

Tate City...from Page 1A

the Towns County Firewise Citizens Coalition; Rabun County Manager Darin Giles; Tony Harkins of the Georgia Forestry Commission; and Towns County Fire Chief Harold Copeland.

State Sen. John Wilkinson also made the trip to Tate City for the Firewise recognition.

"I'm unopposed in the general election and not campaigning, so don't worry, I won't talk long," Wilkinson joked, receiving a good laugh from the audience. "It really is a pleasure to be with you and be in Tate City. This is a really neat place."

"This Firewise program is a great program. It saves property and lives, and I want to commend you for your interest in this program. And for everyone connected to the program, I want to commend you for the work you're doing. If you ever need me, feel free to call on me."

Other officials recognized were David McDonald of U.S. Rep. Doug Collins' office; Georgia Forestry Commission Deputy Director Gary White; Regional Forester Ken Masten; District Fire Management Officer Shawn Alexander; County Chief Ranger Michael Wood; County Ranger Blake Melton; and Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Anthony English.

Representatives of the USDA Forest Service



Smokey Bear with State Sen. John Wilkinson in Tate City on Wednesday, Aug. 29.
Photo by Todd Forrest

recognized were: Chattooga River District Ranger Ryan Foote; Southern Region Fire and Aviation Unit Director Shardul Raval; Forest Fire Staff Officer Mike Brod; Forest Public Affairs Staff Officer Judy Toppins; and Forest Fire Management Officer Mike Davis.

"We appreciate (Tate City) taking this on," Davis said. "We've talked about living in a fire environment and you've definitely do here. Now, you've taken the steps to be proactive and respond to the things that happened here in 2016 and what might happen beyond. We believe in the Firewise

program and we're passionate about it. We can't say thank you enough."

Jennifer Houts of the Nature Conservancy was also recognized before the signing and presentation of the Firewise Certification, and David Epps was also in attendance.

The Firewise Communities approach emphasizes community responsibility for the design and maintenance of a safe community, including sound land-use planning, creative mitigation measures, supportive infrastructure, collaborative decision making and effective emergency response.

Homecoming...from Page 1A

Swanger, Trent Bradshaw, Brett Denton and Lance Sewell.

These seniors are part of the biggest class ever at Towns County High, and Principal Hobbs said they are all terrific leaders in their own right.

"All of those who were chosen for Homecoming are great students, involved in clubs and sports," said Hobbs. "We have the best students in the state. They're just really good students and hardworking."

"Most of them have a job in the community, and they'll go to lunch or third block and work. Then, some of them come back and are involved in their sports and clubs on top of that."

And there's a whole week's worth of fun activities planned ahead of the game on Friday night.

For the last couple of years, the high school has hosted a Homecoming Carnival, which takes a long time to plan but has proven to be a big hit with the elementary school kids and members of the community.

However, since school started late this year due to renovations, and the Homecoming Game was scheduled earlier than usual, Dr. Hobbs decided to return to hosting a bonfire out front of the school.

"Homecoming is a little bit earlier than we've had in the past," said Hobbs. "We'd just gotten back into school, and the very first full week, the second day of that week, we were voting on Homecoming."

"We started school two weeks later (this year), and then, Homecoming is about three weeks earlier than normal, so it was like, Day 1, alright, let's vote for Homecoming - these girls have to buy a dress, and we have to give them time to go out of town to do that."

Added Hobbs: "We let Football Coach John Cornett pick the game that he would like to be for Homecoming, and he wanted to do it the night we play Andrews."

Being Labor Day, Monday

was a holiday for students, but every other day this week holds special significance to Homecoming and the pride that comes with being a Towns County Indian.

"Each day is designated as a different dress-up day," said Hobbs. "We have the Mathletes vs. the Athletes, Tacky Tourist Day, the Outdoorsman Day and Spirit Day."

The Homecoming Bonfire will take place on Thursday, Sept. 6, at 7:30 p.m., and will feature concessions and games. Members of the Homecoming Court will be introduced at the bonfire, and the Homecoming King will be announced at this time.

"Everyone is welcome to come to the bonfire on Thursday," said Hobbs. "(And on Friday), we just hope that the community will come out and show their support for the band, for the cheerleaders, for Homecoming Court, and for our guys who play out there."

The first 50 attendees of Friday's big game will receive special stadium horns for Homecoming Night.



The 2018 TCHS Girls Homecoming Court: Taylor Cornett, Emily Williams, Kristen Byers, Kaitlyn Crowder, Kenzlee Denton, Ella Bury, Jenna Coker, Tori Van Tassel, Carly Woodard and Erika Spano (not pictured).
Photo by Lowell Nicholson



The 2018 TCHS Boys Homecoming Court: Andrew Griffin, Lane Denton, Jacob Parker, Blaine Rogers, Walker Winn, Will Travis, Tyler Swanger, Trent Bradshaw, Brett Denton and Lance Sewell.
Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Ordiales...from Page 1A

get appointed to one of these boards, especially that one, is a big honor. We'll be able to bring in the challenges that a smaller city has."

In her very first board meeting, which occurred the weekend of Aug. 25, board members discussed the future of the training sessions, what should be included in the curriculum for the classes, and where classes should be delivered.

The board will meet again for a fall session at the end of September at the Brasstown Valley Resort, and Ordiales said she'll be looking forward

to furthering the conversation about small city issues.

"Our budgets would be completely different from the City of Atlanta," said Ordiales. "Our employee benefits would be completely different from, let's say, Valdosta or Savannah."

"Our problems are different than Savannah and Valdosta and those bigger cities, so I'm pretty excited about representing us. Plus, it gives the city (Hiawassee) a good name."

Ordiales said the Georgia Municipal Association and the Carl Vinson Institute have a great deal to offer Hiawassee,

and that she hopes to take advantage of their wide variety of resources for the city.

Furthermore, Ordiales believes that her appointment to the Municipal Training Board will go a long way toward helping her, Mayor Andrea Gibby of Young Harris and Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw to advance an economic development plan for the area.

All expenses associated with Ordiales' time on the training board will be paid for by the institute, and Ordiales said she will personally cover any other expenses that might arise, because it's an initiative about which she is very passionate.

Arrests...from Page 1A



Shaun Ewing



LeAnn Saxon



Sandi Pate



James Robert Gregory



Joshua Carnes



Michelle Harper

the burglary investigation, investigators have arrested and charged the following suspects:

Shaun Ewing, 36, of Hiawassee, is facing a felony count of burglary and 16 felony counts of theft by receiving.

Sandi Pate, 29, of Hiawassee, is facing 16 felony counts of theft by receiving.

And Bobbie LeAnn Saxon, 37, of Hiawassee, is facing a misdemeanor count of theft by receiving.

Also on Friday, Aug. 24, Towns County Investigators secured and executed a search warrant at a residence on Konahetah Way in Hiawassee.

A Hiawassee Police Department Officer assisted Sheriff's Investigators in the execution of the warrant.

Upon the completion of the search warrant, investigators arrested James Robert Gregory, 38, of Hiawassee, on the following charges: Violation of Georgia Controlled Substance Act, distribution of methamphetamine; Violation of Georgia Controlled Substance Act, possession of methamphetamine; Violation of Georgia Controlled Substance Act, possession of drug-related

objects; theft by receiving stolen property; and theft of services (utilities).

The charge of theft by receiving stolen property resulted due to the recovery of stolen silver. The charge of theft of services resulted due to investigators discovering that power to the residence was being obtained illegally.

In a separate incident on Wednesday, Aug. 29, the Sheriff's Office received a report of an assault on an elderly victim at a residence in Young Harris.

Investigators responded to Murphy Medical Center in Peachtree, North Carolina, to follow up with the reported elderly victim.

Upon completing their investigation into the physical assault, investigators arrested Joshua Dustin Carnes, 40, of Young Harris, on the following charges: felony exploitation and intimidation of the elderly, due to inflicting physical pain and injury; and misdemeanor battery of a person over 65, Family Violence Act.

The victim was treated and released from Murphy Medical Center, and as of press time Monday, Carnes was

being held at the Towns County Jail without bond.

In another incident last month, on Aug. 20, Towns County Sheriff's Deputies along with The Hiawassee Police Department responded to a burglary alarm at the Hawg Wild BBQ restaurant in Hiawassee.

Upon arrival, the officers discovered the windows of the front door broken. As the officers began to check the business, a female was discovered injured on the ground inside the front doors.

Towns County EMS responded to the scene and transported the female to a medical facility, where she was admitted for treatment.

On Friday, Aug. 24, Michelle Renee Harper, 39, of Fitzgerald, was arrested upon being released from the medical facility.

Towns County Sheriff's Investigators secured a warrant charging Harper with criminal damage to property, in reference to damage at the restaurant.

All of the above cases will be referred to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Parks...from Page 1A

in England, where she attained her Master of Laws degree in International Commercial Law.

Thereafter, Parks returned to her White County roots to run a private law practice in Cleveland until 1998, when Judge Hugh Stone of the Enotah Judicial Circuit approached her about filling a judgeship in the White County Magistrate Court.

Parks accepted the Magistrate appointment at the time, and she went on to serve in that capacity for 20 years as of this past June, having won re-election to the seat multiple times.

Now, she looks forward to her new responsibilities as a Superior Court judge.

"I'm just excited that it's a new challenge to broaden my exposure to different kinds of cases, but also to be a servant to more people of the circuit rather than just White County," said Parks.

Concerning her swearing-in ceremony down in Atlanta, Parks said the occasion was both humbling and exciting.

"We had quite a few people down there back from even my high school days, and then a lot of people I (didn't) even know, that I am going to be working with," said Parks. "It was humbling. It was one of those 'wow' days."

And when it comes to her transition from Magistrate to Superior Court, Parks said she will still be under the same judicial canons as when she was



Judge Parks with Gov. Deal after her swearing-in ceremony on Aug. 14 in Atlanta.

a Magistrate judge, the major difference being jurisdiction.

"We handle the sentencing of more serious crimes that Magistrates are not allowed to handle ... more serious bond issues," said Parks.

Of course, Parks has been to a fair amount of training since initially receiving the governor's blessing, and she has shadowed several senior judges lately, though her real education began on Sept. 4 with on-the-job training.

Regarding her judicial philosophy, Parks believes that "everybody should be treated fairly and everybody should have access to justice," and no

matter a person's background, the law should be applied fairly to everyone.

"I'm just excited, I'm honored, to be put in this position, and I'm excited to be able to serve (the people of the Enotah Judicial Circuit)," said Parks. "I look forward to serving them for years to come. I'm excited I'm working with two other great judges."

Parks takes the place of Judge Murphy C. Miller, who is the former Superior Court chief judge who stepped down from the bench effective July 1, at which point Gunter assumed the title of Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior Court Chief Judge.

District 2 Public Health:

Choose the flu vaccine that is right for you.

Every individual is unique. This means that each of us may respond differently to the things that we are exposed to. Our immune systems are complex and how our individual bodies respond to vaccines vary from person to person. Some people may develop a higher immunity than others from the same vaccine.

However, it is still important to be vaccinated and build some level of protection against illness. Your health care provider can help you decide which vaccine may be right for you.

Influenza vaccines, like many other vaccines, have evolved over time to better protect us from illness. Today's flu vaccines include trivalent (three component flu shot), quadrivalent (four component flu shot),

high-dose flu shot, egg-free flu shot, and nasal spray vaccine. All of these vaccines are effective in protecting against influenza.

For most of the population, the three-or-four-component seasonal flu shot will be the best option. The difference between these two vaccines is the quadrivalent vaccine includes an additional B strain component. If a person has egg allergies, there is a vaccine produced without any egg products. The trivalent, quadrivalent, and egg-free vaccines are available for every age.

High dose vaccine is made for people age 65 years and older and some people with chronic health conditions. Your healthcare provider can advise if you need the high-dose vaccine. This vaccine is designed

to help increase the effectiveness of the vaccine in more mature or weakened immune systems.

The nasal spray vaccine is made from a weakened live virus. It is specifically made for healthy individuals from age 2 to 49 with no contraindications. For the 2018-19 flu season, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has reaffirmed its recommendation for this vaccine. Issues in the past concerning the effectiveness of the H1N1 component have been addressed.

District 2 Public Health strongly encourages everyone who can get vaccinated against influenza. For more information ask your healthcare provider or visit www.phd-district2.org and www.cdc.gov.