

November Student of Month



Rocsane Tabularin

Towns County High School would like to congratulate our November Student of the Month, Rocsane Tabularin, on a job well done. Rocsane is an active member of the Future Business Leaders of America, Beta Club, and the United Community Bank's Junior Board of Directors. Her volunteer work includes helping at the Humane Society, nursing home, and soup kitchens. After high school, Rocsane plans on attending college and majoring in music with a minor in science. TDec8.F1)SH

Stocking Fund, Shop with a Cop need help

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Hard times are making it tough for the Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund.

Each year, the fund attempts to make Christmas a little brighter for local children ages newborn to 12 years old.

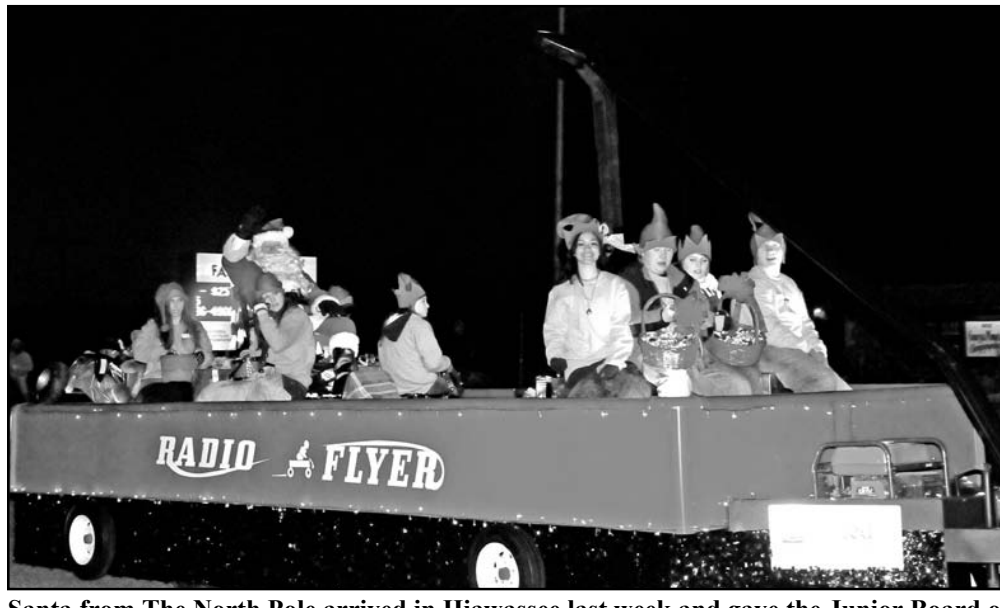
With the economy continuing to stagger, Sheriff Chris Clinton is making an urgent plea for locals to help the charity come through for the hundreds of local children who otherwise wouldn't enjoy Christmas at all.

Each year the Sheriff's Office attempts to provide the joy of Christmas gifts for these children. This effort is only made possible by the help of generous people in the community who donate to this cause. Names of children in need are collected and toys are gathered, Sheriff Clinton said.

Though many local businesses, individuals and civic groups have stepped up to the plate, collecting donations in a downturned economy has been a tough sell this year, the sheriff said.

"We try whenever possible to provide at least one item that the child has specifically asked for," he said. "The toys are then given to the parents of the child to handle Christmas in their families tradition. It is all done in such a way as to protect the dignity of the family and allow them to share in the joy that many of us take for granted."

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Santa from The North Pole arrived in Hiawasse last week and gave the Junior Board of Directors for United Community Bank a lift aboard the UCB Radio Flyer. The Empty Stocking Fund benefited from his arrival. More help is needed for that program and the Hiawasse Police Department's Shop with a Cop program. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

This year has been a tough one for many local families, the sheriff said.

"We are hoping to provide for each child, but we need your help," he said. "If you would like to help us with this effort, or if you know of a family with children that needs help, please contact Vicki Ellis or Heather Whitaker at the Sheriff's Office at (706) 896-4444. I hope that each of you has a blessed and joyous Christmas this year."

Hiawasse Police Chief Jimmy Wright knows what the Sheriff is experiencing this holiday season.

The Chief is finding times just as hard as his department attempts to raise money for children ages 12-16.

Hiawasse Police Department targets this age

group with its third annual Shop with a Cop program.

"It's been tough this year," Chief Wright said. "We understand when folks tell us that they can't do as much as they did last year. We understand when folks say they can't do anything at all. It's just hard to look these kids in the eye and know they're going to do without."

"We identify the children in need through Amy Gibby-Rosser with Towns County Family Connection," Chief Wright said. "Our goal is to spend \$200 a piece on each child and let them spend it on anything that they want to buy."

Last year, the department raised enough money to benefit 40 local children and treat them to a trip to Walmart and pizza via the

Shop with a Cop program.

This year, 2010 has been even more of a hardship for local children as many families continue to struggle in a flat line economy. Many families are able to draw unemployment compensation, but more often than not, it's only enough to cover the family bills.

That's what makes Shop with a Cop such a needed blessing, Chief Wright said.

"More than anything, this is an opportunity to interact with the children and make a difference in their lives," Chief Wright said. "That 12-16 year-old age group is kind of caught in the middle. That's why we make this age group our target."

For details on how to help Shop with a Cop, call (706) 896-2203.

From the Desk of:

Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

Most of us have family traditions that we enjoy during the Christmas season. Families with small children may spend Christmas Eve baking cookies for Santa, or listening to Christmas carols while enjoying eggnog by the fire. As a small child I remember the anticipation of Christmas being so intense. I was in awe and wonder dreaming about what might be inside all those presents wrapped so nicely under the tree. I would just stare at the Christmas tree and day dream about Christmas Day.

For me, even at 42, Christmas is still the most magical time of year. I love Christmas lights and the sounds of

Christmas carols everywhere. The world just seems to be a nicer place during the Christmas season. I love to watch young children open gifts and see their eyes light up with joy. There is no other feeling like the feeling Christmas. While Christmas is about much more than material possessions, the spirit of Christmas is certainly captured in the joy of a child receiving a gift on Christmas morning.

So, what about the children who are less fortunate? Imagine the child whose family has fallen on hard times. Do they wake up to just another day of struggling to make ends meet? Imagine if you were a parent who loved your child, but had lost a job because of the poor economy. I doubt that there would be anything much harder than not being able to provide your child, whom you love, the wonder of Christmas morning. It breaks my heart to think that as the rest of the world enjoys the most blessed day of the year, some families wake to another day of not having enough. While providing toys for these children isn't going to make the rest of their problems go away, I can't help but believe that, at least for a

time, their world becomes a little brighter and things seem a little better than before.

Each year the Sheriff's Office attempts to provide the joy of Christmas gifts for these children. This effort is only made possible by the help of generous people in the community who donate to this cause. Names of children in need are collected and toys are gathered. We try whenever possible to provide at least one item that the child has specifically asked for. The toys are then given to the parents of the child to handle Christmas in their families tradition. It is all done in such a way as to protect the dignity of the family and allow them to share in the joy that many of us take for granted.

This year has been a tough one for many local families. We are hoping to provide for each child, but we need your help. If you would like to help us with this effort, or if you know of a family with children that needs help, please contact Vicki Ellis or Heather Whitaker at the Sheriff's Office at 706-896-4444. I hope that each of you has a blessed and joyous Christmas this year! TDec8.H1)SH

Arrest and Fire Reports

Local law enforcement provides the following information for publication. Names are spelled as they were when received from the law enforcement agencies. It is important to remember that the following individuals have been charged only and are presumed innocent until such time as they are found guilty by a court or enter a guilty plea.

ARREST REPORT	
Towns County Jail	
Sheriff-Chris Clinton	
11/30/10	Melissa Jean Harwood, age 44, Blairsville, GA Probation violation
12/3/10	Cindy Ann Kopec, age 42, Hiawasse, GA Forgery in the first degree, Theft by taking
12/2/10	Jessica Dawn Moneymaker, age 23, Young Harris, GA Obstruction or hindering law enforcement (3 counts), Simple battery, Simple assault (6 counts)
12/3/10	Wilda Lee Ranberger, age 69, Hiawasse, GA Forgery in the first degree, Theft by taking
12/2/10	Jamison Chadwick Williams, age 33, Hiawasse, GA Child support
12/3/10	Jackson Callaway Duckworth, age 35, Demorest, GA DUI - Drugs, Drugs to be kept in original container

Pearl...continued from page 1A

Pearl was assaulted by Japanese aircraft launched from aircraft carriers located 200 miles offshore north of Hawaii.

The air assault consisted of bombers and torpedo planes at a low level. Their mission was to destroy the United States' Pacific Fleet and all military forces stationed in Hawaii.

Following a two-hour assault, the Japanese mission was complete. However, by Sept. 2, 1945, the Japanese brass boarded the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay and unconditionally surrendered all Japanese forces to end World War II.

The Rhind would go on to earn four battle stars dur-

ing the war and eventually made it to Pearl Harbor in May 1945, namely for military exercises before taking part in an attack on Wake Island later in the summer.

Today, Chief Johnson remembers the 69th anniversary of the unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor "by remembering the men and women of the U.S. Military currently serving on foreign soils, fighting for a great cause, that all peoples should be free to pursue life, liberty and justice.

"So the next time you meet a veteran, just take a moment and thank him or her for their service and your freedom," he said. "God Bless America."