

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

www.townscountyherald.net

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

Publication Number 635540 Volume 88 Number 43

Wednesday, August 30, 2017

Nine candidates qualify for four Hiawassee City posts

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Hiawassee residents kept City Clerk Cenlya Galloway busy during qualifying last week ahead of the Nov. 7 municipal elections.

Galloway accepted paperwork from nine candidates who qualified between Tuesday, Aug. 22, and Thursday, Aug. 24, at Hiawassee City Hall.

The Nov. 7 General Election ballot will be as follows:

Liz Ordiales and Barry Dearing each qualified to run for mayor.

Ordiales had previously resigned her Post 5 council seat to announce a run for mayor, and to allow for people to qualify in a timely manner to avoid the added expense of having to hold a separate election to fill her vacated seat.

Between now and the election, the city will not have a mayor, though the



Liz Ordiales



Barry Dearing



Amy Barrett



Rodney Terry



Patsy Owens

mayor pro tem will fulfill the duties of the mayor until either Ordiales or Dearing is elected in November.

Also in the General Election, Amy Barrett and Rodney Terry each qualified for Post 1 Hiawassee City Council seats.

Rayette Ross is the current councilmember serving at Post 1, and she is not running for re-election.

Jay Chastain Jr., who

See Candidates, Page 8A



Jay Chastain, Jr



Ann Wedgwood



Myron Ketter



Nancy Noblet

Hank Williams Jr. to headline Anderson Music Hall Saturday night

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
Editor

On Saturday, Sept. 2, Hank Williams Jr. is inviting all his rowdy friends to Anderson Music Hall in Hiawassee as the highlight of Labor Day Weekend.

The son of the Country Music legend, Hank Williams, is coming to town and bringing a style of Country Music all his own. Tickets for the event include reserved seating indoors, which is \$77 plus handling, and outside standing room is \$57 plus handling. Indoor tickets are sold out and have been for weeks.

Anderson Music Hall holds 2,900 people and you can bet your bottom dollar, those attending have got a shotgun,



Hank Williams Jr

a rifle, and a 4-wheel drive – lyrics from “A Country Boy Can Survive.”

Hank Williams Jr. is one of the larger than life Country

Music artists in the business. “Bocephus,” a nickname given to him by his father, is a singer/songwriter who can play guitar, bass guitar, upright bass,

steel guitar, banjo, dobro, piano, keyboards, harmonica, fiddle, and drums.

Over the years, Hank Jr. has been influenced by his father, Hank Williams Sr., Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash, Fats Domino, Earl Scruggs, Lightnin’ Hopkins, and Jerry Lee Lewis.

They influenced his brand of music which is a blend of Outlaw, Southern Rock and Hillbilly Blues.

Between 1979 and 1992, Williams released 21 albums, 18 studio and three compilation, that were all, at least, certified gold. Between 1979 and 1990, Williams enjoyed a string of 30 Top 10 singles on the Billboard Country charts, including eight No. 1 singles, for a total

See Williams, Page 8A

All charges dismissed against Gail Gowder

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
Editor

Blairsville – The South Judicial Circuit has dismissed all charges against Gail Nicholson Gowder, District Attorney Jeff Langley said.

“She has provided a sworn affidavit in connection with the case, and based upon that, we have stopped the prosecution of her case at this time,” Langley said.

According to Union County Superior Court documents, the state received information/evidence in the matter regarding Gail Nicholson Gowder, wife of Mike Gowder, which would show that she did not have criminal intent when she submitted and received two prescriptions.

“The evidence would show that she did this at the request of Dr. George David Gowder, the former Emergency Room physician at Union General Hospital,” Langley said. “She provided a sworn statement regarding David Gowder’s request of her to pick up those prescriptions.”

The sworn statement given by Gail Gowder explains David Gowder’s request of her to pick up the prescriptions in question, Langley said.

“Due to the resolution of her case, she is now subject to being called to testify as a witness against David Gowder,” Langley said.

Charges were dismissed via entry of a what is known as a “nolle prosequi” by the district attorney’s office, to which the court consented.

U.S. Sen. Perdue maintains positive economic outlook

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

BLAIRSVILLE – U.S. Sen. David Perdue delivered an important economic message to more than 200 of his fellow Georgians on Thursday, Aug. 24.

He gave the keynote address in the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce’s 2017 Power Lunch, which was hosted by North Georgia Technical College and sponsored by Windstream.

Central to the senator’s message were three “founding principles” that he believes have made the United States the greatest nation on earth.

The first principal,



U.S. Sen. David Perdue in Union County on Thursday, Aug. 24. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

said Perdue, was economic opportunity for all, which, though not guaranteed, is found in abundance throughout the

United States.

Next, the senator spoke on the importance of fiscal

See Perdue, Page 8A

Burglary suspect fails to outswim justice

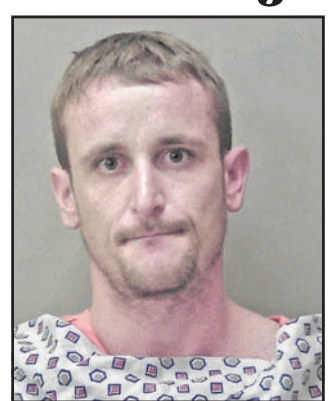
By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Hiawassee Police Chief Paul Smith is sending a clear message that any would-be criminals should think twice before breaking the law within his city limits.

The chief himself, not even three weeks out from his promotion, tracked on foot and collared a burglary suspect on Thursday, Aug. 17.

Nathan Brice Garrett, 29, of Hayesville, North Carolina, has been charged with burglary, criminal trespass, possession of tools for the commission of a crime, and obstructing law enforcement officers, according to Hiawassee PD.

Of course, Chief Smith realizes that he couldn’t have



Nathan Brice Garrett

done it all on his own.

“The Hiawassee Police Department appreciates the assistance from the Towns County Sheriff’s Office, the Towns County Fire Department and the Georgia Department

of Natural Resources,” said Chief Smith in an official news release.

Continued the chief: “This shows what is possible when different agencies work together for a common goal. Sheriff (Chris) Clinton and I will continue working together and sharing resources to ensure the safety of Towns County’s citizens and visitors.”

It all started around 6 p.m. that Aug. 17, when a group of vendors having a meeting inside the Hiawassee Antique Mall heard what sounded like someone doing construction, according to Hiawassee PD.

When the hammering continued, one of the meeting attendees went outside to look behind the building to find a

See Garrett, Page 8A

Ledford’s ‘Rumble on the Reservation!’ goes communitywide

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Matthew Ledford couldn’t believe it when Coach Jeff Stowers asked him to design the 2017-2018 spirit shirt for Towns County Schools.

It was an honor and a privilege, Ledford said, even though the assignment made him a little nervous. After all, the 10th-grader was being asked to draw a design for a T-shirt to be sold at school spirit events all throughout the year.

Ledford, 15, has been drawing as far back as he can remember, and he has cultivated a reputation among his peers as a guy who can get

things drawn.

Coach Stowers and the School Spirit Committee decided to have a student design the spirit shirt this year, so when the coach asked around to see who might be up to the task, Ledford naturally came up as the young man for the job.

“(The University of) Georgia (used to) have a shirt that was a big bulldog that was stomping all over the mascots in the SEC,” said Coach Stowers. “So, that was the foundation for the idea.

“Somebody mentioned that Matthew could draw, so I went to him and asked him, do you think you could pull this off? I gave him literally a

See Ledford, Page 8A



Matthew Ledford holding his awesome Spirit Shirt design. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Shook pleads guilty, gets 20 years, 10 to serve

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
Editor

A 51-year-old Blairsville man has pled guilty to two counts of exploitation and intimidation of a disabled adult, Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley said on Friday, Aug. 25.

Franklin Regeious “Reggie” Shook pled guilty to the two counts in Towns County Superior Court on Friday, in front of Enotah Circuit Superior Court Judge Stan Gunter, Langley said.

Shook was accused of raping a disabled adult female on Aug. 27, 2016, by force on Aug. 30, 2016, and again against the female’s will, Superior Court records show.



Reggie Shook

“He pled guilty to counts three and four of the indictment against him,” Langley said. “He was sentenced to 20 years, with 10 to serve, with a \$1,000

See Shook, Page 8A

2 Sections 16 Pages
Lake Levels
Blue Ridge 1,680.55
Chatuge 1,922.10
Nottely 1,770.20

Inside
Arrests 2A
Chamber 7A
Church 6B
Classifieds 8B
Opinion 4A
Legals 9B
Obits 7B
Sports 2B

Softball
Aug 29 @ Prince Ave 4:45 PM
Football
Sept. 1 @ George Walton 7:30 PM

‘Elvis’ returns to Mountain Home Music Theater
See page 7A

Backyard Beekeeping
Hamilton Gardens
Friday, Sept. 1st
See page 7A

Operation PUP
Reduced Cost Rabies Clinic
Saturday Sept. 9th
Square in Hiawassee
See page 7A