

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Community attends patriotic Veterans Day service

By Brittany Holbrooks
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The rain may have prevented the annual Towns County Veterans Day ceremony from happening at the usual Veterans Park venue, but the men and women who sacrificed so much for the country were still honored for their service, albeit in a different but no less fitting location.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #7807 hosted the Nov. 11 Veterans Day event on the second floor of its Sunnyside Road building. Soldiers and spouses, along with the rest of their families – whether by arms or by blood – settled into seats at the organized tables that would later host a celebratory lunch.

Randal Forehand, Commander of American Legion Post 23, called the event to order before VFW Chaplain Dwight Moss delivered the invocation. The Color Guard moved the flags forward, and after the Pledge of Allegiance, student Rylee Kitchens and the Towns

County High School Band performed the National Anthem.

For the official introduction, Forehand once again took the floor to welcome those gathered.

“Today, we celebrate the courage and sacrifices of our members who served in the U.S. Military,” he said, adding further meaning to the day by offering a poignant fact. “There is no apostrophe in the spelling (of Veterans Day).

“An apostrophe denotes possession, and veterans do not own this day, nor does it belong to them in any capacity. It is a day for everyone – regardless of if they served or not – to reflect on the sacrifices of those who did serve.”

Keynote speaker retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Robert J. Williamson, who retired after 38 years in 2011 as 8th Army Deputy Commander for Transformation in South Korea, then delivered a speech that members of the audience would later describe as “awesome.”

It began with a reminder of the verse John 15:13, where

Jesus states, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” On Nov. 11, Williamson reminded, the community comes together to honor those who would lay down their lives for the United States.

“I would like for you to look around at the men and women here who have indicated that they are currently serving in uniform or have served our nation in the past,” he said.

Williamson prompted guests to especially consider elderly veterans, those who may seem unsuspecting when it comes to their ability to fight and defend. They shouldn’t be underestimated, despite “their appearance (that) may have changed somewhat over the years.”

“What has not changed is their patriotic spirit, their love and hope for their country, for this land and their fellow citizens, and an abiding belief in a strong defense, an accountable government, and a vibrant democracy,” he said.

Some of Williamson’s

many decorations were listed on the inside cover of the program schedule, including two Distinguished Service Medals, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and at least a dozen others.

Briefly, he cited a moment in his own service where he was reminded of the sacrifices many give so that their fellows may be free. He recalled an evening during his service in Iraq when he came across the makeshift graves of seven Marines in the desert, marked with helmets and rifles.

“I was so overcome with their sacrifice ... (I) came to attention and saluted the last vestiges of those brave young Americans who had given the last full measure of devotion.”

That said, Williamson was not there to speak of his own accomplishments or experiences, as the tale of the seven Marines illustrated.

What he wanted to focus on was how servicemembers more often than not make the wellbeing of others their priority, whether it be the men



Retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Robert J. Williamson served as the keynote speaker for the Nov. 11 Veterans Day Program, hosted at the VFW Building on Sunnyside Road.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

and women they serve with or the family they leave behind at home.

It was then that Scott Drummond, chair of the Towns County Memorial Wall Committee, presented the new slate of names adorning the wall in 2022, and wreaths were placed

by members of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, Marine Corps League, VFW Post #7807, and Club #66.

This year’s Wall of Honor rollcall included Michael Ackland, U.S. Army; Calvin F. Bos-

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Drew Sofield to play baseball as Auburn Tiger



Future Tiger Drew Sofield, seated, is a rising baseball star. Pictured here with friends and teammates during his Nov. 9 signing ceremony at MECHS Blairsville. Photo by Todd Forrest

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

BLAIRSVILLE – Towns County native Drew Sofield is trading the “Enchanted Valley” for “the Plains” after inking a baseball scholarship with

Auburn University during last Wednesday’s ceremony at the Mountain Education Center’s Blairsville campus.

Sofield arrived at Towns County High during the 2020-21 school year as a member of the Class of 2024, pitching for

the Indians his freshman year. But since enrolling at MEC, he is on pace to graduate in May 2023 while playing baseball with the East Cobb Astros 18&U travel team based in Kennesaw.

See Sofield Signs, Page 2A

City accepts rollback, votes to limit liquor stores

By Brittany Holbrooks
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Hiawassee City Council and Mayor Liz Ordiales addressed alcohol stores, rolling the millage rate back and more in their Nov. 1 regular city meeting that was attended by Councilwomen Nancy Nobilet, Amy Barrett and Patsy Owens.

Pertaining to the millage rate, the city decided this year to accept the modest rollback rate of 1.972, down from the 2021 rate of 1.977 mills.

Council members held a first reading of the rollback in their Oct. 4 regular meeting, a public hearing of the new rate in the Oct. 24 work session, and a second reading and adoption on Nov. 1.

“The difference (between the 2021 rate and 2022 rate) is not a big deal,” Ordiales said Oct. 24. “If we didn’t have the Local Options Sales Tax, we would have to increase our millage rate by 2.67 (mills) in order to provide the services that we do.”

“So far, we’re not going to lose our Local Options Sales



Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales, City Clerk Bonnie Kendrick and City Attorney Thomas Mitchell in the Oct. 24 City Council Work Session at City Hall.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

Tax as of yet, but we are in negotiations with the county right now, so we’re doing OK with that.”

Tax bills for property owners located inside Hiawassee city limits started hitting the mail late last week. This will be a separate tax bill from the county/school portion of people’s property taxes.

Also in the most recent work session, the city updated the public on the state of the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance,

which officials have been working to amend for a better balance of liquor stores in the city after fielding complaints about too many being established in town.

Moving forward, the number of allowable packages stores will be set at two until the county reaches a population benchmark of 20,000 residents – up from the roughly 12,800 current population – before an additional store may be

See City Council, Page 2A

Early voting for senate runoff will be Nov. 28-Dec. 2

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Early in-person voting for the U.S. Senate Runoff Election between Republican Herschel Walker and Democratic Incumbent Raphael Warnock has been set for the week after Thanksgiving, to run Monday, Nov. 28, through Friday, Dec. 2.

A runoff is needed because neither Walker nor Warnock cleared the majority



Sen. Raphael Warnock



Herschel Walker

TCSO confiscates ‘pure fentanyl’ following traffic stop Nov. 4

News Special
Towns County Herald

Towns County Sheriff’s Office Investigators, Deputies and K-9 have been focusing on areas where drug activities have been reported to the Sheriff’s Office. As a result of concentrated patrols, a traffic stop was initiated on Nov. 4.

Resulting from the traffic stop, a search of the vehicle was made and a substance which field-tested as pure fentanyl was confiscated. Fentanyl is a dangerous drug and is fatal to the touch.

Kevin Daniel Drews, 36, of Cleveland, was arrested and charged with felony possession of fentanyl, possession of drug-related objects and failure to wear a seatbelt.

Sheriff Ken Henderson commends the teamwork of his officers focusing on an area where drug activity is occurring. The Sheriff’s Office will continue to focus on areas of concern to impact drugs in the community.

All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Kevin Daniel Drews

Cass Spa brings dedicated ‘CoolSculpting’ to town



(L-R) Julie Payne, Shelley Eyerly, Leanne Hunter, Ethan Hunter, Macy Hunter, Cassie Craig, Christopher Craig, Christie Bryant and Tina Denton during the Nov. 10 ribbon cutting for Cass Clinical Med Spa & Fitness in Hiawassee.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

By Brittany Holbrooks
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Cass Clinical Med Spa & Fitness, an exciting new health and wellness business in Hiawassee, welcomed the public for an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 10, with assistance from the Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce.

Located around back of 144 North Main Street, the spa offers residents something unique in the areas of medical

skincare, body contouring and general health services pertaining to lifestyle, fitness and diet.

Amid door prizes and refreshments at the all-day open house, many people expressed curiosity specifically about the intriguingly named “CoolSculpting” procedure, a nonsurgical fat reduction method that Cass Clinical specializes in as a leading provider in the area.

With over 6,000 CoolSculpting treatments completed and more than 20 years

of health expertise and training under her belt, Cass Spa Owner Cassie Craig was welcomed in return with open arms last week, enjoying a turnout that was great around consultations.

“I love what I do,” she said of her work. “I remember kind of learning the payoff of making sure I get my workouts daily, making sure I do my aesthetics treatment, my skincare – whatever that little routine or ritual is that’s just for me.”

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Lake Levels

Blue Ridge	1,670.01
Chatuge	1,918.54
Nottely	1,762.22

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SPORTS BASKETBALL

Saturday, Nov. 19

@ Hiwassee Dam

Time: 6 PM

Sheriff Henderson at Movers & Shakers

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Towns County Community Calendar

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Mistletoe Market

Nov. 19-20

See page 5A

Sofield Signs...from Page 1A



Towns County native Drew Sofield has enjoyed immense support from his family on his baseball journey. Next stop: Auburn University. Photo by Todd Forrest

He plans to arrive at Auburn during the summer of 2023 and begin his preparation for the Tigers' 2024 baseball season. Presently, he remains undecided on an area of study in college, though he's potentially looking to major in forestry or agriculture.

Sofield chose Auburn over Mississippi State and LSU, but he admits Auburn was always the front-runner.

"I considered Mississippi State because their pitching facilities are unreal, they are amazing," he said. "LSU is another school we considered, but I never even visited because I knew Auburn is where I wanted to be."

While Sofield has attracted interest from colleges as both a first baseman and a pitcher, it's primarily his left arm that has scouts dotting over the 16-year-old southpaw.

Currently, he is working with a three-pitch repertoire that features a four-seam fastball that tops out at 93 mph while consistently sitting between 89-92. And Sofield keeps hitters off balance with a changeup and curve ball combination that average 10-mph less than his heater.

However, with the prospect of facing SEC hitters less than 16 months away, Sofield is attempting to add a cutter to his

pitch arsenal.

Sofield noted that his inspiration for perfecting the cut fastball comes from Yankees great Mariano Rivera.

"Growing up, he was one of my pitching idols," he said. "He was throwing cutters at 94 (mph), and he's just a legend."

Although, Sofield admits his world could look very different if not for a chance opportunity he received at 9 years old.

"That was the first time I ever stepped on the mound," he said. "The coach told me, 'Instead of standing in the outfield picking daisies, why don't you come in here and pitch?'"

"After I got done, I told my mom that pitching is the coolest thing in the world. You're all alone out there, you have the ball, and you're the one in control. I have loved it ever since."

Four years later, Sofield knew he had found a home on the pitcher's mound.

"Everything started to click about the time I was 13," he said. "I started drawing interest online from colleges, and that's when I realized I might be able to make a living (playing baseball), which has been my dream since I was 4 years old."

It was also around that time he received his first phone

call from Auburn.

"I was in eighth grade, and it was during COVID, so we just talked a lot at the beginning," Sofield said. "We finally got to go there for a visit, and it's such a great area with beautiful weather. It just seems like a great place."

"Everyone is very nice, I loved the school and got along really well with the coaches. The first time I was able to throw for them, everything gelled, and I knew that was where I wanted to be."

Another one of Sofield's heroes is former Atlanta Braves and current Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman.

"I've been a Braves fan my entire life, so I watched him a long time, and he seems like such a humble guy," he said. "He's somebody that you can tell really loves the game."

In closing, Sofield took a moment to thank his family, coaches and friends.

"My family has sacrificed and been through so much to get me here," he said. "All my coaches, especially Chuck Martin. I met him almost two years ago, and he's been so helpful and has always been there for whatever I need."

"I also want to thank my friends for always holding me to such a high standard."

City Council...from Page 1A

opened.

Three licenses were issued prior to the August licensing moratorium, and the amendment grandfathered all three in their current locations, so the population requirement to establish more than two stores will only need to be met if one or more of the grandfathered stores closes.

Further, the amendment places new restrictions on store locations for future applicants, like requiring at least one straight-line mile between different stores and having three or more dedicated on-site parking spaces per 1,000 square feet of building space.

Safety requirements were also addressed, and future package stores will need security cameras "in sufficient number and placed and directed so as to record all areas around the exterior of the location, and the recordings must be maintained for at least 30 days."

Should new licenses eventually become open for issuance by the city based on the updated ordinance, and if applications outnumber available licenses, the amended ordinance establishes a points system to

decide which applicant will be granted a permit.

Points will be awarded for city and county residency status and for having been a city resident for at least one year prior to making the application. If multiple applicants earn equal points, a lottery system will be used.

The council unanimously voted to approve the first reading of the amended Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance in their Nov. 1 meeting, and a second reading and subsequent enactment should take place next month.

Council members also approved the FY21-22 and FY22-23 budgets for the city's American Rescue Plan Act funds, which were apportioned from the federal level to help jumpstart the country after COVID-19. Two \$170,000 payments have been provided for a total of \$340,000.

Now that the budgets have been approved, that money will be available for use. As mentioned in the work session, ARPA funds usually go toward infrastructure construction.

Next, the City Council ratified the opening of a dedi-

cated bank account to accept Appalachian Regional Commission grant funds for the upcoming Boardwalk Project connecting Lloyd's Landing and Mayor's Park.

Estimated construction costs sit at approximately \$980,000, and the grant to cover the project was upped last month from 70% to 80%, or \$784,000. This decreases the local match to roughly \$200,000.

The boardwalk project has been in the works for three years now. Measuring 8 feet wide and 815 feet long, the boardwalk will include two fishing piers measuring 12-by-16 each, leaving plenty of room for multiple families or individuals to walk over the water and enjoy the aquatic scenery.

Environmental studies are taking place now, and engineering bids are expected to start going out in January, with possible construction completion by Fall 2023 or sooner.

The Hiwassee City Council holds regular business meetings the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. inside City Hall at 50 River Street. The meetings are open to the public and streamed live on Facebook. Public input and involvement are encouraged.

Runoff Voting...from Page 1A

hurdle to win outright. Walker earned 48.52% of the vote to Warnock's 49.42%. The election will only feature the top two vote-getters, leaving out Libertarian Chase Oliver, who garnered 2.07% of the vote.

In-person early voting will occur in the Towns County Board of Elections Office at Suite A of 67 Lakeview Circle in Hiwassee, with voting hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., even during lunchtime.

Runoff Election Day voting will take place Tuesday, Dec. 6, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Hiwassee and Young Harris precincts of Towns County.

Voters may request mail-in absentee ballots through Monday, Nov. 28, and if people checked that they were elderly or disabled on a previous application this year, they should receive a mailed ballot automatically without having to submit another application.

Folks wanting to utilize the official drop box to turn in their absentee ballots can find it in the Elections Office during early voting hours. Completed absentee ballots may also be dropped off at the Elections Office up to 7 p.m. on Election Day.

By accessing the "My Voter Page" at <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/>, voters may request an absentee ballot and find their

registration status, precinct information, mailed absentee ballot status, voter participation history and more.

Nov. 7 was the voter registration deadline to be eligible to participate in the federal runoff.

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger announced last week that the statewide "Risk Limiting Audit" required following November general elections in even-numbered years would begin in all counties on Thursday, Nov. 17.

Open to the public, the audit will take place locally starting at 11 a.m. at the Towns County Civic Center, which is in the same building as the Elections Office.

The audit will consist of a hand count of random ballot batches to compare with machine-counted election results, and the race to be audited will be the Secretary of State election, which Raffensperger won Nov. 8 with 53.25% of the vote.

This was an above-average year of voting for a midterm election, with the state reporting about 69.5% of the Towns County electorate having cast ballots in the 2022 General Election, compared with the 65.7% turnout in 2018.

These numbers are less than recent presidential elec-

tion year turnouts that saw 80% of active Towns County voters showing up in 2016 and 74.9% in 2020, and notably, there were no county-level contested races in 2022.

Midterm turnout was up across the state as well, bolstered by the many opportunities to vote in Georgia, from access to no-excuse absentee ballots to 17 days of early voting.

Towns County had the fourth highest voter turnout in the state for the 2022 Midterm Elections, behind only Oconee County at 74.48%, Green County at 71.52% and Union County at 70.82%.

Big election wins last week included Gov. Brian Kemp, who beat repeat challenger Democrat Stacey Abrams by a comfortable margin, as well as District 8 State Rep. Stan Gunter with more 84% of the vote, District 50 State Sen. Bo Hatchett with 84.78%, and 9th Congressional District U.S. Rep. Andrew Clyde with more than 72%.

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Cass Spa..from Page 1A

Today, Craig specializes in providing similar wellbeing improvements for her clients, enabling more confident and healthy ways of living for those who take advantage of the services at Cass Clinical Med Spa.

“That’s what I love teaching other people how to do,” Craig said.

About a year ago, Craig moved from Atlanta to the North Georgia Mountains with her four children. Once here, she became enchanted with the city and all of its charm, so she sold her original practice in Canton and established a CoolSculpting clinic in Hiwassee.

“I never knew about Hiwassee, so when I drove in over the bridge and saw this community, I had never seen anything like this in Georgia,” she said. “I was so shocked I had never heard of it or seen it, and it had

more beauty than I had experienced; I found this little hidden secret.”

And since arriving, Craig – a certified professional trainer with a bachelor’s degree in education and a master certification in CoolSculpting – has stayed busy offering the unique procedure alongside life coaching and fitness consultations in the community.

Because of the positive effect it can have on people’s body image, CoolSculpting is a passion for Craig.

Used primarily for small “problem areas” such as pockets of fat around the abdomen or unusually shaped deposits elsewhere on the body, the procedure is quite literally named for its ability to freeze fat cells and more or less sculpt the body into a more desirable shape.

Fortunately, there’s vir-

tually no recovery time, and the treatments are relatively short, ranging from roughly a half hour to an hour and a half.

It goes without saying that CoolSculpting can do wonders for a patient’s mental and emotional wellbeing, boosting their personal image and self-confidence by helping to tone and contour their figure.

And CoolSculpting is a gradual process taking a few weeks to see results, which minimizes unwanted attention to a patient’s physique during the period that fat cells are dying, Craig said.

Importantly, as mentioned above, CoolSculpting is a non-invasive treatment, providing for many people a possible alternative to cosmetic surgeries that can carry greater risks of infection, scarring or worse.

What CoolSculpting is not for, however, is treating whole-body weight loss, though Craig is able to help

clients with healthy weight solutions, too, as the clinic features a training studio fitted with treadmills, weights, yoga balls and more to guide patients down healthier lifestyle paths.

In her own words, there’s nobody who isn’t a candidate for feeling more confident in their own skin, as everyone deserves to love the body they inhabit.

“Even if I don’t have the solution, I just want to help people get to what works for them,” Craig said.

Clinic hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and weekends and evenings by appointment.

For more information or to schedule a consultation with Cass Clinical Med Spa & Fitness, call 706-963-3053 or 1-844-422-7722, or visit www.cassclinical.com, where people can also sign up for a dedicated newsletter.

Towns County Lake Chatuge Rotary Club Meeting

The Rotary Club of Lake Chatuge met at noon on November, 8, 2022, at Brass-town Valley Resort.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Marton (Marc) Boda, who is attending Young Harris College as part of the Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP).

GRSP was founded by Rotarian Will Watt, 75 years ago, in Thomasville, GA. This Rotary program funds students from foreign countries, to come and study for 2 semesters at small Georgia Colleges. Marton is the current GRSP student, sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Lake Chatuge, Union County, Clay County, and Gilmer County.

Georgia is the only state in the Country that participates in this program. Through the years, 3692 students from 108 countries have come here to study. Currently there are 43 Students from this program studying in Georgia, at various colleges all over the State.

Marc is from Budapest, Hungary. Budapest is known as a great tourism destination, and has the third largest Parliament in the world. Marc became interested in Rotary by becoming a member of an



Marton Boda

Interact Club, which is an organization for young people, sponsored by Rotary International. He attended a bilingual school, and was therefore fluent in English from a young age.

Rotarians learned a lot about Marc and his Country, at this meeting.. He was pleasantly surprised that the people in Georgia were very accepting of an “outsider”, and he noticed that the concept of Free Speech was much more evident than he expected. He is currently majoring in Business Management, and hopes to return to Budapest, graduate from College, and begin his career there.

Budapest is a major manufacturing area for the vehicle industry. The area has many car factories, including Mercedes, Suzuki, Audi, and BMW. It was quite a culture shock to Marc, to come from a big city to a small town like Young Harris, that does not have a public transportation system. While in Georgia, GRSP Students are reminded to avoid the 3 “D”s---drinking, drugs, dating, and driving, and it has been difficult not to be able to hop on a bus to get wherever he wants to go.

On a lighter note, he was asked what food surprised him the most. His answer was that he just doesn’t “get” the concept of gravy, he has not yet tried grits, and the best thing he has eaten so far here is a hamburger.

In honor of Marc Boda, the Rotary Club of Lake Chatuge will be donating a new childrens’ book to the Towns County Library, with his name on the bookplate.

The meeting was adjourned with a quote from Abraham Lincoln: “Sometimes it is better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak and remove any doubt.”

Arrest and Fire Reports

Local law enforcement provides the following information for publication. Names are spelled as they were when received from the law enforcement agencies. It is important to remember that the following individuals have been charged only and are presumed innocent until such time as they are found guilty by a court or enter a guilty plea. Addresses of persons under arrest are no longer available from Sheriff’s Office.

ARREST REPORT	
Sheriff Ken Henderson Towns County Jail	
11/12/22	Kittie Lea Byrd, age 40 Serve 60 days
11/10/22	Matthew David Chambers, age 41 Probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge
11/10/22	Sandi Hope Pate, age 33 Marijuana-possess less than 1 OZ, possession and use of drug related objects, possession of methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge
11/07/22	Candice Michelle Summerour, age 18 Probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge
11/10/22	Nathan Brent Bradley, age 31 Marijuana-possess less than 1 OZ, possession and use of drug related objects, possession of methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute
11/11/22	Pamela Ellen Wiggins, age 67 Driving w/ suspended or revoked drivers license, failure to drive within single lane

Towns County Republican Party November Monthly Meeting

The Towns County Republican Party will hold its November monthly meeting on Thursday, November 17 at the Main Street Grill in Hiwassee.

The doors will open at 5:15 PM for a social time and the ability for you to partake of some delicious dinner from a menu created especially for us; the meeting will begin precisely at 5:45 PM.

After the opening, our special guest speaking will be our Towns County Tax Commissioner Michael Anderson. Michael has had rave reviews on how he has “turned around”

the tax office; including accessibility, time frame, and pleasant attitude, etc. Michael will enlighten us about his plans for the future of Towns County and will take respectful questions from those attending.

Following the guest speaker will be a discussion of the 2022 Election results with our Election Board members, Jeff Pierot of “Pierot’s Points and Chair Betsy Young.”

Please join us for this informative meeting and celebrate a Red Victory. For further information contact Betsy Young at 904-382-1912 or TCGOP-Chair@gmail.com.

Young Harris Christmas Tree Lighting

Come one, come all to the Young Harris Christmas Tree Lighting on Friday, December 2, 2022 at 6 PM at Young Harris Mayor’s Park. Come for the Singing, Band Music, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and Refreshments (cookies and juice). Santa and Mrs. Claus will be arriving on a Towns County Big Red Fire Engine.

All activities will take place in the Mayor’s Park area, so please dress warmly. Due to limited available seating, we suggest you bring folding chairs to watch the program and your child’s visit with Santa. Mayor Gibby will welcome everyone.

The activities will take place outside in the pavilion; the Towns County Kindergarten Class, directed by Cathy Sees, and the Towns County High School Band, directed by Allison Judd. The children may speak to Santa and Mrs. Claus as they will be seated inside the pavilion.

Enotah Garden Club will provide cookies, juice boxes, and bottled water.

Calling all Patriots

Concerned Citizens of Union County will be meeting Friday, November 18 at 6 PM at Compass Point, located at 298 School Circle, Blairsville. We support family values, faith in God and the United States Constitution. Please join us and bring your friends.

For more information, contact: conservativesofunion-county@protonmail.com or call 706-258-7191.

Food Pantry Food Distribution

The Food Pantry hours are Monday – Thursday 9 AM– 12 PM with the exception of distribution day. The Distribution is every other Wednesday 11 AM – 2 PM.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Richard Thomas at towns.pantry@ndocsbg.org or (706) 896-4783.

Masonic Meeting

Unicoy Lodge #259 F & AM meets every 2nd Monday, 7:30 PM. Meals @ 6:30 PM. 60 N. Main Street, Hiwassee, GA 30546. All qualified Brothers urged to attend.

Towns County Community Calendar	
First Monday of each month: School Board... HS/MS Media Center	6:45 pm
Every Tuesday: Storytime for Children... TC Library	10:30 am
First Tuesday of each month: Hiaw. City Council... City Hall YH City Council... YH City Hall	6 pm 7 pm
Second Tuesday of each month: Conventions & Visitors Board... Civic Center	8 am
Second Wednesday of each month: Board of Elections... Elections Office	4 pm
Third Monday of each month: Planning Commission... Civic Center Water Board... Water Office	6 pm 6 pm
Third Tuesday of each month: Commissioner’s Mtg... Courthouse	5:30 pm

Veterans Day ..from Page 1A



Members of local Veteran Service Organizations presented the laying of the memorial wreaths inside the VFW Building on Friday due to inclement weather causing the event to have to move from the outdoor Veterans Memorial Park.
Photo by Lowell Nicholson

ma, U.S. Navy; Thomas Eugene Cooper, U.S. Air Force; William Max Eicholz, Army; John O. Hyer, Army; Mark Harold Ledford, Army; Gary W. Leonhardt, Air Force; James Richard McIntyre, Army; Jack J. Moss, Army; Martin A. Mynatt, Navy; James C. Nichols, Air Force; May F. Nichols, Air Force; Butch E. Patterson, Army; Russell Thompson, Army; and Keith M. Wooded, Army.

The Towns County High School Band returned to the front of the room, this time with resident Pam Leslie, to perform

a "Patriotic Hymn" that preceded the ever-moving playing of Taps by Madison Hinkey.

To close, the Colors were properly retired, and Moss dismissed the group with a prayer and a blessing over the courtesy lunch provided by Post #7807.

Spirituality played a big role throughout the ceremony, and Forehand suggested that every guest take a free copy of "Holy Moments: A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life" by Matthew Kelly. It offered the kind of advice that leads to heal-

ing of the soul, and the books were presented with a special twist.

On the first page of each of the books was a typed letter that had been cut and glued inside. Addressed to veterans from an anonymous Army wife, the note imparts a prayer of blessings upon soldiers past and present, along with their loved ones.

"Because you care, the world is truly a better and more compassionate place. May God bless you with a truly happy and fulfilling family life."