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Sweep, sponsored by the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, was quite the success and volunteers were very excited to be able to participate and about some of the interesting finds they made as well.

Lake Chatuge Watershed Coordinator Scarlett Fuller was elated to see how many people actually turned out for the event.

The Big Sweep yielded nearly 2,000 pounds of trash as nearly 100 bags were collected in only two hours.

Everything from bottles and litter to kitchen appliances and a mattress were retrieved. There was also a huge collection of animal bones, mostly deer carcasses.

"Our most bizarre items included a toilet seat and a recycling bin from Tifton," Fuller said. "Oddly enough, it was found by a volunteer who grew up in Tifton."

The 2012 Lake Chatuge Silver Trash Scepter award was discovered at Lower Bell Creek primitive campground by Young Harris College student Crystal Bishop, one of Towns County's own. Bishop received a two-night stay at the Ridges Resort & Marina.

The Trash Kings and Queens award went to volunteers at Bearmeat Village. Volunteers collected 27 bags of trash from this site.

Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition Coordinator Callie Moore and Fuller made sure that everybody went home with a 2012 Georgia Rivers Alive t-shirt as a token of their appreciation for their efforts.

Six volunteers went out in kayaks from the boat ramp and Bearmeat Village area, according to Fuller.

Two abandoned boat seats were found along the shoreline

by the kayaking volunteers.

The Coalition would like to thank all the volunteers who came out on this beautiful Saturday morning. They could not have wished for finer weather for this event.

"We know you could have spent your Saturday doing any number of things and we are grateful you spent it with us," said Fuller. "We had the best group of volunteers you could ask for."

"Several Young Harris College students came out and jumped right in, even dragging an old stove across the cove to be removed from the shoreline," Fuller said.

Moore and Fuller want to thank all the folks who helped make this event possible with their local support: Towns County for allowing the use of the beach pavilion and landfill, Cpl. Jesse Cook, Georgia DNR (safety tips), Kemmy Garrett, BREMC and Hiwassee Hardware (gloves and trash bags), Kevin Roper, USFS (trash truck driver), Towns County Chamber of Commerce (promoting the event), Ridges Resort & Marina (grand prize), Boundary Water Marina (financial support), Georgia Mountain Restaurant and Hardee's (biscuits), Ingles (refreshments), Papa's Pizza (lunch), Sweet Tooth Bakery (prizes), and all the great advertisement from local banks, Fieldstone Cinema Six, the USFS, the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds (signs), and the Towns County Herald for the press releases.

Fuller and Moore said they hope to make this an annual event that folks look forward to every year just to get out on the lake with friends and neighbors and do something worthwhile for the community and local environment.

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swell of pride in the air as they stood in tribute to Veterans everywhere, fallen and living.

VFW Post Commander Marty Mynatt welcomed everyone for coming out on this overcast and drizzly day.

"First I would like to thank Commissioner Bill Kendall," Mynatt said. "The Veterans of Towns County couldn't have a better supporter. I would also like to thank Frank McKinney and the band for being here with us today."

"Today we celebrate all veterans, past, present, and future," he said. "When I think of veterans, it's the World War II era that seems to come to my mind. Maybe it's because my dad was one of those vets. I truly do love that generation," said Mynatt.

"We hear a lot of talk about looking to the future and moving forward and those are good things," he said. "But, sometimes I think it might be in our best interest to look back and maybe take a page from what in my opinion is the greatest generation," said Mynatt.

Mynatt went on to say that there were three things that really stand out in his mind when he looks back on that era and of those brave warriors that paid the ultimate price for our freedom, "their sacrifice, their resolve, and above all, their absolute loyalty to this wonderful Republic that we all love so much."

Max Flaig, VFW Chaplain Post 7807, read the very moving poem, *In Flanders Field*, written by John McCrae.

It's sentiment rings just as true today as when McCrae wrote it in May 1915.

A very special part of this memorial is always the



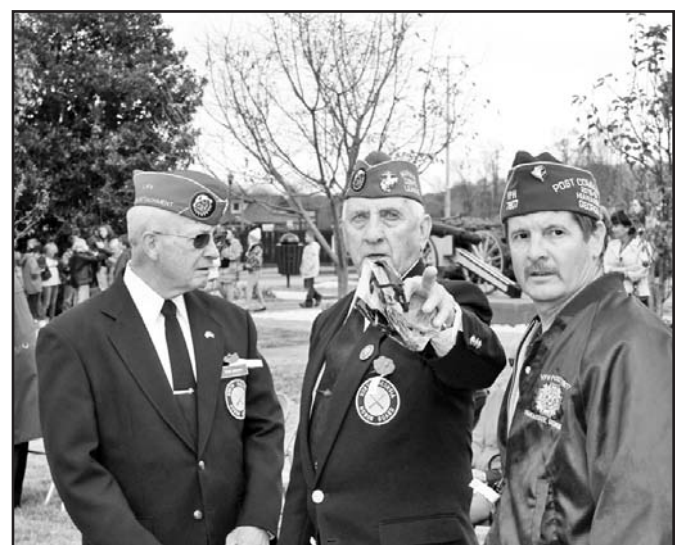
The annual ceremony of the Laying of the Wreaths at Veterans Memorial Park. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

'Laying of the Wreaths,' followed by the playing of *Taps*. The following participated in this very heartfelt tribute to our fallen heroes: VFW Post 7807, VFW Post 7807 Ladies Auxiliary, American Legion Post 23, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 23, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary 23, Marine Corps League Unicoi Detachment, and Army-Navy Squadron #66.

Also, as a special tribute to celebrate and commemorate the 237th birthday of the United States Marine Corp, 53 former Marines were treated to a very special meal at Daniel's Steakhouse on Saturday night, Nov. 10th.

Marine Corp member, Walt Scott, said, "It was a pretty good turn out. Fifty-three out of 64 were present and we had a really nice time. The meal was great and the chocolate birthday cake was delicious."

These are definitely some very special veterans worthy of remembrance as we celebrate, honor, and pay tribute to our local veterans.



Monday was a day to remember for local Veterans at Veterans Memorial Park. Photo/Libby Shook

To wrap up the program, the TCHS Band once again performed playing a tribute to all branches of the military, including The Halls of Montezuma, The Caisson Song, and Anchors Aweigh.

"It is always an honor to perform at the Veterans' Program and to honor all of our veterans," McKinney said. "The band is very civic-minded and felt honored to be a part of this program today." Following the benediction, as is traditional, folks gathered at the VFW Post 7807 for a wonderful meal, fellowship, and to reminisce and share stories of times gone by.

Participate in Blairsville's Kris Kringle Market



The Union County Farmers Market is happy to announce that we are now accepting applications for vendors to participate in our third annual Kris Kringle Market. This year we've expanded the market to two days. It will be held on Friday, November 30th from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, December 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors must be prepared to participate

in both days of the Market.

The festival is being promoted as a craft and family fun event. Santa will be hearing requests on Friday evening. Live music by local choirs and bands will be playing throughout the two days. Regional published authors will have the opportunity to sell their books and participate in book signing times. A bonfire will be set on Friday evening and S'mores will be constructed and consumed, compliments of the Market and our local Bi-Lo Supermarket.

Cost for a single booth is \$50/double booth is \$100. We encourage vendors to consider decorating your booths in a holiday theme. The Market set-up will begin two hours

prior to the opening of the Market.

All crafts must be hand made by the vendor selling the product. This is not a juried show, but we will be very restrictive on items being sold by third party vendors.

Applications are available online at www.UCFarmersMarket.com. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact JoAnne Leone at 706-781-3306 or email at UCFarmersMarket@gmail.com. A special note to those that like to have their pets accompany them to shows - the Union County Farmers Market is a "No Pets Allowed" facility. NT(Nov14,21)CA

Students glimpse at the future

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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Towns County High School students got the chance of a lifetime recently as they experienced the annual Career Day Expo in the Elementary School Gym.

The TCHS Career Expo is an exposition for students to meet with prospective employers, recruiters, and schools.

This year the Expo showcased businesses, agencies, military, technical schools, and colleges/universities.

According to Family Connections Coordinator Amy Gibby-Rosser, Family Connections and TCHS host this event "to encourage and empower students to embrace the varied opportunities available for future career goals."

"Career Expos provide an excellent opportunity for students to network, ask pertinent questions, and gather information," Rosser said. "The purpose of the Career Expo is to expose our students to the variety of schools and experiences available and to make post-secondary options available to them."

Erica Chastain, TCHS Guidance Counselor, worked diligently with Family Connections to recruit a variety of fields for the event. Planning begins months in advance and businesses, agencies, schools, and universities are invited from all over the state according to Rosser.

"Family Connections is in its thirteenth year, and proudly partners with the school system to continue our mission of improving the lives of children and families in Towns County. We work tirelessly throughout the year to provide opportunities to our community and this is just one example," Rosser said.

Classes were brought in by grade level and they had the opportunity to talk to as many of the colleges, businesses, and service



TCHS senior Luke Parker gets an up close look at becoming a Towns County firefighter during Career Expo Day.

people as time would allow.

Students picked up brochures, business cards, and freebies that were made available to them including ink pens, key chains, lanyards, note pads, and many other available items.

Secondary education is a very exciting time in the lives of these young individuals and is somewhat frightening as well, especially for students getting ready to graduate.

It is never an easy task knowing what is available post graduation and the colleges and businesses that participated helped alleviate a lot of the fears and concerns.

Colleges state wide were represented, including local schools North Georgia Technical College (Blairsville Campus), Young Harris College, and Tri-County Community College.

They were there to talk with high school students regarding what courses and degree programs they had to offer as well as to discuss financial aid options.

Many local businesses turned out as well includ-

ing several local pharmacies, United Community Bank, the Towns County Sheriff's Office, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Towns County Fire Department, Towns County EMS, and the U.S. Army recruiters.

Kristie Gibbs of NGTC, Blairsville Campus, said, nursing is primarily the most popular program at NGTC.

"I welcome students to come by and talk with me and I'll help you in any way I can," she said.

All participating businesses and colleges were equally accommodating and reassured the students that post-secondary education, employment possibilities, and career opportunities were available to them.

Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren said, "I would like to thank the community and all the participating colleges and businesses that came out for this event. We have some very bright and talented students at Towns County High School that I have great expectations for and this gives them the opportunity to know what is available to them."

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to get involved in where their food comes from and the hard work it takes to get food to the table, thus developing an understanding and appreciation for the need for agriculture and the importance of sustaining our natural resources," said Garrett.

"After receiving a scholarship from the North Georgia Food Bank to attend the 2012 National Farm to School Conference in Vermont, I saw the opportunity to bring a few ideas from that conference back to Towns County, said Towns County Schools Nutrition Director Cindy Dean.

"Superintendent Melissa Williams put me together with Frank Riley and Ben Sutton to share ideas," Dean said.

"We met with TCHS Agriculture Teacher Sabrina Garrett and 21st Century Program



Towns County High School's Garden Club. Photo/Libby Shook

Representative Debbie Horvath and discussed how we could have a school garden," said Dean.

"Our goal is to encourage student awareness and knowledge of fruits and vegetables," said Dean. "Our school garden project in-

volves many different people, both community and school, and we are very excited to have such a generous donation from Commissioner Kendall to create five raised beds so we can start our project with no cost to the school," said Dean.