

# Towns County Herald

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## Lifelong educator, historian Jerry Taylor leaves board of education

By Mark Smith  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

It's not often that a person devotes his entire life to the betterment of the community in which he lives, and that's exactly what Towns County native Jerry Taylor has done.

As 2018 closed out, Taylor, a lifelong educator and historian, closed out his second term as the Young Harris representative on the Towns County Board of Education.

He chose not to run for a third term because, as he put it, "It's time to take some irons out of the fire. I enjoyed my time on the BOE and I'm leaving it in good hands."

Taylor attended Towns County Schools from 1957

until he graduated in 1969. He went on to graduate from Young Harris College with an Associate of Arts degree in 1971, the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in 1973, and Lincoln Memorial University with an Education Specialist degree in 1999.

In addition to all that academia, Taylor completed further studies at Piedmont College and Georgia College at Milledgeville.

With all that schooling behind him, Taylor could have gone into business or become a highly compensated administrator in a big city somewhere, but that was never his ambition. His heart was in Towns County.

"For 33 years and seven

months, I was a classroom teacher in the Towns County School System, mostly Junior High grades," said Taylor. "Mostly Georgia history as well as other social studies – civics and government, geography, American history, as well as English grammar and literature. After retirement, I taught at Mountain Education Center in Blairsville (for three years)."

In addition to his many years instructing the future of the county and country, Taylor also served on the Towns County Board of Education for eight years.

Among Taylor's other local interests, he is the current Towns County Historian, is a member of the Towns County Historical

Society, and sits on the Old Rock Jail committee.

He is a member of the Library Board and is an Institute for Children's Literature instructor.

Taylor oversees the Organ Loft Museum at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and is the antique musical instruments curator. He is also the Susan B. Harris Chapel organist at Young Harris College and is a hospice volunteer.

"I am involved in the music program and multiple ministries at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, and in many other historical organizations, including the Sons of the American Revolution," said Taylor. "The most pressing

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Jerry Taylor in his last regular Board of Education meeting in December. Photo by Mark Smith

## Union General Hospital welcomes Abigail as first baby of 2019

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

BLAIRSVILLE – Congratulations to Scott and Alicia Rose of Mineral Bluff, who welcomed the newest member of their family and Union General Hospital's first baby of 2019 on New Year's Day.

Alicia gave birth to daughter Abigail Grace Rose at 9:57 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2019. Dr. Benjamin Harris delivered Abigail, and she came into the world weighing 6 pounds, 1 ounce, and measuring 19 and 3/4 inches long.

Technically, Abigail wasn't due until Jan. 10, and Alicia had scheduled an induced birth for Jan. 4. But as everyone knows, babies have a mind of their own when it comes to due dates.

The Roses went to sleep before midnight on New Year's Eve, only to wake up in the early morning hours of New Year's Day in labor.

They labored at home as long as they could before heading to the hospital to have little Abigail, with a hospital admittance time of 8:45 a.m.

Abigail's big sister,



Abigail Grace Rose was born on Jan. 1, 2019, to Scott and Alicia Rose.

Kennedi Noel Rose, is coming up on 3 years old, and she was excited to get to meet her baby sister that day.

The Roses are a family of faith, with both Rose children having Biblically inspired names – Abigail, Grace, Noel – and Scott said the family wanted to thank God for the way things went on New Year's

Day. Two other mothers gave birth to New Year's babies at Union General Hospital, though Abigail was the first of 2019.

For having earned the title of First Baby of the New Year at the hospital, Abigail and her parents received a gift

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## Bradshaw goes over 2018 budget amendments, adopts 2019 budget

By Mark Smith  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw approved a pair of 2018 budget amendments and adopted the tentative 2019 Towns County Budget at a called meeting on Monday, Dec. 31.

The first of the two amendments, done to the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Budget of 2011, effectively pared the SPLOST budget down to actual revenues and expenditures.

Included in these expenditures were intergovernmental distributions of SPLOST monies to the cities of Hiawassee and Young Harris in the amount of \$930,000 each.

The Foster Park debt service, which was paid out of SPLOST funds, amounted to a total principal of \$6.2 million and interest paid in the amount of \$557,999.

"Everything is paid and the money that we have left out of the SPLOST is approximately \$130,000, which we'll be using for the new Fire Department building (in Young Harris)," said Bradshaw.

Bradshaw said that



Cliff Bradshaw

\$130,000 "is not going to do everything down there we want to do, but it's going to do the building, then we'll use inmate labor as we can to finish it."

Of course, the new building will be completed enough initially to house fire trucks and be ready for an emergency, said Bradshaw.

The second 2018 budget amendment approved by Bradshaw that Monday had to do with the county's General Fund.

"Now, on the actual General Fund Amendment, it looks like we're going to come in under budget," said

Bradshaw, to which County Finance Director Andrea Anderson added it would be around "\$10,000 or \$15,000 under."

Continued Anderson, "Revenues – I've tried to amend those to what we actually got. We did get more revenues in than we had budgeted."

And not all revenues and expenditures are in and accounted for yet for 2018, which is why these are just projections at the moment.

It takes time for revenues to be received from the various sources and for expenditures to be approved and paid out.

"We run two months behind all the time," said Bradshaw, adding that this is standard operation and that projections are made using prior history.

"That's why I wait until the last day, that way, you can get as close as you possibly can," said Anderson.

In other called meeting news, Bradshaw approved the tentative 2019 Towns County Budget as presented in a public hearing on Dec. 21.

As previously reported, Bradshaw said he was able to increase the 2019 budget

See Budget, Page 6A

## Commissioner adopts resolution setting cable TV franchise fee rate

By Mark Smith  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw adopted a resolution setting the Towns County cable TV franchise fee rate at 5 percent in a called meeting on Dec. 31, 2018.

Basically, franchise fees offer local governments the means to receive reimbursement from cable companies for the county right-of-way these companies use in delivering their services to customers.

Under the Consumer Choice for Television Act, Towns County is authorized to charge any cable service provider or video service provider operating in its unincorporated areas a franchise fee.

The Consumer Choice for Television Act, or House

See Cable TV, Page 6A



The Towns County Courthouse houses the offices of Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw and others. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

## Chamber, DNR turn old Christmas trees into fish habitats



The individuals pictured here are: DNR Biologist Zach Moran; Young Harris College Biology Professor Johnathan Davis; Towns County Chamber Board Member Brandon Grimsley; Chamber Darrell Fairless; and Crystal Wagner and Candace Lee with the Towns County Chamber. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

By Jarrett Whitener  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Chamber of Commerce partnered with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and other volunteers to drop old Christmas trees into Lake Chatuge on Friday, Jan. 4.

The trees were dropped on top of current live fish habitats that have degraded over the years as a way to provide the fish in the lake with new habitats in which to thrive.

"It is important to do this as a way to keep the lake healthy for the fish," said

Chamber President Candace Lee. "We use the Christmas trees as a natural habitat, and then they have also put in a manmade habitat that is just as effective as the natural habitat, which doesn't last as long as the manmade."

"So, to make this effective, you have to drop the trees collected this year over the old habitat that was dropped years ago."

Trees for the habitat project are collected through community donations as a way for individuals to get rid of their trees after Christmas and also help the ecosystem in Lake Chatuge.

This year, around 20 trees were donated to drop into the lake, which was less than the group wanted, but still a decent amount for the short notice given to the public.

"We didn't give people a whole lot of time this year, we just put this together at the last minute," said Lee. "If we do this again, we are going to make sure that we get it out into the paper early so enough people know to save their tree after Christmas, and to have an area where they can drop it up to two or three weeks."

"Since the first year we did it, the number of trees has

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## Hiawassee man arrested for attempted burglary, criminal trespass

By News Special  
Towns County Herald

Deputies with the Towns County Sheriff's Office responded in reference to an attempted break-in at a residence on Jack Creek Road in Hiawassee on Dec. 30, 2018.

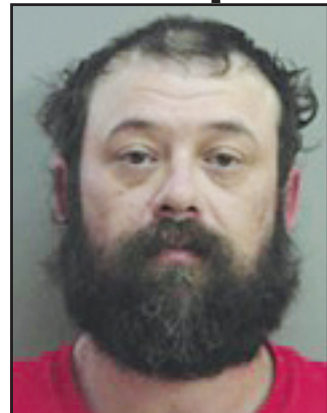
The victim provided deputies with a photo of the suspect from a security camera at the residence, and the reported incident was turned

over to TCSO Investigators for follow-up.

Investigators quickly identified and arrested the suspect without incident on Monday, Dec. 31.

William Wade Scott, 42, of Hiawassee, was arrested and charged with attempted burglary and criminal trespass.

The case will be forwarded to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution.



William Wade Scott

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