

Towns County Herald

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Tropical Storm Zeta floods Hiwassee River, knocks power out

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Tropical Storm Zeta delivered a one-two punch of wind and water on Oct. 29, leaving thousands in the area without power last week.

In neighboring Blairsville, equipment at the Experiment Station measured 45 mph winds shortly before the storm moved its way into Towns early Thursday morning, where it downed trees and powerlines and dropped enough water to flood the Hiwassee River and several creeks.

The storm made landfall in Louisiana as a Category 2 hurricane around 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, traveling

swiftly across the southeast corner of Mississippi to cut up through Alabama, where it was downgraded to a tropical storm before entering North Georgia.

More than a million people lost power throughout the northern half of the state, with BRMEMC reporting roughly 21,000 customers in the dark for its five-county territory at the peak of the outage as its tireless crews worked through the weekend to restore electricity systemwide.

Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw was proud of his Road Department for working around the clock as well, as they joined the EMC in clearing trees from county roads while

Carrion Tree Service stayed busy getting trees off homes and properties throughout North Georgia.

Fortunately, no one was hurt locally, but the storm did kill three Georgians with trees on homes – one person in Cherokee County and two people in Buford – as it cut northeastward through the state.

A band of rain ahead of the tropical storm dropped 2.34 inches of water as measured by the Experiment Station Wednesday, so the river and creeks were already swollen by the time Zeta arrived Thursday morning with an additional 2.7 inches of rain, with even more

See Zeta, Page 6A



Tropical Storm Zeta caused the Hiwassee River to flow out of its banks Thursday morning, flooding low-lying areas like the Enchanted Valley RV Park. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

See Election Results Insert Inside This Week's Towns County Herald

Veterans encouraged to attend Nov. 11 Veterans Day Service

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Veterans Day is observed on Nov. 11 every year to honor American veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

And locally, the American Legion Post 23 will be taking the lead on hosting a Veterans Day Service on Monday, Nov. 11, at Towns County Veterans Park in front of Towns County High School, starting at 11 a.m.

All veterans are encouraged to attend and be recognized.

"Veterans Day is not

just another holiday to me," American Legion Post 23 Cmdr. Randal Forehand said. "It's a day to say thank you to our veterans, living and past. It's a day to thank our veterans who leave their families and loved ones to ensure the rest of us live in peace and can enjoy the freedoms our nation and Constitution provide.

"Think about it, less than one half of one percent join the military branches to serve our nation and protect the rest of us. One day is not enough to say thank you to them and the families that support them."

The Towns County High School Band will attend the ceremony and to play "The Star-Spangled Banner" and various patriotic hymns and Taps.



Marion C. Crawford

Serving as the 2020 keynote speaker will be First Sgt. Marion C. Crawford of the Women's Army Corps, who ran one of the first WAC Detachments in Vietnam.

"First Sergeant Marion

See Veterans Day, Page 6A

Costumed children trick or treat drive-thru style on Halloween

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

When COVID-19 caused repeated cancellations of events and festivals in 2020, including the annual City of Hiwassee Halloween extravaganza, many families were afraid they might be losing the trick-or-treating holiday altogether.

Fortunately, the community stepped up to give kids a candy-filled – albeit different than usual – Halloween experience at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center Saturday.

The Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce hosted a drive-thru event on Halloween Day in conjunction with 22 local businesses to hand out over 5,000 pieces of candy they



This cute piggie took advantage of the Halloween Trunk-or-Treat at Macedonia Baptist Church Saturday night.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

themselves donated. Efforts by the chamber and local businesses drew more than 500 people for

trick-or-treating, keeping the Halloween tradition alive in 2020. Chamber President

See Halloween, Page 6A

Bradshaw swears in as member of NGTC Board of Directors

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

BLAIRSVILLE – Mountain Circuit Chief Judge Chan Caudell swore Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw into a position on the North Georgia Technical College Board of Directors on Oct. 22.

Bradshaw took the oath after being asked to join by the late Dr. Mark Ivester, who passed from COVID-19 on Sept. 12. NGTC President Ivester had reached out to District 50 State Sen. John Wilkenson earlier in Year for a recommendation this year.

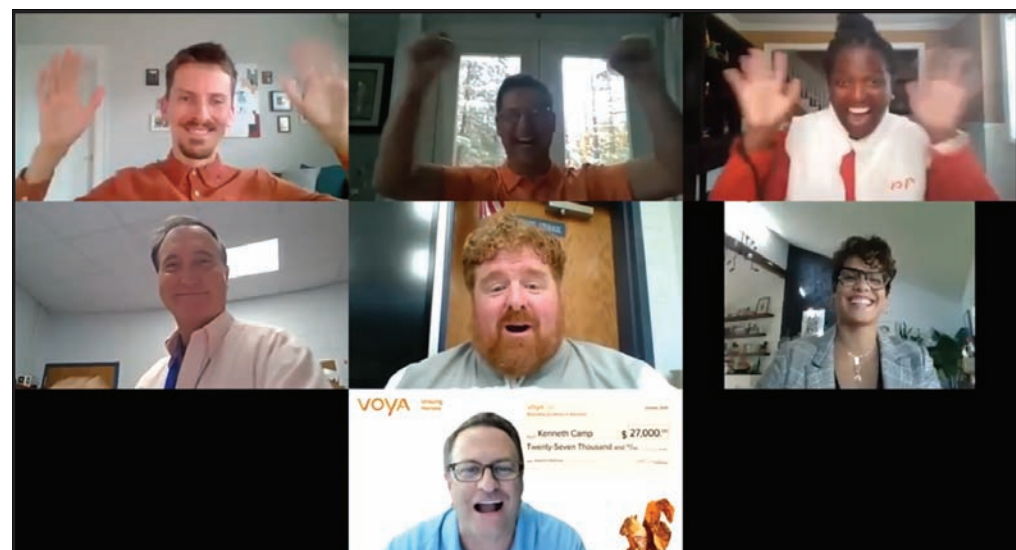
See Bradshaw, Page 3A



Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw swore into his new position on the NGTC Board of Directors last month, with Mountain Circuit Chief Judge Chan Caudell teleconferencing in for the meeting.

Photo/Submitted

Ken Camp receives Unsung Heroes Award, \$27,000 in grant funding



TC's Teacher Kenneth Camp, center, was shocked to hear during an Oct. 30 Zoom call that he'd been awarded a \$27,000 grant for his "Aquaaponics Greenhouse." Photo/Screenshot

News Special
Towns County Herald

Towns County High School Teacher Kenneth Camp was treated to a surprise announcement Oct. 30, when he learned via Zoom that he was a First-Place winner in the nation for Voya's Unsung Heroes grant award.

Voya Financial Inc. is a leading provider of retirement plans for education, and through its Unsung Heroes program, the company awards \$2,000 grants to 50 K-12 educators across the country each year to support their innovative and creative teaching ideas.

In addition, Voya selects three top winners to receive additional funds. In its 20-plus years, the program has awarded more than \$5 million in grants to educators across the United States.

As the First-Place winner, Camp is receiving \$25,000 in addition to the \$2,000 grant,

bringing the total financial award to \$27,000. This money will be used to help bring "Aquaaponics Greenhouse" to life at Towns County High School.

"Aquaaponics Greenhouse" is the opportunity for high school students to perform hands-on practical research projects that reinforce many of the concepts learned in biology.

"We are thrilled to recognize our nation's educators who go above and beyond, even through the most challenging times, to make a difference in the lives of our leaders of tomorrow," said Heather Lavalley, president of Tax Exempt Markets for Voya's Retirement business.

Continuing, "For more than 20 years, Voya's Unsung Heroes program has empowered educators like Kenneth to bring innovative teaching ideas to life.

"We are honored to recognize him as our 2020 First-Place winner and hope that he continues to be an example as he prepares our next generation of leaders for the 21st century workforce."

Camp's innovative teaching idea, "Aquaaponics Greenhouse," focuses on an expansion of the school's already successful aquaponics program.

The current aquaponics system boasts tanks of around 300 tilapia, 150 goldfish, and 50 catfish fertilizing three grow beds, where tomatoes, peppers, numerous herbs, coleus, strawberries, ginger, zinnias, okra and bananas are harvested and sold in the community.

This system serves as the focus for several rigorous year-long inquiry-based student research projects that help to maintain and improve the system.

See Camp Grant, Page 6A

Doris Tilly named 'Best Friend' of Georgia Libraries in 2020

News Special
Towns County Herald

In February, the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County nominated Doris Tilly for Georgia's "Best Friend" Award, for which the Friends of Georgia Libraries accepts nominations every spring.

Doris was selected as this year's winner of the award. Unfortunately, the awards ceremony to be held during FOGL's annual meeting and spring workshop was cancelled due to the COVID pandemic.

She finally received her award at a small ceremony held in Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall on Oct. 29.

The speakers were introduced by Barbara Hale

See Tilly, Page 6A



Friends of Georgia Libraries President Dan Aldridge presented Doris Tilly with the "Best Friend" Award at Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church Oct. 29.

Photo/Submitted

2 Sections 12 Pages
Lake Levels
Blue Ridge 1,678.16
Chatuge 1,921.96
Nottely 1,768.30

Inside
Arrests 2A
Church 2B
Classifieds 5B
Opinion 4A
Legals 5B
Obits 3B
Sports 4B

SPORTS FOOTBALL
13/6 @ Greene Co 7:30 PM
CROSS COUNTRY
11/7 State Championships @ Carrollton

TCSO Empty Stocking Parade
November 28
See page 2A

USMC 245th Birthday Party
November 10
See page 6A

Salute to Veterans Car Show Nov. 7
See page 6B