

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Sunny	67 41
Fri: Sunny	57 34
Sat: Sunny	55 37
Sun: Sunny	52 39
Mon: Sunny	51 34
Tue: Rain	52 34
Wed: Clouds	51 34



Upstream Elevation Predicted 11/05/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,919.10
Lake Nottely	1,764.16
Blue Ridge	1,673.40

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FREE

Food Distribution
North Mt. Zion
Church of God
Thurs. Nov. 19
10 AM - Noon



Stephens
Lodge
Boston Butt
Sale

See Page 6

Mountain
Country
Christmas
Tour of
Homes

See Page 8



BASKETBALL

Sat. Nov 21
vs. Lumpkin
6 & 7:30 PM

WRESTLING

Fri Nov 20
Melee in the
Mountains Tourney
Home 5 PM

Iwo Jima monument dedicated at Foster Park

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, following the Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park in Towns County, veterans and their families moved into the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center for lunch before witnessing the unveiling of the new Iwo Jima monument at Foster Park.

"The memorial that we'll be dedicating in a little while is the Iwo Jima Flag Raising," said Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall in the lunch, which was hosted by county employees. "One of those raising the flag was a Navy man, a Corpsman, and four Corpsmen got the Medal of Honor in that battle."

"And the Coast Guard brought all the Marines ashore. They fought that battle to get

some airfields for the Air Force, which was bombing Japan. Once that island was taken, about 6,000 (Americans) were killed, but it saved 24,000 airmen from crashing into the ocean."

The guest speaker was a Towns County native, Lt. Col. Ronald Gibson of the Army (Ret.), who went on to lead a distinguished military career.

"Ronald was valedictorian at Towns County High School, graduated Young Harris College, started his teaching career, and was pursuing a doctorate degree at the University of Georgia. When the Vietnam War interrupted, he left to serve his country. He made a career in the Army," said Commissioner Kendall.

Gibson's speech was full of references to history and the way that history is shaped by war.

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Iwo Jima monument

Veterans Park hosts Veterans Day for Towns Countians

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, Towns County's veterans and their families gathered at Veterans Memorial Park to commemorate those veterans who have died and to celebrate those still living.

The event's guest speaker, Col. Walter Shumway, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), has served in three combat tours, in command at the Platoon, Company, Battalion and Brigade levels. His awards and distinctions include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the



Col. Walter Shumway

Meritorious Service Medal and many others.

His speech on Veterans Day concerned the history of conflict in the United States.

"My fellow veterans, I see all the services represented here today, and not only that, I recognize the service that has been rendered – World War II veterans, Korea, Vietnam," said Shumway. "And we have Towns County residents who served in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, and are serving today in Iraq again and in Syria. When you count that up, that's a lot of conflict."

See Veterans, Page 14

Hiwassee Shop With a Cop accepting donations now



By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Once again, it's beginning to look a little like Christmas in Towns County, and Hiwassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright says it's time to start thinking about donations for the annual Shop With a Cop program.

People can make donations to Shop With a Cop year-round, but Chief Wright said that, now a month out from

the shop, any and all monetary donations would be greatly appreciated.

"We take kids ages 12 to 16 to Walmart in Blairsville, and then we take them for a meal in Hiwassee," said Chief Wright, adding that he loves to see the smiling faces of children who have full bellies and a good day of Christmas shopping behind them.

Last year, Chief Wright

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Lt. Gov. Cagle greets students, talks future of education



By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle joined the students of Towns County and the Mountain Movers and Shakers on Friday, Nov. 13, for a discussion on education at the Towns County Civic Center.

Terry White opened the meeting, introducing the talented group of students who would serve as the welcoming

committee for the lieutenant governor.

Everyone who spoke in Friday's meeting had done so before. Cagle last visited the Movers and Shakers in 2010, and a year ago White gave a talk on the importance of college financial planning, while all four students that led up to Cagle's keynote address had successfully completed the Movers and Shakers' speech and leadership training.

Gabriel Moody, a second-

grade student from Eastgate Life Academy, started the student-run portion of the meeting with a thoughtful invocation, before Towns County High School senior Adam Penland led those gathered in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C.J. Owens, an Eastgate Life Academy senior, performed a lively version of the national anthem on his electric guitar, before TCHS junior Emma

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Happy Birthday, Marine Corps turns 240



By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The United States Marine Corps celebrated its 240th birthday on Tuesday, Nov. 10, and local veterans gathered at Daniel's Steakhouse to share a meal and ceremony together.

Although the celebration of the founding of the Marine Corps is a cheerful occasion, things quickly took a sobering turn when Walt Scott of the Marine Corps League Unicoi

Detachment 783 performed the Prisoner of War Ceremony.

"All Americans can never forget the brave men and women who answered our nation's call and served in the cause of freedom in a special way. There are many, many men still missing who have been presumed dead or have been captured and are still there," said Scott.

He said that Marines rarely allow fellow soldiers to fall into the hands of the

enemy.

"Most of the men who have been killed were actually brought back by Marines who were alive. We never tried to leave anybody behind, whether they were wounded or dead," he said.

Each set piece in the Prisoner of War Ceremony has significance.

"We have a missing hat from a Prisoner of War or Missing in Action, and we also have a Marine hat from Afghanistan. The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call of duty. The single red rose, displayed in the vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing and the loved ones and friends of those Americans who keep the faith, awaiting answers," Scott recited.

"The vase is tied with a yellow ribbon, symbolizing our determination to account for our missing Marines. A slice of lemon is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land. A pinch of salt symbolizes the

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World War II Vet recounts work on the atom bomb

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

At the Towns County Historical Society meeting on Monday, Nov. 9, members received a visit from a distinguished guest, Dr. Richard Schmidtke.

During World War II, Dr. Schmidtke was a member of the Manhattan Project, which engineered the use of atomic bombs against Japan.

As a member of the Army's 9812th Technical Special Engineer Detachment, he participated in many engineering design tasks, including work on the atomic bomb known as Fat Man that was detonated over the Japanese city of Nagasaki.

Schmidtke graduated high school in 1942 and was looking forward to getting an



Dr. Richard Schmidtke engineering degree from the University of Michigan, though he ultimately joined an Army program that allowed him to get an engineering degree faster.

"So what I did, I went

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Foster Children's Christmas Fund accepting sponsors



By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

With Christmas right around the corner, the volunteers of the nonprofit Foster Children's Christmas Fund of Towns and Union County are asking for people to help sponsor local kids for Christmas.

The Foster Children's Christmas Fund is preparing for its 15th year serving Towns and Union counties.

"Sherry Wendt and I had been working and advocating with the foster children and for the foster children, and the Department of Children and Families said they were simply overwhelmed, and asked could

we help them for Christmas for that year," recalled Pat Elliot, one of the Fund's founding members, on the first year of the fund. "We did help them with getting what the children wanted and finding sponsors, and from that it grew, and we have now been doing this totally on its own as a nonprofit for nearly fifteen years."

Some people may not realize that many families

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