

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, March 29, 2017

FBLA students advance to national competition in California

By Cadence Nichols
FBLA Secretary
NEWS SPECIAL

Following terrific performances at state, eight Towns County High School students will compete at the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California, this June.

Georgia Future Business Leaders of America received the State Leadership Conference and Competitive Events at the UGA Classic Center on March 12 through March 14.

Over 30 members from Towns County FBLA competed in 27 different individual, skill and performance business events.

TCHS was very successful, with 16 competitors finishing in the Top 10 of their event, and from those, eight competitors will represent Georgia at the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim on June 28 through

July 3.

At a recent awards ceremony, senior member Nick McConnell was awarded the Who's Who in Georgia FBLA Award and received a FBLA Who's Who Scholarship, both of which were presented by Monty Rhodes, Executive Director of Georgia FBLA.

Mrs. Melissa McConnel, who has been an FBLA adviser for Towns County FBLA for 25 years, received the 2017 Georgia Advisor of the Year Award.

Towns County FBLA also received the Market Share Award and the Gold Seal Chapter Award.

After months of preparation, the Awards Ceremony was the pinnacle of the conference.

The Awarding of Top 10 Winners from Towns County High School included:

Makenzie Carroll in Word Processing; Kendall

Floyd in Word Processing; Hannah Whitehead in Business Law; Jackson Taylor in Computer Applications; Nick Shook in Spreadsheet Applications; Kendall Floyd in Public Speaking I; Nick McConnell in Who's Who in FBLA; Nick Shook in Spreadsheet Applications; Chase Williams in Database Design and Applications; Cadence Nichols in Computer Applications; Nick McConnell in Economics; The team of Emily Williams and Taylor Cornett in Business Presentation; the team of Cara Galloway and Sara Perry in Church and Sara Perry in Publication Design; and the team of Will De Vries and Nick Shook in Entrepreneurship.

Other competitors that advanced from region to state competition were:

Will De Vries in Business Communications; Tia

See FBLA, Page 5A



Towns County High School FBLA State Leadership Conference Winners

Nelms and EMC board talk fiber, open board meetings

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Debt is down, open board meetings are coming, and fiber-optic internet is a work in progress.

Those are just a few of the messages communicated to the membership of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC during a town hall meeting at North Georgia Technical College on Thursday, March 23.

Another town hall meeting is coming up in Towns County on Thursday, April 13, at 6 p.m. in the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center at 150 Foster Park Rd. in Young Harris.

The EMC Board of Directors, General Manager Jeremy Nelms and other EMC employees met with a small gathering of members last



BRMEMC Board Members Steven Phillips, Charles Jenkins and Roy Perren share a laugh with members in the Thursday, March 23, Town Hall meeting at North Georgia Technical College in Blairsville.

Thursday to take questions and deliver updates on the corporation.

Recently elected Board

Member Cory Payne opened the meeting with an invocation, followed by a recitation of the

See EMC, Page 5A

GDOT to hold April 6 meeting on four-lane expansion

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Georgia Department of Transportation is aiming for the year 2020 to start construction on a project to widen Georgia 515/US 76 to four lanes between Blairsville and Young Harris, according to GDOT documents.

GDOT officials will hold a "Location and Design Public Hearing Open House" at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center in Young Harris on Thursday, April 6, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Rec Center is located at 150 Foster Park Rd. in Young Harris.

Residents are invited to attend the open house to view the current plans and leave comments that could potentially affect the outcome of the project.

All told, the state



A recent GDOT Public Information Open House in Blairsville on Feb. 21.

designated project will cost around \$100 million, and will widen SR 515/US 76

starting at Young Harris Street in Blairsville, across from the

See GDOT, Page 5A

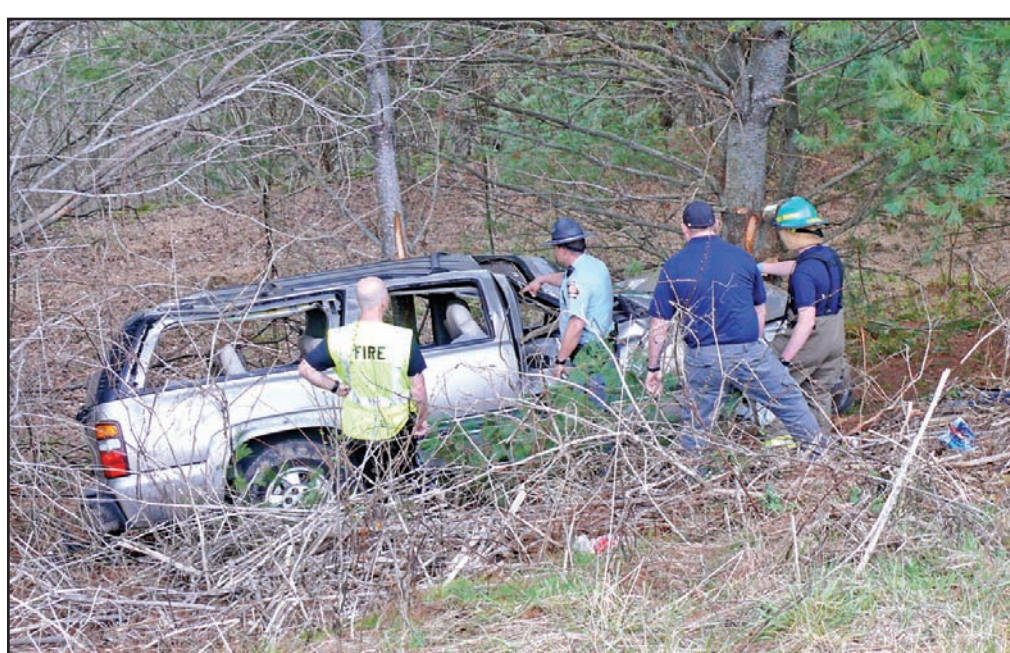
Hiawassee man dies in Blairsville car crash

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
Editor

BLAIRSVILLE—A 28-year-old Hiawassee man died Saturday as a result of injuries sustained during a one-vehicle accident on Georgia 515 in Union County, according to the Georgia State Patrol.

Trooper First Class Joshua Hedden was dispatched at approximately 11 a.m. on March 25 to a reported crash on GA 515 near BW Ranch Road, TFC Hedden said.

"The driver of the vehicle, a 2002 Chevrolet Suburban, was traveling west on SR 515," Hedden said. "The driver, Mr. James Drow, for an unknown reason, traveled into the left westbound lane of SR 515. Mr. Drow overcorrected his steering in an attempt



James Drow's vehicle flipped several times, ending up over the guardrail on Georgia 515. Photo/Frank Uhle

See Accident, Page 5A

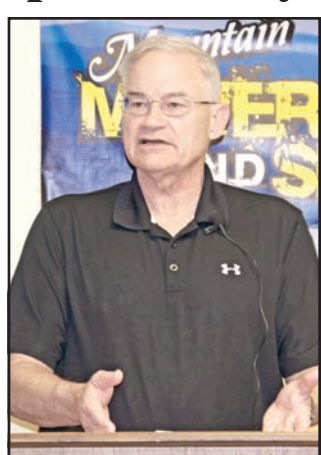
Van Vliet gives talk on economic development study

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Dr. John Van Vliet, professor of Young Harris College, shared a recent economic development study with the Mountain Movers and Shakers in the group's weekly meeting at Mary's Southern Grill on Friday, March 24.

According to Van Vliet, seniors from the Young Harris College Institute for Leadership, Business and Public Policy recently conducted a public opinion survey to determine the effectiveness of economic development offices in the region.

The survey portion of the study, completed by Kerry Ostrowski and Ramin Varnhorn,



Dr. John Van Vliet, Professor of Young Harris College

was presented in full to Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw after its completion

See Vliet, Page 5A

Paul Smith to serve as acting Hiawassee police chief

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Due to an illness, Hiawassee Police Chief Arvel Walls will be experiencing an extended absence from his position as head of the Hiawassee Police Department.

Hiawassee PD's very own Lt. Paul Smith has been authorized to serve in the capacity of acting police chief until further notice.

That authorization came from Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis on Friday, March 24.

"We're going to continue



Paul Smith, Acting Hiawassee Police Chief



Arvel Walls, Hiawassee Police Chief

STAR Student Ledford chooses Housley as STAR Teacher

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School senior Marshall Ledford was recently named Towns County's systemwide STAR Student for the 2016-2017 school year.

As with each STAR Student before him, Ledford named a teacher whom he felt played an instrumental role in his education.

For Ledford, that teacher was TCHS Yearbook teacher Mandy Housley.

When asked why he chose Housley, Ledford said that he could not think of a more deserving teacher to share the incredible honor with,

See STAR, Page 6A



TCHS 2017 STAR Teacher Mandy Housley and STAR Student Scott Ledford

4 Sections 20 Pages
Lake Levels
Blue Ridge 1,672.31
Chatuge 1,919.53
Nottely 1,764.97

Inside
Arrests 2A
Chamber 3B
Church 4C
Classifieds 2D
Opinion 4A
Legals 3D
Obits 5C
Sports 1C

Easter Egg Hunt
TC Rec Park
April 15th
See page 1C

Pickleball Tournament
Lakeside Pickleball Courts
April 22nd
See page 1C

Fire Board Meeting
March 31st
See page 3A

Baseball
Wed. vs. Chestatee 5:30 PM
Fri vs. Providence 5:30 PM
Soccer
Tues @ Union Co 4 & 6 PM
Thurs vs. Union Co 5 & 7 PM