

Sheriff's Office investigates Bell Mountain Park vandalism



One example of the vandalism that has occurred.

On Thursday, November 3, 2016 deputies with the Towns County Sheriff's Office responded to the top of Bell Mountain in reference to vandalism which had occurred. In recent days, there have been several incidents which have been discovered where subjects have spray-painted the parking lot, observation platforms, walkways, and safety fences.

The County allows spray painting rocks only.

The new wintertime hours for Bell Mountain Park are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and the park will be closed from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. This is seven days a week and effective immediately. The County has asked the Sheriff's Office to enforce the hours of operation. Any-

one who enters onto the park property during hours that the park is closed is subject to being cited for criminal trespass. The Sheriff's Office just wants to make sure that everyone is aware of the established hours that the County has closed the park.

Investigators with the Sheriff's Office are investigating the reported incidents of vandalism. Anyone with information as to the names of the subjects who are responsible for the vandalism are asked to call the Towns County Sheriff's Office at 706-896-4444.

A \$2000 reward is being offered to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the vandalism. T(Nov9,H2)SH

Making holidays special for domestic violence victims

While physical abuse leaves bruises and scars, financial abuse is the number one

reason that survivors return to abusive relationships. Recovering from physical and emotional abuse can pose many challenges for survivors, but the short and long term effects of financial abuse can be devastating.

In the short term, access to assets is imperative to staying safe. Without assets, survivors are often unable to obtain safe and affordable housing or the funds to provide for themselves or their children. With realistic fears of homelessness, it is little wonder that survivors sometimes return to the battering relationship. For those who manage to escape the abuse and survive initially, they often face overwhelming odds in obtaining long-term security and safety. Ruined credit scores, sporadic employment histories, and legal issues caused by the battering make it extremely difficult to gain independence, safety, and long-term security.

Support in Abusive Family Emergencies' Child Advocate, Julie Mashburn, has been assisting families to enjoy the first winter holiday after moving Out Of shelter. Last year, through the support of generous donations from community members, Mrs. Mashburn was able to arrange gifts for over 150 children that had been served through S.A.F.E.'s programs for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Providing this outreach service to survivors during the winter allows for a celebration during an otherwise financially challenging time of the year.

During the month of November, Mrs. Mashburn will be busy contacting S.A.F.E.'s past clients from 2016 to assess their need for assistance to be able to celebrate with their children. Businesses, individuals, and churches are encouraged to adopt a family - or two - to help provide a special holiday treat for those who have suffered from abuse. For more information on the gift giving program and how to support the victims S.A.F.E. has served, please contact Julie Mashburn at jmashburn@safeservices.org or 706-379-1901. NT(Nov9,Z12)CA

Operation PUP



Christmas will be here soon. Lynn Buck took beautiful pictures last year and will be on hand this year from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital on Saturday, November 19, 2016 to take a photo with your pet and Santa for your Christmas mailings. No appointment is necessary.

Print packages will be available starting at just \$20 + tax (range is \$20-\$35) with special add ons available. If you need more information, call 706-896-6240.

We thank Susan and Dr. Burr for the use of their facility, Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital, just past the junction of Hwys. 76 W./69-17 going to Hayesville. Proceeds of the photo shoot will go for Operation PUP's spaying and neutering program. If you need help with your pet or doorstep animals you feed and live in Towns County, please call 1-888-496-2387. T(Nov9,G1)SH

Arrest and Fire Reports

Local law enforcement provides the following information for publication. Names are spelled as they were when received from the law enforcement agencies. It is important to remember that the following individuals have been charged only and are presumed innocent until such time as they are found guilty by a court or enter a guilty plea. Addresses of persons under arrest are no longer available from Sheriff's Office.

ARREST REPORT

Towns County Jail
Sheriff-Chris Clinton

- 11/4/16 Barry Wade Allen, age 40
Failure to appear
- 11/6/16 Bradley Shane Crawford, age 30
Conversion of payments for real property improvements, Probation violation
- 11/1/16 Jacob Ryan Sullivan, age 24
Failure to appear
- 11/5/16 Christen Robertson Askea, age 38
Drug-related objects, DUI - alcohol, Marijuana less than 1 oz., Speeding
- 11/4/16 Logan Tyler Beard, age 20
Possession of marijuana less than 1 oz., Poss. of drug-related objects
- 11/5/16 Lori Jean Bristoe, age 44
Driving while license suspended or revoked
- 11/5/16 Travis Ray Cantrell, age 31
Driving while license suspended or revoked, Tail lights required, Windshield/wipers
- 11/3/16 William Guy Clegg, age 34
DUI
- 10/31/16 Darwin Pena Diaz, age 30
Driving w/out valid license, Failure to drive w/in single lane
- 11/2/16 Terra Marie Hynes, age 47
DUI - alcohol, Failure to drive w/in single lane
- 11/5/16 Nathan Anthony Patterson, age 36
Hold for Union County
- 10/31/16 Gwendalynn Fay Smith, age 18
False statements (2 counts)
- 11/2/16 Thomas Andrew Strickland III, age 19
Poss. of marijuana less than 1 oz., Theft by taking
- 11/4/16 Deanna Marie Wadford, age 20
Possession of marijuana less than 1 oz., Poss. of drug-related objects
- 10/31/16 Donna Elizabeth Wise, age 48
Driving while license suspended or revoked

TC Fire Department

RESPONSE REPORT
From: Fire Chief Harold Copeland



- 10/24/16 Medical assist (3)
Fire alarm (1)
No incident found on arrival (1)
- 10/25/16 Medical assist (2)
MVA (1)
Landing zone (1)
Assist other agency (1)
- 10/26/16 Medical assist (4)
Structure fire (1)
MVA (1)
Fire alarm (2)
Rubbish/trash fire (1)
Assist other agency (1)
- 10/27/16 Medical assist (4)
Landing zone (1)
MVA (1)
No incident found on arrival (1)
- 10/28/16 Medical assist (5)
Search for lost hiker (1)
MVA (2)
Illegal burn (1)
Fire alarm (1)
Assist other agency (1)
- 10/29/16 Medical assist (4)
- 10/30/16 Medical assist (4)
Fire alarm (1)
Public assist (1)
- 10-31-16 Medical assist (4)
Illegal burn (1)
Public service (2)
- 11/1/16 Medical assist (2)
MVA (2)
LZ (1)
Rubbish /trash fire (1)
- 11/2/16 Medical assist (5)
MVA (1)
Fire alarm (1)
Illegal burn (1)
Assist other agency (1)
- 11/3/16 Medical assist (3)
MVA (1)
Landing zone (1)
Medical assist (4)
- 11/4/16 Fire alarm (1)
Brush fire (2)
Illegal burn (4)
No incident found (1)
- 11/5/16 Medical assist (2)
Illegal burn (4)
No incident found (1)
Assist other agency (1)
Assist motorist (1)
- 11/6/16 Illegal burn (3)
Fuel spill (1)
Landing zone (3)

T(Nov9,H1)SH