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one would ever forget. Although the fight was gruesome and severe casualties were suffered on both sides, the Japanese defeat was something in which American soldiers were certain. Brave American soldiers outnumbered the Japanese troops and had complete control of air power, leading to no escape or retreatment for the Japanese. After Iwo Jima, Japanese casualties were more than 19,000, with a little over 200 captives during the siege. When many Americans recall the Battle of Iwo Jima, an iconic image comes to mind, that of Joe Rosenthal's Associated Press photograph of five U.S. Marines raising Old Glory atop of Mount Suribachi, after the battle was

won. It is now one of the most recognizable and evocative images to come out of any war in American history. A sculpture designed after the photograph made its way to Arlington County, Virginia, and was dedicated as the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial) on Nov. 10, 1954. Johnson, a World War II Veteran of the Navy, was aboard a ship stationed just offshore on the day the flag was raised at Iwo Jima. On Nov. 11, 2015, Towns County received its own Iwo Jima Memorial, unveiled at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center by former Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall. "I remember the

conversation I had with Bill Kendall about six or seven years ago," said Johnson, speaking in last Friday's meeting of the Mountain Movers and Shakers. "There's two survivors here, Todd Kimsey and myself, both Navy, that survived the Battle of Iwo Jima. "He (Kendall) asked me one day, he said, 'You and Todd were at Iwo Jima,' and I said, 'Yes sir,' and that's all he said. Then, from that conversation, he had that memorial built. Come up and look at it, it's gorgeous." During the ceremony on Feb. 20, there will be veterans from all branches of services and all walks of life present to pay their respects to the soldiers of Iwo Jima. The event is open to the public, and all who wish to attend are welcome to partake in the ceremony.

Young Harris...from Page 1A

taller buildings. Since the denied request, the council and Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby have been working toward a solution. On Tuesday, the council voted to amend the property within the overlay district. As it stands, the overlay district is split into two separate sections, District A and District B. Up until this point, District A has consisted of the YHC primary campus, and District B has been the property across the street, located on the intersection of Main Street and Murphy Street. According to Mayor Gibby, the overlay district was originally drafted for Young Harris to provide growth within the core campus of YHC. "The overlay district is what the city did for the college," said Mayor Gibby. "This was so the college, especially internally in the old part of campus where most of the buildings are, could have a little more leeway in building their buildings. "Also, they wouldn't have to have so many setbacks so they could build them closer together." When the overlay district is amended, both districts will be encompassed in District A, including the 4.017 acres of District B, where YHC intends to build, meaning the area in question will no longer be burdened with a height restriction that would deny the construction. "The way it is set up now, Zone A is the center of campus and Zone B is the property on Highway 76," said City Attorney Marvin Harkins. "Mechanically, how you would work through this, you can either strike through the 40-foot restriction and replace it with a 55-foot restriction in Zone B, or you could redefine what is A and B. "That's the mechanics of redrafting the overlay. Determining which you want to do becomes more of a philosophical question." Because District A lies inside the YHC proper campus, the height restriction is 55 feet, whereas District B has a height restriction of 40 feet. However, once the overlay district is amended, both properties will have the same height restriction. As long as YHC abides by those restrictions, as well as the required 50 feet from all residential homes and 50 feet from the centerline of Highway 76, all construction endeavors on the property will be in compliance with the ordinance. Rather than amend only the height restriction, the council decided to redefine the perimeters of District A in anticipation for any other



Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw at the Feb. 7 regular meeting of Mayor Gibby and Young Harris City Council.

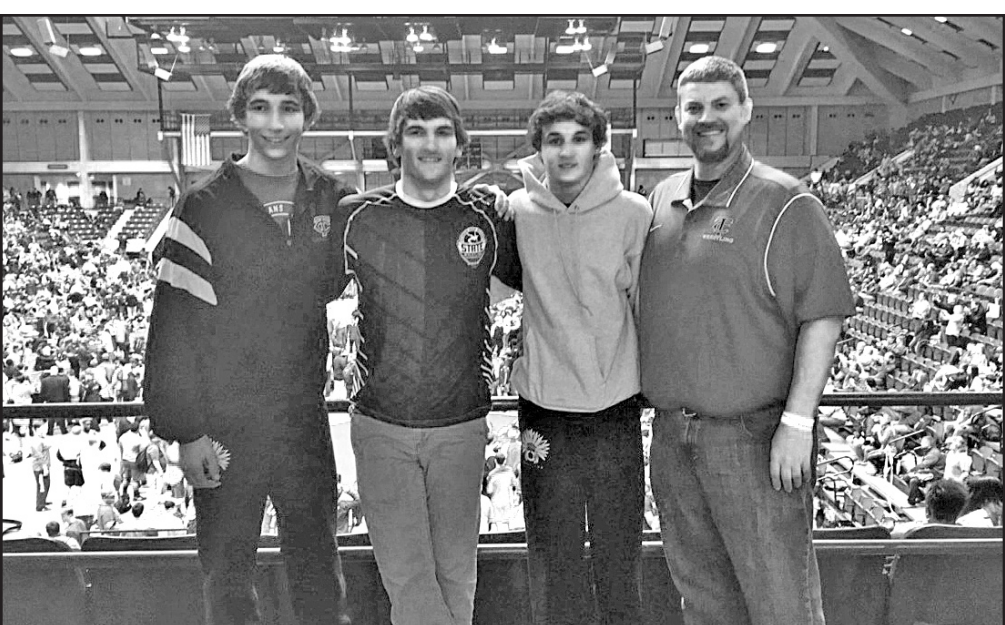


Councilmen Matt Miller and Jared Champion



New Young Harris City Attorney Marvin Harkins

Wrestling...from Page 1A



Indian Grapplers Blaine Rogers, Nick Shook, Kaine Hoffman and Indians Wrestling Head Coach Jeff Stowers at the state tournament in Macon over the weekend.

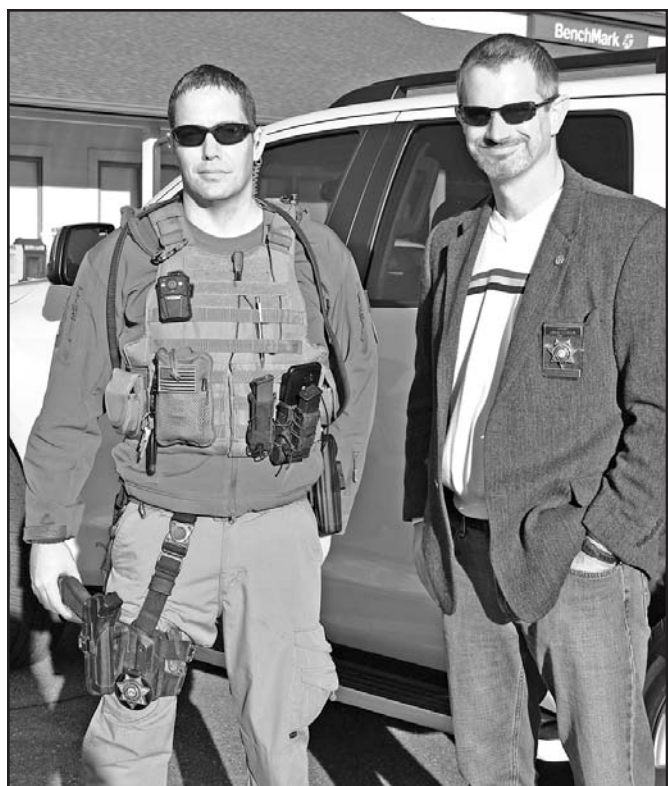
Blaine Rogers, walked away with a medal for Fifth Place. Senior Nick Shook and Junior Kaine Hoffman also competed in the big show, and each faced fierce competition and came close to winning their matches. "We did okay," said Indians Wrestling Head Coach Jeff Stowers. "We didn't have our best tournament. When you get down there, there's only eight kids in a bracket, and everybody's good. "So, we wrestled okay, we didn't wrestle great. Blaine wound up with a stomach bug on Friday, so he started throwing up halfway through his first match and threw up all day long, so he lost to the kid in the first round by 2, and he should have beaten that kid - if he'd have been healthy, he'd have beaten him." Fortunately, Rogers rested that morning and recovered enough to win his next match that afternoon, which helped him to secure his medal in the tournament. "There's nothing like it to get down there," said Coach Stowers. "If you get down there, you're one of the best eight in

the state in your weight class, so that's always a challenging thing. Everybody's good, and it's just one of those things, you can't afford to make little mistakes. "When you do, those people can capitalize on them, so things that you might have gotten away with during the year you don't get away with down there. And it happens to everybody. There were state champs getting beat right and left." With Rogers' Fifth Place finish, the Indians have placed with at least one wrestler in the state traditional tournament since the program first began 13 years ago, and Stowers is proud of his athletes as usual. "It says that our kids are willing to put in the time and willing to do the work, for the most part, and have achieved success at the state level," said Stowers. "There's a lot to be said for consistency. "They get the same message in middle school they get in the high school, we haven't changed coaches every two years like other programs have. So, a kid who grows up in our program grows up hearing

the same thing year after year. "And hopefully by the time they've gotten to high school, they've embraced what we do and they can do it well. The kids that do it well are successful with it. There's some areas that we struggle in, and we're going to keep working on those. But for the most part, we're competitive." The Indians finished their dual match regular season at 16-8, which is another testament to the amount of hard work put in - it's not every program that finishes their season with such a convincingly positive record. "For those kids that do it, I think they come out the other side better people," said Coach Stowers. "They understand what sacrifice means, they know what it means to work and achieve goals, and they know what it means to work and try to achieve a goal and fall short. "They understand that not everything that you try to do in life are you going to be completely successful at, but it doesn't mean that you don't try to do it. That's the great thing about wrestling - it rewards kids that work, and it punishes kids that don't."

K-9...from Page 1A

having the right people and the right tools. "We're proud to have Jay McCarter. He's a go-getter, a hard worker, and he does a really good job, both he and his partner, Hunter." Hunter is a 20-month-old Belgian Malinois that the county purchased several months ago for \$10,000. Before coming to Towns County, Hunter underwent six months of training, learning how to locate illegal substances, track and assist in arrests, as well as provide officer protection and apprehension. McCarter and Hunter then continued training, learning how to work together as a unit for a total of 40 hours before going out into the field. McCarter works with Hunter 16 hours every month to make sure both he and Hunter are providing the best services to the community and department as possible. Since Hunter joined the force, he has more than reimbursed the sheriff's office for the money spent on him, bringing in more than \$300,000 worth of illegal substances and paraphernalia, and he's been of assistance in numerous arrests for drug dealers throughout the county. "Recently, because of Jay and Hunter, we got a dope dealer off the streets," said Sheriff Clinton. "This guy was a one-stop shop. I've seen a lot of folks with more drugs, but I've never seen an individual dealing in that many different kinds of drugs. "It was basically, if you could name a drug, he was selling it. Fortunately, we got him off the streets. We don't need that poison out there." According to Sheriff Clinton, while these arrests



Deputy Jay McCarter and Sheriff Chris Clinton.

and confiscations are important for the sheriff's office, what matters most to him is being able to successfully remove these temptations from the streets of Towns County. "There wasn't as many things to worry about in 1980s Towns County when I grew up," said Sheriff Clinton. "These kids out there now, they have to deal with kids selling heroin, date rape drugs, ecstasy, mushrooms, pills, just about everything you can think of. "That didn't go on in 1980s Towns County. These kids are really facing a one-time mistake. A one-time mistake for a teenager now could mean they die. The ones who live, it's a battle they have to deal with. That concerns me. It really bothers me." To round out the morning,

McCarter and Sheriff Clinton brought Hunter into the parking lot to meet and greet with the citizens. Hunter then showed off his skills by sniffing out a post-it note McCarter hid on the police car that had been in the same container as an illegal substance. Within seconds of being instructed by McCarter to begin tracking, Hunter found the paper and quickly sat down, signaling to his handler that he had found the item. "The toughest guy on the force is the K-9 handler," said Sheriff Clinton. "We appreciate both of them, both the handler and the dog, so much." Like most animals in the K-9 program, Hunter will work with TCSO for six to eight years before retiring to a nice life with McCarter and his family.

Ordinance...from Page 1A

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Hiawassee City Council adopted four ordinances in their Feb. 7 regular meeting with Mayor Barbara Mathis, including the Alcohol Ordinance, Ethics Ordinance, Derelict and Blighted Building Ordinance, and the Derelict and Blighted Building Ad Valorem. The council had been hoping to adopt all five of the ordinances that had been discussed in the well-attended Jan. 26 public hearing, in which the ordinances were presented and laid out by the councilmembers themselves. Only the Signs Ordinance was pushed back to the March meeting, due to the many issues surrounding the sheer number and variety of signs, as well as the proximity of free-speech concerns. All but the Alcohol Ordinance was modeled after example ordinances from the Georgia Municipal Association. The Alcohol Ordinance was modeled after a combination of a previously unused version and the Young Harris Alcohol Ordinance, with a few exceptions carved out for the establishment of brew pubs and farm wineries. Also, the council decided to allow licensed restaurants to permit the brown bagging of wine, of course following the guidelines within the ordinance. Hours for the sale of package beer and wine will run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 12:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Sunday, with a prohibition on Christmas Day sales. As for hours of operation for liquor by the drink, restaurants will be able to sell between the hours of 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through

for all public entities in the county. "I wanted to come over and meet all of you guys," said Commissioner Bradshaw. "I wanted to let all of you know that we're here. If we can do anything to help you in any way, then we want to do that. "I'll say the same thing to you guys that I said to the City of Hiwassee, we all want to do what's right for our county. Sometimes we may have disagreements, but as long as we're all in it for the right reasons, then we can agree to disagree and shake hands when it's all over. We all want to do what's best for the county." within compliance, the millage rate will return to standard. Also in the meeting, City Engineer Don Baker brought the council up to speed on the ongoing water meter replacement program. The city is having trouble locating some 200 meters in the ground for various reasons, such as overgrowth, and some of the meters in need of replacement are turning out to be of the 1-inch variety instead of the 3/4-inch newer meters. Baker also said that the city may not be able to receive reimbursement for the cost of a pavilion that will be going in Mayor's Park. Grant money was supposed to cover the cost of the pavilion, but it was purchased by the city last year, while the paperwork for the grant was signed in 2017. Fortunately, Baker thinks the grant money can go toward the cost of installing bathrooms at the park, which is something they were looking to do eventually anyway. Toward the end of the public portion of the meeting, Councilwoman Liz Ordiales raised the idea of starting a planning committee. Two residents in attendance volunteered for the committee, and the city attorney announced that there was a difference between a planning committee and what the charter called a planning commission, which would need to be established by ordinance. The council also approved a resolution adopting the Carl Vinson Compensation Study, which will guide the city and its employees in all matters concerning starting pay and incremental raises moving forward. Following an executive session, the council voted to adjourn. The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, March 7, at 6 p.m. in Hiwassee City Hall.