

Towns County Herald

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Williams resigns from school board after moving out of Macedonia Precinct

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Towns County Board of Education Member Robert Williams, who started his second term on the school board in January, resigned from this post on April 2.

Williams has been elected twice to School Board Post 1, located in the Macedonia Precinct, and he won most recently in the May 22, 2018, Nonpartisan General Election.

The reason he resigned is change of address.

"We're required by the state to file our resignation of our precinct," said Williams. "Even though we vote on it countywide, if you move out of your precinct, you have to resign."

"I'm building a new house in the City of Hiwassee. I sold my house on Lovingood Road on Fodder Creek, so technically, I don't own that property anymore, even though I haven't moved

in a new house yet."

Williams is currently staying with his daughter on Bell Creek Road while his new home is under construction, and he hopes to move into the new house by the middle of May.

"I enjoyed being on the board, and I enjoyed my four years plus a couple of months," said Williams. "This caught me off guard, because we weren't planning on moving when I ran for re-election, so this came up after I ran for re-election. It

wasn't planned."

Added Williams, "It's been a good experience, and hopefully, they can find somebody to replace me that will do a good job... I hate that it happened, but that's the way it has to be. If you move out, you've got to resign."

Since Williams retired more than 90 days into his new term, the school board can go ahead and appoint someone from the Macedonia Precinct to fill the vacancy, though it was not known at press time if the

Board Office had any potential appointees in mind.

The next step following the appointment will be a special election to fill the remainder of Williams' vacated term, and that election will likely be held in 2020.

School board members were set to officially accept Williams' resignation and discuss a replacement plan for the vacant seat in the April 8 work session, which occurred after press time.



Robert Williams

Rathburn to be 'ambassador for the arts' as Poet Laureate of Georgia

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Young Harris College Professor of English and Creative Writing Dr. Chelsea Rathburn serves as the Poet Laureate of Georgia, having been named by Gov. Brian Kemp in March.

"It feels terrific to be the Poet Laureate," said Rathburn. "The Poet Laureateship is an honorary position, so it is not a paid position, but what the Poet Laureate essentially is, is an ambassador for the arts."

Rathburn will work with the Georgia Council for the Arts on such initiatives as the Poet Laureate's Prize, a high school writing competition started by former Poet Laureate Judson Hercham. She will also use her position as an ambassador to work on new literary initiatives.

"The idea of the Poet Laureateship is to kind of extend the reach of poetry," said Rathburn. "A lot of people think that



Young Harris College Professor Chelsea Rathburn was recently named Poet Laureate of Georgia by Gov. Brian Kemp.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

poetry is something that is really scary, or they read it in high school and they didn't like it.

"So, the Poet Laureateship

sort of brings poetry to more people and tries to increase awareness and excitement about it."

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Hank Williams Jr. keeps fans on their feet at Anderson Music Hall

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

On Saturday, April 6, the Anderson Music Hall filled to capacity with fans ready to hear country music legend Hank Williams Jr.

Of course, the excitement was everywhere, with some attendees warming up for the big show by throwing tailgate parties and blasting Hank Jr. over their car radios while playing live games at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

The show was a sold-out event, with the entire Music Hall filled with attendees, and other guests had chairs and blankets to sit on outside while they listened to the music.

Before Hank Jr. took the stage, Best Band in the South contest winner Andrew Chastain got things started with a few well-known country hits as well as some originals, eliciting a great many cheers for the band from Murphy,



It was standing-room only at the Hank Williams Jr. concert on Saturday, April 6, inside Anderson Music Hall.

Photo by Derek Storm

North Carolina.

Chastain concluded his performance by thanking everybody for coming out and commenting on how thankful he was to be able to open for Hank Williams Jr.

With the opening act finished, the event went into

intermission, where prizes were given out to random attendees who entered a raffle.

A few lucky winners got the opportunity to move up to front row or even go backstage to meet Hank Jr.

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Cecil Dye, TCSO warn residents not to give money to scam callers

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Phone scammers have been impersonating Towns County Superior Court Clerk Cecil Dye and Enotah Circuit Superior Court Judge N. Stanley Gunter in criminal attempts to solicit money from unwitting victims.

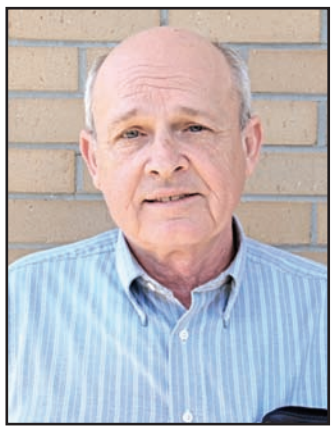
Scammers have also been pretending to be personnel with the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

The scam involves local authorities figures who then ask those contacted for money via pre-paid cards to clear up alleged arrest warrants.

Dye, Gunter and the Towns County Sheriff's Office would like the public to know that they would never solicit money over the phone.

Many people have been contacted in the area by these scammers, and at least one individual is out \$1,000 that they'll likely never see again.

"They call you and tell you to call this number," said Dye. "Well, you call this number, and it comes on with



Cecil Dye

the Towns County Sheriff's Office that says, 'We're closed right now, but you can leave a message or you can hang up and dial 911.' And about that time, somebody picks it up and says they're Deputy Westbrook, and they start talking to you then."

"They've got that message on there to start with, so that makes you think it's legit. Then, they say they're calling because we've got a bench warrant on you, and you can pay money not to be picked up and go to jail."

"Then they put somebody on that says they're Cecil Dye,

the Clerk of Court, that talks to you, saying, 'We're just trying to help you and trying to keep you from having to go to jail if you'll just send this money to so-and-so.'

"And then, they put somebody on that says they're Judge Stanley Gunter, saying, 'We don't want you to have to go to jail, so ... you need to go buy a money card.' They keep you on the phone until you get to the store to buy the money cards, and then they tell you to give them the number off of it."

"You read the number off to them, which, that's all they need, is that number on that money card, and then they tell you to mail it to my address at 48 River Street, Hiwassee, Georgia."

Beside the fact that there is no Deputy Westbrook working for the Towns County Sheriff's Office, Dye wants people to know that, again, they'll never receive a similar call from any official entity of the county.

"It's terrible that they are using my name to do that

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TCSO offering \$500 reward in theft, property damage at Fairgrounds

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

The Towns County Sheriff's Office is offering a \$500 cash reward to any individual who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a vehicle theft and property damage at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds over the weekend.

People can call the Sheriff's Office at 706-896-4444 to provide information, which will be kept completely confidential.

The theft and damage occurred either late Friday or in the early morning hours of Saturday, April 6, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Local deputies responded to the incident Saturday morning, discovering that the front gate into the Fairgrounds had sustained major damage.

"The suspects also attempted to steal an ATM machine located on the property," according to a TCSO statement. "A Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds pickup truck was



A picture of the damaged front gate at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds that somebody drove through over the weekend.

also discovered stolen, and it was believed to have been used to crash through the front gate of the Fairgrounds.

"While the deputies were on the scene taking the initial report and processing for evidence, the stolen truck was located in Clay County, North Carolina."

The investigation is active and ongoing at this time.

Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason

said that the intrusion was a first for the beloved local tourist attraction.

"I'm just real sorry that something like this happened at the Fairgrounds," said Thomason. "The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds is a place to come for family entertainment, and for people to enjoy themselves and have a good time, and we want to continue that."

"It's sad that there's

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Cpl. Joseph receives 'Lifesaving Award' from Sheriff Clinton on April 4

News Special
Towns County Herald



Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton presented a very special deputy, Cpl. Lisa Joseph, with a Lifesaving Award on Thursday, April 4, in recognition of a job well done.

On Jan. 26, 2019, Cpl. Joseph responded to an overdose call at a residence in northwest Towns County.

Upon arriving, she was greeted by the homeowner and a small child. The owner stated that a friend had come over while he was away, and that when he returned, he found his friend sitting in a chair in a

comatose condition inside.

He believed the friend had overdosed on a narcotic, and he further stated he was aware that the friend was a drug user, sharing a concern that he may have experienced an overdose of heroin or some other type of narcotic drug.

Cpl. Joseph located the person, a 26-year-old male, who was seated inside and appeared to have low signs of life.

She found that he had an excessive pulse and she could not awaken him. The dispatched emergency medical personnel had not arrived yet, so she performed a sternum rub with no response.

Fearing that the male was in immediate danger, Cpl. Joseph administered a single dose of the agency-supplied "Narcan" by injection into a

nostril.

She continued to try to awaken the male, and after about 30 seconds, the subject opened his eyes and appeared to be coming out of the comatose state.

Cpl. Joseph notified emergency medical personnel of her actions upon their arrival relating to the administering of the "Narcan" product, which is used to treat narcotic overdoses.

After speaking with emergency medical personnel who were on the incident scene, it was determined that the actions of Cpl. Joseph did in fact cause an immediate change in the male, halting further damage that the drug ingested would have caused, including death.

In their words, "She saved that man's life."



Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton presenting Cpl. Lisa Joseph with a Lifesaving Award on April 4.

Photo by Chad Stack

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Lake Levels

Blue Ridge 1,681.16

Chatuge 1,924.40

Nottely 1,769.45

SPORTS

BASEBALL

Apr 9 vs. Commerce 6:30 pm

SOCCER

Apr 10 vs. Banks Co. 5 pm

Apr 12 vs. N. Murray 5:30 pm

Towns County Recreation Department

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

April 13th

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Byron Herbert

Reece Farm

Opening Day

April 17th

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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