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# TCHS sends 85 graduates out into the world



Class of 2017 graduates excitedly tossing their caps on Friday, May 19. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

**Towns County Herald** Staff Writer

Eighty-five of the at a packed Towns County county's finest graduated from Towns County High School Center on Friday, May 19.

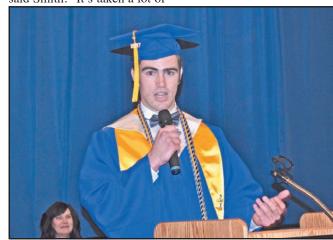
Recreation and Conference

After a beautiful rendition of the national Body President Ashley Smith welcomed all in attendance, extending a special thank you to family and friends of the Class of 2017 for pushing them toward graduation success.

"Guys, we've made it." said Smith. "It's taken a lot of get us this far but here we are. We've worked so incredibly hard to reach this moment, now is when it all pays off.

'Graduates, as we leave here tonight and probably

See Graduates, Page 6A



Joshua Goeltz, Towns County High School Class of 2017 Valedictorian. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

# Hiawassee PD turns to social media for help

By Shawn Jarrard **Towns County Herald** 

The Hiawassee Police Department is asking the public for help, and it's getting the word out using social media.

In a post to the department's Facebook page on Tuesday, May 16, Acting Police Chief Paul Smith said that several vehicles were wanted in connection with multiple trailer thefts in the area, as well as the burglary of a county building.

The first reported theft of a trailer occurred in the early morning hours of Monday, April 17, at the A to Z Outlet across the street from the McDonald's in Hiawassee.

'In the security video, See Hiawassee PD, Page 6A



Hiawassee Police are looking for this Dodge truck.

## **Hamilton Gardens** celebrates successful season



Dozens of plant lovers attended the May 20 benefit for the Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge on Saturday. Photo/Lily Avery

By Lily Avery **Towns County Herald** Staff Writer

Dozens of patrons and gardens enthusiasts gathered for food and fellowship for the "Celebrate the Gardens" benefit for Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge on Saturday,

Sponsored by the Towns County Homeowners Association, last weekend's celebration was one for the See Gardens, Page 6A

#### Three World War II Vets make 'Honor Flight' to D.C.

Towns County Herald Staff Writer

Todd Kimsey, Martha Warth and Shirley Sonnenfeld have three things in common: they each served in the U.S. Navy, they each served in World War II and all three recently traveled to Washington

As part of the Blue Ridge Honor Flight program, these three brave veterans flew from Asheville, North Carolina to the nation's capital on Saturday, May 13.

"The three of us just happened to be in the right place at the right time that we were selected to go on this Honor Flight," said Warth. "They took care of us from the minute they got ahold of us, until the minute they got us back. There were about 81 of us that were taken to the capital. It was really quite extraordinary."



Martha Warth, Todd Kimsey and Shirley Sonnenfeld participated recently in the Honor Flight program as veterans of World War II. Photo/Lily Avery merged. Both HonorAir and

The Blue Ridge Honor after two programs, HonorAir

Flight program began in 2007 and National Honor Flight

See Flight, Page 6A

#### Commissioner goes over new drug policy, upcoming eclipse

By Lily Avery **Towns County Herald** Staff Writer

During the May county neeting, Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw adopted the Towns County Drug Policy that will affect all county employees once instated.

Since he first began running for office, Commissioner Bradshaw has clearly voiced his opinion concerning the necessity for a stern drug policy for all county employees and now it is more than just talk.

"I've been talking about doing a random drug test policy for county employees for a good while," said Commissioner Bradshaw. "I've learned that it takes a lot of time. You have to get your attorney involved and it takes a lot of time."



County Commissioner Cliff

County Drug Policy, all those who are employed by the county will be susceptible to random drug testing at any

See Commissioner 6A

### Student achievement rewarded with annual TCHS Honors Day

By Lily Avery **Towns County Herald** Staff Writer

Each year, as seniors graduate and underclassmen get one step closer to that coveted place at the top, Towns County High School honors its students who will return in the fall with a ceremony specially set aside for underclassmen.

This year, those students were honored in front of their families and friends in the Anne Oliver Mitchell Auditorium on Wednesday, May 17.

"Students, you did it," said Dr. Connie Hobbs, TCHS principal. "I congratulate you on your hard work that you've put forth this year and now it's time to sit back and enjoy

See TCHS Honors, Page 7A



Sara Beth Hobbs, Zachary Davenport and Sarah Bastian. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

# Seventh Annual Eggfest brings thousands to the Fairgrounds

By Lily Avery Towns County Herald

Hundreds of "eggheads" gathered to taste homemade delicacies and treats at the Seventh Annual Georgia Mountain Eggfest, hosted at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 20.

Cooks and vendors lined the Fairgrounds early Saturday morning, showing off their bright Green Eggs and their cooking skills, filling the air with the sweet smell of freshly prepared eats.

'This is our seventh year to host the Eggfest," said Hilda Thomason, Fairgrounds General Manager. "This is the biggest crowd we've ever had.

See Eggfest, Page 7A



The Seventh Annual Georgia Mountain Eggfest was bigger than ever before. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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Memorial Day 5K Run

CANCELLED

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**U.S.** Forest Service **Fishing Rodeos** 



COUNTY MAN Farmers Market **OPENING DAY** Saturday, May 27th See page 2A