

# Towns County Herald

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## Iwo Jima veteran Bud Johnson spotlights upcoming anniversary



Officer "Bud" Johnson, retired U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer  
YOUNG HARRIS – Veterans of Towns County will be hosting a ceremony on Monday, Feb. 20, at the

Towns County Recreation and Conference Center to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of Iwo Jima, on Feb. 19, 1945.

"Seventy-two years ago, we landed on Iwo Jima, an

island in the Pacific," said Bud Johnson, retired U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer and beloved Towns County resident. "Monday, the 20th of February, at 2 p.m. at our conference center by the Iwo Jima statue memorial, we'll be holding a ceremony in remembrance of our fallen soldiers and of all those who fought."

The Battle of Iwo Jima would prove to be one of the most calamitous battles in American history. From Feb. 19, 1945, to March 26, 1945, American forces suffered more than 26,000 casualties on the island, and nearly 7,000 soldiers lost their lives in the service of liberty and freedom for everyone back in the states and around the world.

During the battle alone, more than 6,000 American soldiers lost their lives, and more than 19,000 were wounded, proving to be a battle that no

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This photo was taken during the Nov. 11, 2015, dedication of the Iwo Jima Monument at Foster Park. Towns County has a rich history of honoring its veterans, and the Iwo Jima Monument is just one example of that community support.

## City Council votes to redraft overlay district in Young Harris



Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer  
YOUNG HARRIS – Plans to rework the overlay district for a Young Harris College construction project have been of the utmost

priority for the Young Harris City Council during the last six months.

During the council's monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7, the council took a step forward in the process to rework the ordinance variance regarding building height restrictions within the overlay district.

A few months ago, the city attempted to receive an exemption from the county that would pertain to a new structure aimed toward expanding YHC housing facilities for on-campus students. Former Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall refused the request, explaining that such an exemption could have a ripple effect on the future topography of the county with an influx of

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## Quilts of Valor members honor veterans



These 10 men received Quilts of Valor at the Historical Union County Courthouse on Saturday, Feb. 11.

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

BLAIRSVILLE – Ten area veterans received Quilts

of Valor in a special ceremony conducted by the women who run the group, held on Saturday, Feb. 11, inside the sheriff's Union County Courthouse.

"We are Quilt of Valor members and veterans who have been touched by war with a Quilt of Valor," said

See Valor, Page 8A

## Rogers places fifth in state as wrestling season ends



Towns County Indian Blaine Rogers finished fifth place in the GHSA Traditional State Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 11, pictured here second from the left.

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Three Towns County Indians traveled to the Macon

Coliseum to compete in the GHSA Traditional Wrestling State Championship on Friday, Feb. 10, and Saturday, Feb. 11.

And while all three young men wrestled their hearts out, only one of them, sophomore

See Wrestling, Page 6A

## TCSO K-9 Deputy Hunter meets and greets residents

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Towns County Sheriff Clinton and Deputy Jay McCarter shared the ins and outs of the county's K-9 Unit with area locals at the Mountain Aovers and Shakers weekly meeting at Mary's Southern Grill on Friday, Feb. 10.

Sheriff Clinton presented Officer McCarter to the group, explaining what exactly Officer McCarter and his canine companion, Hunter, do for not only the sheriff's office, but for the county.

"Every year over the last nine years, we've busted at least more than double the highest year on record making drug busts," said Sheriff Clinton. "A big part of that is

See K-9, Page 6A



Towns County Sheriff's Deputy Jay McCarter and his newest sidekick, K-9 Deputy Hunter, demonstrate just how a drug sniffing dog gets the job done.

## Hiawassee adopts four of five ordinances, signs in March



New Hiawassee City Attorney Thomas Mitchell handing out copies of the ordinances the council ended up passing on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

See Ordinances, Page 6A

## 4-H'ers seeking help to afford summer camp opportunity

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County 4-H students have already had the District Project Achievements to electing student councils, and Towns County 4-H Extension Associate Andrew Smith hopes to make the year even better with the opportunity to attend summer camp.

Students have the chance to attend camp at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in

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Here's Smith with his fourth-grade elected officers at Towns County Elementary School.

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**Fire Board Meeting**  
Feb. 17th  
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**Planning Commission Work Session**  
Feb. 20th  
See page 3A

**City of Hiawassee forming 3 new Committees**  
See page 3A

**Basketball Boys 1st Round State Tournament**  
Sat. Feb 18th vs. Schley County  
Time TBA