girls placed first ahead of Commerce to become 2017 Area Champs, and the boys ran their hearts out to place third in their race.

Indian Head Coach Jeannie Ledford told the *Towns County Herald* she was proud of her runners.

For most Towns County High School Cross Country coverage, check out the Sports Section in this week's edition of the newspaper.



The Towns County Indians and Lady Indians with Cross Country Head Coach Jeannie Ledford.

## Early voting ends Friday, Election Day is Nov. 7

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Nov. 7 Election Day voting will occur inside the Towns County Board of Elections and Registration Office, which is adjacent to the Towns County Civic Center just down from the Towns County Courthouse.

Nov. 7 Election Day voting will run from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All voting will take place on the county's voting machines.

Those interested in voting on an absentee ballot See Voting, Page 6A

Early voting for the Hiwassee General and Special Elections continues this week, and runs now through Friday, Nov. 3, each day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Polls will be open during lunchtime, and Nov. 3 will be the last day of early voting in the Hiwassee municipal elections.

Both early voting and



Vote early now through Friday, Nov. 3, in the Hiwassee General and Special Elections, at the Towns County Board of Elections Office.

## Wreaths Across America campaign honors veterans

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

National Wreaths Across America Day is coming up on Saturday, Dec. 16, and the local Knights of Columbus group at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is seeking wreath sponsors for veterans' graves.

The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic fraternal service organization in the world, and the local Assembly 2563 is taking donations now in time to order the wreaths to be placed on the graves of veterans at the Georgia National Cemetery in nearby Canton on Dec. 16.

All told, the group is looking to raise enough money to purchase 400 wreaths, though See Wreaths, Page 6A



Wreaths placed in memory of American veterans. Pictured here, Arlington National Cemetery. Photo/ Facebook

## Shop with a Hero now taking donations for kids' Christmases

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Nearly a decade ago, Hiwassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright started a beloved local tradition – the annual Shop with a Cop program for Towns County schoolchildren.

When Wright passed away in December of 2015, Shop with a Cop carried on in his memory, though the 2016 event became known as Shop with a Hero, in accordance with Wright's wishes to expand the program to include all public safety workers in Towns County.

The goal of the program is simple – to give kids in need a special Christmas experience by taking them shopping.

No one likes the idea of children waking up Christmas morning without presents under



Amy Gibby Rosser of Towns County Family Connection and Hiwassee Police Chief Paul Smith. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

the tree, which is the thought that drove Wright to approach Amy Gibby Rosser of Towns County Family Connection with the idea nearly a decade ago.

The Christmastime program has always relied on See Shop with a Hero, Page 6A

## Towns County EMA trains first responders with driving simulation

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Department heads for Towns County public safety as well as Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw met on Wednesday, Oct. 25, to preview a driving simulator at Towns County Fire Station 6.

Hosted by the Local Government Risk Management Services, the program is designed with public safety officials in mind to help with on-duty risk prevention, specifically behind the wheel of a public safety vehicle, such as a police patrol car, ambulance or fire engine.

LGRMS is a service organization of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, ACCG, and the Georgia Municipal Association, GMA. ACCG and GMA's



Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw behind the wheel of the EMA first responder simulator on Wednesday, Oct. 25. Photo/Lily Avery

Risk Management workers compensation and liability self insurance funds financially support the program due to the unique and high risk driving situations that local government See Simulation, Page 6A

## HRWC talks Lake Chatuge health in State of the Water

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

MURPHY, NC – Good news, Towns Countians – Lake Chatuge is clean, according to the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition.

The coalition discussed water quality in its four-county area during the fourth annual State of the Water Address and Annual Meeting at Tri-County Community College in Murphy, North Carolina, on Tuesday, Oct. 24.

HRWC Executive Director Callie Moore said that the lake is good to go for all recreational purposes, including swimming and fishing.

"Generally, water quality in Towns County is good," said



Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition Executive Director Callie Moore hanging up a poster before the annual meeting. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

## Fire Chief Copeland offers fire safety tips for winter months

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

It's finally that time of year, when the mountain air turns colder and the need for indoor heating becomes a must.

Fortunately, Towns County Fire Chief Harold Copeland has a few suggestions on how to keep safe from fire, both in general and during these upcoming winter months.

"The No. 1 cause of fires in structures is kitchen fires, with cooking," said Chief Copeland. "In the event of a kitchen fire, you've got to just cut your stove off, remove the heat source from the grease."

"You can smother it with



Harold Copeland, Towns County Fire Chief and Coroner

a wet towel, but you definitely don't want to throw water onto it, it just accelerates it." Home appliances are

another major source of housefires, like dryers with accumulated flammable buildup.

"The other common fire hazard is electrical malfunctions, which can be caused from the age of the home," said Chief Copeland. "We've had fires lately due to overloaded sockets and power strips, covering extension cords with rugs."

Heating the interiors of homes can be a challenge, especially for homes that don't have the most modern heating systems.

Regardless of the nature of the source of heat, be it conventional or traditional, the chief says that both gas and electrical furnaces need to be See Copeland, Page 6A

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Lake Levels

Blue Ridge 1,674.93

Chatuge 1,919.34

Nottely 1,764.83

Barcode: 0 4979 19315 9



Football

Fri. Nov 3 @ Providence

7:30 PM

Cross Country

Nov. 4 State Championships @ Carrollton 2 PM



Don't Forget To Set Your Clocks BACK an Hour

Shoreline Clean UP November 4th Lake Chatuge Pavilion