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lief, whether based on state or federal law.

Waymire, of Williams, Morris and Waymire, of Buford, attorney for the Towns County Sheriff's Office and several deputies in the lawsuit filed by Brannon in 2011, has informed the Sheriff's Office that on Feb. 21, Judge Story granted Towns County's motion for summary judgment and entered judgment in favor of the Sheriff's Office and Deputy Curt Donaldson.

All other deputies had been dismissed previously from the case.

In his order granting

summary judgment, Judge Story found no support for the plaintiff's claims relating to racial profiling and racially motivated law enforcement action in the incident.

The court also found no violation of Brannon's constitutional rights, and that the deputy who conducted the traffic stop did not act with malice or intent to injure Brannon.

Finally, because Brannon failed to produce evidence to support any claim, the Court found no grounds to issue an injunction against Sheriff Clinton in his official capacity.

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Georgia Revenue Code to reflect changes in the IRS code.

"Included in these updates are modifications to new sales tax exemptions for energy and agriculture, the restoration of the Good Faith Standard for retailers regarding sales tax due on bill of sale goods, the removal of sales tax on leases, and the exemption of T-SPLST from car purchases," he said.

Additionally, self-financing automobile dealers (buy here, pay here dealers) would pay 2 percent less than the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT).

The Title Ad Valorem Tax went into effect on March 1st per HB 386 passed last year by state lawmakers.

"This new tax is in lieu of a sales tax and title fees. It replaces the title fee. The good thing about TAVT is that you will never have to pay ad valorem tax again," said Wilkinson.

Senate Bill 136 was the second piece of legislation passed by the Senate on Friday. SB 136 would reduce the legal blood alcohol limit from 0.10 to 0.08 for hunting or boating while under the influence, increase the penalties for boating while under the influence, and require certain individuals to complete a boating education course prior to operating a vessel.

Wilkinson also reports that "several bills of interest passed the Senate during the past two weeks."

SB 82 would change all references of North Georgia College to University of North

Georgia, the senior military college of Georgia.

SB 68 would establish the week of Sept. 17th as Celebrate Freedom Week in Georgia's Public Schools.

SB 103 would allow the Technical College System of Georgia to approve requests for community college status.

"In order to be named a community or technical college by the board, an institution must grant associate degrees," explained Sen. Wilkinson.

Other action taken includes SB 72 which standardizes the annual interest rate for tax refunds and past due taxes at 7 percent annually.

"Currently interest owed on taxes due to the state or any local taxing jurisdiction is set at 1 percent per month from the date the tax is due until it is paid," said Sen. Wilkinson.

SB 125 preserves Georgia's current standards that property owners are not responsible for trespassers.

Sen. Wilkinson explained that "landowners must, however, exercise prudence and remove any possible risks to children who could trespass on their property."

Wilkinson serves as the chairman of the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee. He represents the 50th Senate District which includes Banks, Franklin, Habersham, Rabun, Stephens, and Towns counties and portions of Hall and Jackson counties.

Wilkinson can be reached at (404) 463-5257 or by e-mail at johnwilkinson@senate.ga.gov.

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express appreciation and gratitude for each soldier's tour of duty.

Following the informational portion of the program, 15 veterans from Union, Towns, and surrounding counties were recognized and honored with "one of a kind" Quilts of Valor.

Honored veterans who served during World War II were Russell Hansen, Blairsville, John Van Nus, Hiawassee, and Paul Eavenson, Blue Ridge.

Those having served during the Korean War were Bobby Gene Grable, Blairsville, Joseph Doucette, Young Harris, Kim Bailey, Blue Ridge, and William Keith Brooks, Copperhill, Tenn.

Vietnam War veterans honored were Walter Crooks, Blairsville, Gerald Ippolito, Blairsville, David Kraft, Blairsville, Tony Woods, Hiawassee, John Grizzell, Blue Ridge, Billy Shields, Mineral Bluff, Harold Hansard, Dawsonville, and Raymond Windham, Dahlonega.

Kraft, a RN-BC for the

VA Clinic, was very surprised when his name was called.

"We have had to work very hard keeping this a secret from him. He had no idea he would be presented with a quilt today," said Gorman.

The quilts were presented to the veterans by members of the Misty Mountain Quilters Guild.

As their names were called and the emotional veterans stood to have the quilts draped over their shoulders, an obvious swell of pride was in the air as each received a rousing round of applause in appreciation of their dedicated service to this great country.

All veterans and guests feasted on a wonderful meal prepared by John and Kim Pemberton.

The luncheon was provided jointly by the following sponsors: The Gold Academy (Bob and Vickie Levy) and Team Teach (David Kraft and Margit Blekfeld-Sztraky, Blairsville VA Clinic, and Sandra Kraft, Mountain Regional Library).

Correction from last week's paper

Janet Oliva was appointed to fill Jonni Marie Shook's vacated position on the Towns County Board of Elections. The Towns County Herald apologizes for any inconvenience.

Also, the title of Superintendent of Elections has been changed to Chairman of Elections. This position is voted on by members of the Board of Elections.

Moore...continued from Page 1A

They also got a preview of his new music for an upcoming album due out later this year.

Moore's classic style, the 10-gallon hat, cowboy boots, painted on jeans, and a container of dip in his back pocket, exudes the "redneck image" he likes to portray and bases his songs on.

This is what attracts his many fans and draws them into his concerts by the thousands.

He even has autographed replicas of his cowboy hat along with other fan-based memorabilia at each concert and he does pretty well as fans line up to purchase CDs, T-shirts, or any of a number of items available.

It is just plain clear that Justin Moore is loved by his fans and this "small town USA" favorite is quite the contender in the Country Music scene, and at the young age of 28, Moore can hold his own with the best of the big names and has "bright future" written all over him. Let's face it, with his perfect blend of Southern Rock, Country, and Blues, he's a perfect fit.

Moore may soon have some competition, however, as 11-year-old Logan Hart of Blairsville said, "I feel in



Justin Moore fans celebrate a meet and greet with their favorite singer.. Photo/Libby Shook

my heart that I really want to become a Country singer, so people of Hiawassee get ready to see me at the Anderson Music Hall in a couple of years."

This was young Hart's first concert and he was really excited to be able to see Moore live on stage and get his autograph.

He was there with his parents, Chris and Crystal Hart and sister, Madison Hart. Madison Hart also was excited to meet Moore.

"I have always loved Justin Moore and his songs," she said. "His songs and his voice

always make my day so much better. I hope to see him again in concert sometime soon."

Opening for Moore was the very talented Nashville star Rose Falcon.

Falcon's music flows easily between genres with the common thread of an individual vocal style and a gift for exposing the heart of the songs she writes.

Falcon performed *If Love Had a Heart* from her new five-song EP, *19th Century* (Vol. 2).

She wowed the audience

with her bold voice and versatile singing style.

"I think I just fell in love with Hiawassee, Georgia," she said. "It is a pleasure to play for such a responsive audience and such a great opportunity to open for Justin Moore."

"I hope to come back soon with my full band," said Falcon.

The feeling was mutual as the audience fell in love with her as well as was evidenced by the hearty rounds of applause and shout outs at the end of each song.

Honors...continued from page 1A

Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren was the featured speaker and he opened by welcoming students, school personnel, parents, family members, and friends who were there to show their support of these very deserving students.

He also acknowledged and thanked the Lions Club for their support of these students and the STAR program, the scholarships they make available to students at the end of each school year, and their overall support of the Towns County School System.

Perren took time to recognize the individual accomplishments of each of the 24 students as he praised them for their positive determination, positive attitudes, and dedication to their studies and extra-curricular school activities.

"This is the last time I will be doing this for Towns County High School as principal," said Perren. "I have gotten to know most of you and your parents and it is my honor and privilege to stand here before you tonight as you are honored for your achievements and hard work."

Perren expressed his



Roy Perren

pride in the fact that that 24 out of the 70 students of the graduating class of 2013 are honor students including two STAR students.

"I have been doing this for nine years and this is only the second time we've had two STAR students," said Perren. "We are extremely proud of these students and their achievements. We know that great things will happen for them as they graduate and go on to college."

"The two STAR teachers were great selections. Coach Floyd and Mrs. Frizzell really care about their students and they work very hard with all the students," said Perren.

"We don't know what

the future holds for you. Persistence is the mark of a successful person. Continue to persevere. If you have a dream, go after it. Don't let anybody talk you out of it," said Perren as he challenged this bright group of young adults.

"You are the leaders of tomorrow. You may not seek to be a leader. You may say you don't want the responsibility, but it may be thrust upon you," said Perren.

Perren concluded his speech by saying, "My question and challenge to you is this. If not you, then who?"

The Honor students were introduced by Beta Club Sponsor Melissa Bridges and presented a Certificate of Recognition by TCHS Counselor Erica Chastain.

Those recognized and honored included STAR student Jennifer Chinnici, daughter of Jane Chinnici; STAR student Dillon Diehl, son of Laura Diehl and Greg Diehl.

Nathaniel Arnold, son of Louise and Paul Arnold; Dadrian Blythe, daughter of Melba and Danny Blythe; and Brittany Boyer, daughter of Melanie Hale Beighley.

Kayleigh Castonguay,

daughter of Jennifer and James Johnson; Celeena Corbin, daughter of Colleen Ford and Merlin Corbin; Sonny Goodman, son of Betty Thomas; Christa Hamill, daughter of Lisa McConnell and Tim Rexroth.

Olivia Hardin, daughter of Joan and Terry Hardin; Kara Harris, daughter of Gail Harris and Robert Harris; Tyler Hoffman, son of Colette and Jason Hoffman; Autumn Ledford, daughter of Mark and Jenny Ledford.

Brittany Ledford, daughter of Sonya Nicholson and Roger Ledford; Charity Mauldin, daughter of Brent Mauldin and Teresa Jones.

Mackenzie Mirandi, daughter of Amanda Jones and John Mirandi; Lukas Parker, son of Kevin and Lana Parker; Kendra Rodriguez, daughter of Pedro and Katrina Rodriguez.

Bradley Smith, son of Tracy and Terry Smith; Ryan Tallent, son of Myra and Charles Tallent; Kayla Taylor, daughter of Irma and Johnny Taylor.

Dillon Thompson, son of Julie and Joe Thompson; Claire Wilson, daughter of Aundrea and Brad Wilson; and Austin Wood, son of Teresa Denton and Dwight Wood.

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Americans should never forget the brave men and women who answered our nation's call and served the cause of freedom in a special way," said Scott.

Scott explained the items on the 'reserved table'.

"The table is round to show our everlasting concern for our missing Marines," he said. "The tablecloth is white and symbolizes the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty."

"A slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land," he said. "A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and those families who seek answers."

"The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God," Scott said. "The glass is inverted to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast, and the empty chair means this Marine is missing."

"Let us raise our water glass in a toast to honor America's POWs and MIAs and to the success of our efforts to account for them," he said.

The honored and recognized Iwo Jima Veterans present included: Al Cadenhead, corporal, U. S. Marine Corps, Sam 'Red' Bird, U.S. Navy, Phil Gamache, Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps.

Tom Holder, U.S. Navy, Clarence 'Bud' Johnson, Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Navy Retired, Todd Kimsey, U.S. Navy, Jack Richardson, U.S. Navy, Jack Rodes, corporal, U.S. Marine Corps, and Leon West, Corpsman, U.S. Navy.

Those recognized but unable to attend included Bill Fricks, Corpsman, U.S. Navy, Austin Gengle, U.S. Marine Corps, Jack Runniger, U.S. Navy, Adrian Santoy, U.S. Marine Corps.

Alfred J. de Lorimier,



These Iwo Jima veterans were recognized recently at The Ridges Resort during a remembrance event recognizing the 68th anniversary of the battle. Photo/Libby Shook

corporal, U.S. Marine Corps and Lt. Col. U.S. Army Retired.

His wife Marjorie de Lorimier was present, as well as his daughter, Carol Gay, who spoke on behalf of her father.

"My father, Lt. Col. Alfred J. de Lorimier, is at the Union County Nursing Home and he would have loved being here. He was laying phone lines and he somehow survived that terrible battle. Dad was awarded the Purple Heart after sustaining head injuries," she said.

"Years later, he would recount some of his experiences which seemed unimaginable to me," she said.

"One truly had to be there to know what those guys endured," she said.

"I am so very proud of him and so grateful for all

he has done for this country. Although Iwo Jima was probably noted as one of the fiercest battles of WWII, Dad also fought at Bougainvillea, Guam, and later Korea and Vietnam," she said.

"I just want to thank you all for putting on this program and for honoring all the many brave veterans who fought at Iwo Jima," said Gay.

In a rare and momentous occasion, the floor was opened and the guests had the opportunity to ask questions of the Iwo Jima survivors.

While each gentleman spoke briefly, some things needed to remain unspoken as the memories are to still much too painful to put into words.

Each Iwo Jima war veteran received a Combat Action Ribbon Award presented by CPO Bud Johnson.

"We would like to present you with this award. I

wanted to make sure that our Iwo Jima Veterans all got pinned," said Johnson.

"All us veterans of Iwo Jima who witnessed it and came out alive, God has a purpose for all of us and for all of you here," he said. "To all our veterans and their families who have made great sacrifices too, God bless you."

A black cap with the POW/MIA insignia was placed at the table of the 'Missing Man Table' with the words 'You are not forgotten' written on it.

The Battle of Iwo Jima was fought between the United States and Japan between February 19th through March 26th, 1945.

The battle took place in the Pacific Campaign of WWII and finished with the U.S. being victorious and gaining control of both the island and the Japanese airfields.

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