

Library getting 3D printer; board discusses tech updates

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Upcoming technological advancements for the libraries of Towns County carried the conversation at the quarterly meeting of the Towns County Library Board on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

In the coming weeks, the Towns County Public Library will be the proud owner of a new 3D printer from Dremel DigiLab, thanks to a technology grant through the Georgia Public Library Service.

This piece of technology is groundbreaking for TCPL

and will feature built-in models that will allow patrons to create structures without the need of access to a computer to do so. TCPL Branch Manager Debbie Phillips is beyond excited to have this new piece of technology in the building, and she's ready for patrons to use it.

And the fact that this \$3,500 piece of equipment came free of charge is an added bonus.

"The Georgia Public Library Service wanted to have a 3D printer at every system in the state of Georgia," said Vince Stone, Mountain Regional Library System Direc-

tor. "Well, Mountain Regional didn't have one, so we chose to accept it, and we chose to put it here in Hiawassee because of Debbie's interest and her being so close to the school.

"This is going to be a new unit here. It's cool technology and we're excited about it."

As of right now, Phillips and her staff are patiently awaiting the printer's arrival, which Phillips says should be by the end of January.

Access to the printer will be available to all TCPL patrons and will be free of charge.

But the Towns County Public Library is not the only library in the system getting new equipment.

In fact, all four libraries within the Mountain Regional Library System will now have access to mobile Wi-Fi hotspot units for checkout.

"This is going to be a really cool thing," said Stone. "If you have a student who is working on a project that has to be done online, and they're remote and they don't have access to the internet, they can come down to either of the libraries in the county and check out this device.

"They can take it home and use it for their phone, computer or whatever, as long as it's a mobile device that can access



Mountain Regional Library System Director Vince Stone with Towns County Public Library Board Member Joan Crothers in a Jan. 9 meeting. Photo/Lily

the internet. Anyone who is on vacation here and doesn't have internet can check it out. If someone is going out of town, they can check this out."

Each unit will need access to an AT&T wireless tower, and each device comes with an unlimited data plan, instructions on how to use it, and an adaptor for charging.

The units can be checked out by patrons for no charge and can be kept for a week at a time. At this time, there is not going to be a waitlist for the mobile units.

If the unit is not returned

on time, there will be a \$3/day late fee. If the device is not returned to the library a week after the due date, it will be turned off.

And if the unit is lost, broken, or never returned, the replacement fee will be \$150 per device.

"This is all about giving access to the public to more information and more technology," said Stone. "We're very happy to be able to offer this. It's going to be a good asset to the libraries and to the community."

There will be one mobile

hotspot at Towns County Public Library, one at Mountain Regional Library, two at Union County Public Library and two at Fannin County Public Library.

Also during the meeting, Young Harris City Council Library Board Liaison Jared Champion became chairman of the Towns County Library Board.

Champion had previously been nominated as vice chairman, however, he is filling in as chairman after the passing of previous board chair Ernie Seckinger.



Barbara Hale

Transfer and recycling station to offer Friday hours

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Come Feb. 9, the Towns County Transfer Station will start opening regularly on Fridays to better accommodate the needs of Towns County residents.

Monday through Thursday hours will remain the same, running from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Currently, the transfer station is closed on Fridays, but starting Feb. 9, the station will be open from 8 a.m. to noon on Fridays.

Saturday hours are changing slightly from the current 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. open time, to the new hours of 8 a.m. to noon effective Feb. 10, and the station will remain closed on Sundays.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw felt it important to give residents another chance to get their garbage in during the week.

"There were a lot of people asking the commissioner to open the transfer station on Friday," said Andrea Anderson, Towns County Finance Director. "So, he decided to start with just a half a

day on Friday and see how it goes. But the public is why we decided to do it."

For Towns County residents, the cost of bringing a 13-gallon bag to the transfer station is \$1, a 30-gallon bag is \$1.50, or garbage can be charged by weight, which is \$3.20 per 100 pounds and \$47 per ton of trash.

Tires brought to the transfer station are separated into four different categories: vehicle tire with rim, vehicle tire without rim, tractor tire with rim and tractor tire without rim.

The cost to dispose of a vehicle tire with a rim is \$8 per tire and \$4 per tire without a rim. For a tractor tire, the cost is \$16 with a rim and \$10 without a rim.

For those who are waste conscious, there are plenty of recycling opportunities at the transfer station as well.

Water bottles, soda bottles, milk jugs and detergent bottles are accepted for plastic recycling if lids are removed, and paper products like newspapers and magazines are also accepted, as well as corrugated cardboard.

There is no charge to recycle these items.



Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw

And do not forget the latest recycling facility at the transfer station, the new electronic recycling bins.

According to Commissioner Bradshaw, these bins have already been a huge success among residents, and he hopes to see their use continue to increase.

Electronic recycling is of no charge to the customer and is open to any and all who use the transfer station.

The electronic recycling bins are available for the following items:

All types of computers, servers and laptops; computer electronics components; graphic cards; hard drives; mother boards; power supplies; RAM memory; audio and visual equipment;

Lithium-ion batteries; calculators; cell phones; VCR, DVD and Blu-ray players; copy and fax machines; monitors; printers and scanners; video games and consoles; stereo equipment;

Thermostats; televisions; telephones and modems; electronic typewriters; keyboards and mice; data center electronics; telecom equipment; medical electronics; docking stations; electronic testing equipment and microwave dish electronics.

S.A.F.E. needs volunteers

S.A.F.E. (Support in Abusive Family Emergencies): we are in need of volunteers for our Thrift stores and our Shelter! We need help in every area. Thrift store, mentoring, newsletters, childcare, life coaching, transporting, crafting, shelter repair, computer lessons, whatever skills you may have!

(All volunteers must submit to a criminal background check and depending upon your area of interest, may be required to obtain fingerprinting at our cost.)

You can make a difference in your community. Our purpose is to help those who

have been affected by abuse. Any time, any skill can help us achieve our goals. If you can help in any way please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Robbin O'Neill at 706-379-1901.

S.A.F.E. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides services to domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse in Towns, and Union counties. For information on available workshops or to volunteer for S.A.F.E. please contact (706) 379-1901. If you are a victim of Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault or know someone who is, call S.A.F.E. for confidential assistance 24 hours a day, (706) 379-1901. NT(jan17,22)CA

Homecoming...from Page 1A



The 2018 TCHS Basketball Homecoming Court, with 2017 Homecoming Queen Emma Kate Ledford, center. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

it's a part of growing up and being a senior, and just some of the life experiences you go through in high school.

"But as a parent watching your baby girl grow up, it's hard, because you know she's probably 70 days away from graduation. She's been my sidekick since she was born, so it's going to be hard."

Rounding out the 2018 Basketball Homecoming Court were seniors Kyra Tallent, Jenna Cole and Sarah Bastian.

Underclassmen Princesses were Anya Bury, Natalie Smith and Ella Bury.

2017 Basketball Homecoming Queen Emma Kate Ledford returned for an evening from her freshman year experience at Mercer University to assist with the 2018 Homecoming festivities.

"It's fun to be back," said Ledford. "I wasn't sure what to expect, but I enjoyed getting to see everybody again."

"Things are going great (at Mercer), I'm loving it. It's a little harder than I thought it was going to be, but I really like it."

Homecoming festivities took place during the halftime of the boys' basketball game, and also during a pep rally toward the end of school on Friday.

The pep rally served as a fun way to get all four grades together at the high school, and included activities that pitted faculty and staff against students.

Clearly a crowd favorite, two educators received pies to the face for a school fundraiser - Brian Hunnicutt and Rachel Surles - and students competed against their elders in a sort of high school versus old school basketball shooting competition.

Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong even took part in the competition, squaring off against his son Evan to see who could sink the most 3-pointers.

"This gives the kids a chance to come out here, get excited about the game tonight, get to see the players come out here and shoot a little bit," said Dr. Berrong. "It's great to get the faculty involved, too, just to get the students involved with the staff on a different level than in the classroom. So, it's fantastic for everybody."

Student athletes from basketball and wrestling also received recognition in the Jan. 12 afternoon pep rally, and the Towns County Football



Towns County High School students Erika Spano and Trent Bradshaw won the 2018 Basketball Homecoming Pep Rally Faculty/Student Shootout. Photo/Lowell Nicholson.



TCHS senior Dalton Key applying a pie to the face of teacher and basketball coach Brian Hunnicutt. The event was a school fundraiser that culminated in the Jan. 12 pep rally pieing. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Cheerleaders performed a new routine for their peers.

Former commissioner and school superintendent Bill Kendall attended the Homecoming Games with his family that Friday evening, and he remembers when Basketball Homecoming began because he was Towns County's basketball

coach at the time.

"As it started out, there was a lot of interest in the old classmates coming back," said Kendall. "Then, they got the students involved in the Homecoming Court, the Queen and all that, and now it's something the students look forward to doing."