

# Copeland...from Page 1A

Station 2 now. It's about a mile and a quarter outside Young Harris."

Currently, the Young Harris station is being operated out of the old Blue Ridge Mountain EMC property, and Copeland said he's excited for the new station, which he hopes to get into soon because it is "going to be tremendous."

The fire chief also spoke on a recent \$325,000 grant awarded to his department in September to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus, or air packs, that firefighters use to breathe in fiery, hazardous situations.

"We placed the order for the new air packs just a couple of days ago and should be taking delivery in three to five weeks," Copeland said.

Also that Friday, Copeland detailed four recent fires that have occurred in the county, and he discussed fire safety and the importance of smoke alarms.

"A couple of weeks ago, we had a chimney fire on Cherokee Trail in Young Harris," Copeland said. "Our guys were able to get in there and put it out before it could advance and saved the home."

"Another fire we had was a grease fire, a kitchen fire, and that was up on Hightower. And just a few weeks ago, the Fire Department responded to a suspicious structure fire that is still under investigation."

Firefighters also responded to an HVAC fire recently, Copeland said, adding that that it's that time of year again for people to start taking proper precautions regarding winter heating, like checking for buildup on electrical coils that can cause fires.

Continuing on fire safety, Copeland said folks should always make sure their chimneys are clean, and they should go into their attics and see that there's no cracking in the brick or rockwork.

Furthermore, Copeland said residents with wood stoves store their outdoor wood supplies away from the home, covering the wood with tarps to keep it dry.

The fire chief also spoke on the importance of smoke alarms and when to check the batteries.

Two weeks ago, SERVPRO and the Towns County Fire Department partnered with the American Red Cross for a boot drive that raised over \$2,500 to help anyone in the community who is not able to purchase a smoke alarm, Copeland said.

People in need of a smoke alarm or assistance checking and/or installing one can call Station 1 at 706-896-2090, and Copeland said a firefighter will come out to help.

For more information on Towns County Fire & Rescue, visit [townscountyga.org/fire---rescue.html](http://townscountyga.org/fire---rescue.html).

# Fishing...from Page 1A

their service," Lee said, adding that she is honored to know that so many retired service men and women call Towns County home.

Continued Lee, "It's important for us as a community to welcome veterans and to include them in the community. It's because of our active military and veterans that we have the freedoms we have."

Starting early Saturday morning, 32 two-person teams arrived at the boat ramp inside the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds at 5:30 a.m. in support of the local veterans.

The Towns County High School fishing duo of Adrian Hooper and Mitchell Grimsley fished the tournament to support veterans and get some practice in, Fishing Coach Brandon Grimsley said.

Another local team fishing the tournament was the Young Harris College Bass Fishing Team, including Marshall Harrelson.

"My partner Mason McCoy and I had a great time on the lake with all the other guys," Harrelson said. "It was freezing this morning, and we didn't think that many people would be out here, but when we got here at 6 a.m., we had to wait a good 30 minutes to put our boat in the water."

"It's amazing to see a community come together to support not just the veterans but the ones that gave their lives for us to be able to go fishing like we are here today."

As the teams started to come in at the close of the tournament around 4 p.m., Lee prepared hotdogs to give



**Towns County High School Fishing Team member Mitchell Grimsley competed in the Nov. 2 "Reelin' It In for Vets" Fishing Tournament.**

participants something to eat and drink during fish weigh-ins.

Each team brought in their five biggest fish for Nathan Noblet to weigh, and the Top Five teams got a share of the \$7,500 in prize money, as did the team that caught the biggest fish.

Jessie Millsaps and Rob Young finished in Fifth Place with 12.91 pounds of fish, and brothers Greg and Blake Wright's catch for the day came in at 13.34 pounds for Fourth Place.

Finishing third with 13.44 pounds of bass for the day were brothers David and Kevin Cope, and Jeremy Cross and Dustin Stephens came in Second Place with 15.25 pounds of fish.

Robert Rogers and Steve Abercrombie of Blairsville finished in First Place and took home a \$4,000 prize with

their 15.70-pound haul on Saturday, and they also caught the biggest fish weighing in at 4.17 pounds.

Rogers and Abercrombie are experienced anglers and love to fish on Lake Chatuge, and Rogers said they had a great day, but that supporting the local veterans is what's important.

With so many boats and local businesses coming together for the first-ever Reelin' It In for Vets Fishing Tournament, Lee said she is looking to make this an annual event.

Event sponsors included Nelson Tractor, Lake Chatuge Lodge, Northeast Georgia Board of Realtors, Mountain Realty, Towns County CVB, Hiwassee Hardware, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC and the VFW/American Legion of Towns County.

# Smokey...from Page 1A



**Last month, Smokey Bear posed for many pictures with excited youngsters who helped him celebrate his 75th birthday at Towns County Elementary.**

Bear heard them calling and appeared to the delight of the children, who then received the opportunity to wish Smokey a happy birthday.

The kids hugged him and posed for pictures, and the famous bear brought special gift bags that included the Smokey Bear comic book and several other items for the students to take home.

Also during the visit, Wiles and Moss spoke to the

children about fire safety and gave the kids some useful tips on how to put out campfires when camping.

They also touched on fire danger generally, as the fall season is now in full swing, which means colder and usually drier weather.

People begin to use fireplaces, gas and electricity as sources of heat for their homes this time of year, so Moss said it was vital for children

to learn about fire safety at a young age.

The foresters have visited with several parks and schools in the area to ensure the people of the North Georgia Mountains are aware of drought conditions and the dangers of wildfires.

To check on current drought conditions by county, search Google for "Fire Weather Georgia" and click on the first link in the list.

# Halloween...from Page 1A

"This is the premier event for these kids," Mayor Liz Ordiales said. "We love all the participation from our local businesses and individuals that we have up here giving out candy."

"It's just a great way to share with the community. The Red Cross comes out every year and hands out hot chocolate and candy, and Ingles has the coffee. It's just a great event, and I love seeing these costumes, they're great."

The event was a huge draw locally, of course, but it also scared up visitors from other counties looking to join in on Towns County's community fun.

"We have come up here for two years now with our grandkids," said Emily Richards of White County. "I like it a little better than most places, because it is a pretty small area that still gives the kids plenty of candy."

"It doesn't take up a whole square or large area, which is good for older folks like me because we don't have to walk all that far to enjoy the day with the kids. At these bigger places, I have to sit down sometimes and let them go get their own candy, and I miss out on seeing them trick-or-treating."

"I just really like this area. I'm also glad that they moved it to a Friday so that we didn't have to worry about



**This year marked the second year that Hiwassee's Halloween festivities took place at the courthouse instead of the Town Square.**

having the kids out too late on a school night."

Another treat for event attendees was a performance by North Georgia Dance Arts, which danced to the "Monster Mash."

Folks gathered around to cheer the young dancers on as they performed their routine in front of family and friends alike.

One big change from Halloween this year was that the costume contest was removed in 2019.

"It would be impossible to judge all of the costumes," Ordiales said. "We have people constantly coming and going, and we wouldn't be able to be fair on deciding who would

win. We have all these awesome costumes out tonight, and you can't choose a best one out of them."

Despite the lack of a contest, kids still ran around proudly showing off their costumes - scary, funny, famous and obscure - all while posing for pictures to put in the family photo album.

And now that Halloween is over and children are happily digesting their cauldronfuls of candy, the community can look ahead to the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons, which will certainly feature more family-friendly events and community fun.

# DC Trip...from Page 1A

served as topics of discussion. Paris said they wanted to call on Sens. David Perdue and Johnny Isakson, as well as Congressman Doug Collins, but there just wasn't time.

The visiting commissioners were treated to an abbreviated tour of the White House during their stay.

Bradshaw said Executive Director Dave Willis of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, whom he's gotten to know during his first term as a commissioner, called him shortly before the trip and invited him on a private tour of the West Wing.

Willis informed Bradshaw there was one slot left and asked if he would be interested. Of course, Bradshaw said he was; it was too good of an opportunity to pass up.

Bradshaw said he has no idea why Willis called on him of all the other commissioners, but he was grateful for the opportunity.

"I got to go to the Rose Garden, the Oval Office, the



**Commissioner Bradshaw having fun in the White House Press Room on a trip to the nation's capital last month.**

Situation Room. It was really cool," Bradshaw said, adding that, as a history buff, seeing

the seat of all that history - the paintings, the furniture, the architecture - was a big thrill.

# Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 23 members pass QEs



**The testing part of the QE involved charts of the lake and tying knots, among other skills.**



**Four Flotilla 23 members and two qualifying examiners divided between the two vessels for nine hours of testing skills on Lake Chatuge.**

Qualification Exams (QEs) were held on October 28-29, 2019 for several members of CG Auxiliary Flotilla 23. Written tests were taken the evening of the 28th and then hands-on testing on Lake Chatuge for nine hours was held on the 29th.

Jim Dodd achieved his new certification as boat crew and Stan Wruble re-certified

for boat crew; John Nixon re-certified for coxswain and Joe Hughart completed initial certification for coxswain. According to those taking them, it was an intensive two-day Qualification Exam and the qualifying examiners were very strict. All the Flotilla members worked with boats and crew members that they had not worked with before.

Flotilla 23 Vice Commander Joe Hughart said, "Congratulations to you all, this was a flotilla achievement." CG Auxiliary Flotilla 23 meets in Hiwassee at the Senior Center on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in visiting is welcome to come learn more about this active group.

FSO-PA Joan Crothers

# Veterans Appreciation Day/Run for Rangers November 9



The 3rd Annual Veterans Appreciation Day will be on November 9, 2019 in downtown Dahlonega at Hancock Park. This event is sponsored by U.S. Army Rangers that want to acknowledge all Veterans and let them know we appreciate them. This year we are being joined by several downtown merchants that also want to say "Thanks to our Vets". The goal of this event is to create an annual community event that is focused on acknowledging and supporting our Veterans and we want all local area

businesses to support the Festival, as well as have the general public visit downtown and attend the events on Saturday, November 9th.

The Festival begins with both a 5K and 10K Charity Run known as Run for Rangers, with the 10K course being part road and part trail. This is followed by the annual Veterans Day Parade put on by other Veterans groups. After the parade, the music festival known as Music in the Park will begin at 11 a.m. in Hancock Park and will include local area musi-

cians. We will also have a children's play area with bounce houses and all music and play area activities are free to all. Food and beverage, beer and wine, and vendor tables will be available surrounding the Park, and all veterans eat free.

A complete schedule is available at <https://veteransappreciationday.org/> or on Facebook at FB.ME/OnPoint1.1. We are still accepting sponsors and donations. Please contact Art Attaway through the website or email at [art@pointusa.com](mailto:art@pointusa.com). NT/Nov6ZJCA