

# Towns County Herald

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Cloudy	60 46
Fri: Rain	64 52
Sat: Cloudy	66 54
Sun: Rain	66 50
Mon: Rain	53 35
Tue: Sun	56 40
Wed: Rain	53 38



Upstream Elevation Predicted 12/09/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,920.85
Lake Nottely	1,763.53
Blue Ridge	1,674.68

## INDEX

16 Pages

Arrests.....	2
Church.....	6
Classifieds.....	14
Editorial.....	4
Legals.....	15
Obituaries.....	7

## Sports

Page 10



## Sheriff's Department Toy Drive

See Page 3



## Live Nativity Lower Hightower Church

See page 6



## Vogel Tree Lighting Program

See Page 9



## SPORTS

### BASKETBALL

Tues Dec 8

@ White Co. 6 & 7:30 PM

Fri Dec. 11

vs. Union Co 7 & 8:30 PM

### WRESTLING

Fri Dec. 11

@ Towns County

4:30 PM

## TCSO Christmas parade warms hearts

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Dec. 5, the Towns County Sheriff's Office held its annual Christmas Parade, and with Sheriff Chris Clinton at the head, a line of cars and floats headed out of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and down Highway 515 to the Hiawasse Square.

The parade is representative of the start of the Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund, which seeks to give underprivileged kids toys for Christmas. Anyone participating in the parade is asked to make a donation of toys or money toward the Empty Stocking Fund.

Each year, participants create floats based around a certain theme. This year, the theme was "Christmas in the

Mountains," and each float was brimming with Christmas spirit.

One float in particular was hauled by a bright green Servpro truck and included, to go with the color code, a Grinch and "Whos" from Dr. Seuss' Whoville.

"It's because Servpro is actually green, we came up with the Grinch idea. We're trying to keep the same colors and we're trying to promote everything. We've taken so much pride with this," explained Ruby King, a Servpro employee, who also worked on the float for the North Georgia Academy of Dance.

"We're actually like a little family. That's just how we see it. It was just fun," she said.

"Everybody finally came  
See Parade, Page 8



## Sheriff Clinton: 'crime is down eighth year in a row'

By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

At the regular weekly meeting of the Mountain Movers and Shakers on Friday, Dec. 4, those assembled got updates from professionals in law enforcement and in education.

"In Towns County, consistently over the last eight years, crime has gone down," said Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton. "It's something we're very proud of. That's a testament to our community. I think it's a testament to the



Sheriff Chris Clinton men and women who serve in

the sheriff's office, that do their jobs, they care about you, they actually get out here and work very hard. I appreciate them so much."

He also had good news regarding the sheriff's office budget.

"Once again at the sheriff's office, for eight years in a row we're looking good on the budget, and we're well under again this year. We've found new ways to save money, and I'm very pleased to say as of right now that we're matching the starting pay of neighboring Union County, which has been

See Clinton, Page 8

## Three Dog Night hits Hiawasse Saturday night

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Legendary rock group Three Dog Night is headed to Hiawasse, and fans are in for a show like no other.

Playing Anderson Music Hall at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday, Dec. 12, Three Dog Night will feature new front man vocalist David Morgan, who joined the band following the death of band co-founder and lead vocalist Cory Wells in October.

"I almost feel like we've been around so long, we're kind of like an NFL football team - we're all really good, and we lost one of our great players and teammates," said Danny Hutton, founder of Three Dog Night.

Hutton formed the band more than four decades ago, filling the ranks of Three Dog Night with professional musicians who knew their trades extremely well going in - which is exactly what the group has done with Morgan in 2015.



Three Dog Night

"I just feel like we lost a great player who was traded, and we got a new great player in there," said Hutton. "It's the same team. The songs, I think, are wonderful, and we were always great interpreters of other people's songs, and arrangers, and we're doing the same thing."

Morgan is a veteran of the music business, having toured and recorded with a variety of rock 'n' roll icons throughout his career, including George Martin, Ray Charles, Dolly Parton, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bruce

Hornsby and others.

"He's a great guy, and that's really important," said Hutton of Morgan. "And Cory's family all just had nothing but nice things to say about him. He just fits perfectly with what we're doing. You can't replace a great running back, but you can get another fullback in there, with a different running style that's still major league."

Three Dog Night is known for having crafted hits beloved by multiple generations, and within the music business,

See Concert, Page 8

## Hiawasse lights tree, luminaries for Christmas season



By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Dec. 5, the City of Hiawasse hosted a Christmas tree lighting ceremony complete with ornaments, lights, hot chocolate and luminaries, and the event was a success by all accounts.

"Everything went wonderful. I'm very proud and very happy. I hope it's even better next year," said Hiawasse Mayor Barbara

Mathis after the ceremony was over.

On the cold night, hot chocolate and cookies provided by the Red Cross were very welcome.

After singing by Alan Kendall and Megan Corbin, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus appeared, much to the excitement of children. Santa sat each child on his lap and listened to what they wanted for Christmas.

The most heartfelt part

of the night was the Lighting of the Luminaries, which any citizen of Hiawasse was welcome to light in honor or memory of a loved one. The idea to use luminaries came from Liz Ruf, a volunteer for Enotah CASA, which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate.

"I proposed to them that we participate by doing the luminary event. But the

See Hiawasse Tree, Page 8

## Hilda Thomason a Hall of Famer



Hilda Thomason

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Hilda Thomason became a member of the Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame during its 34th Annual Awards Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 28.

"It's an honor to be inducted," said Thomason, who has been general manager of the

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds since 1995, but has served in one capacity or another for nearly 35 years. "I feel that I have worked for it, and it's nice to have this honor.

"But it also is a very nice honor for the Georgia Mountain Fair, because onstage, several of the different musicians that were inducted that night - I knew a lot of them, but some

See Thomason, Page 8

## Blairsville business donates to Shop With a Cop



Hiawasse Police Chief Jimmy Wright accepts donation from, L-R, Lisa Baxter, Rebecca King and Teresa Lockaby

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Blairsville - The Corridor Mortgage Group of Blairsville made two \$1,000 donations last week to Shop With a

Cop programs, one to the Hiawasse Police Department and one to the Blairsville Police Department.

Hiawasse Police Chief

Jimmy Wright welcomed the

See Shop with a Cop, Page 8

## Highway 66 bridge to be moved next year



By Mason Mitcham  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

At the Young Harris City Council meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 1, those present got an update on several projects ongoing in the city.

One project that Young

Harris City has been working on has to do with fixing the bridge

See Bridge, Page 8

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