

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Beloved veteran 'Skip' Peters remembered by family, friends

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Family and friends of beloved local veteran Earl "Skip" Peters held a Celebration of Life Service at Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church on Saturday, Feb. 29, following his sudden passing on Friday, Feb. 21.

Peters, 68, served in the U.S Army Special Operations Command, 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment Delta Force, from 1969 to 1992.

He received the Distinguished Service Cross in 1989, the Distinguished Service Medal in 1982, a Silver Star in 1970, two Purple Hearts, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and three Soldier's Medals.

"Five years ago, God blessed me with this man



Earl "Skip" Peters

that you see pictured here, a hero," local Iwo Jima Veteran Clarence "Bud" Johnson said in the service. "I would like to speak about his service, God, country and family, because that is what he was about.

"He had so many awards that we never knew about and that he never spoke about. This is a true warrior and American. He stands for what all of us veterans stand for: God, country and family. He did what he could to help other people."

Peters, a Maryland native who lived in Young Harris, was one of the organizational forces behind the installation of a flagpole and American flag at Johnson's home in September, which is just one of the many reasons Johnson, who turns 98 on Saturday, will never forget his friend.

"One thing he would

always tell us and show us is that he always thought about somebody else," Johnson said. "He thought about me or you or his warriors who he loved, the veterans and the people around him.

"It's been a blessing in my life to have someone like him, a real American, and that's what we need. We need more Americans today to stand up like all of our veterans have stood up, and not be ashamed of this nation like he was never ashamed."

An active member of the community, Peters was part of the Warriors Veteran Outreach, World Harvest Church North in Blairsville, North Mount Zion Church of God and Food Ministry in Hiawassee, as well as the Towns County Food Bank, and he built relationships

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Georgia Remarks delivered moving remarks about her husband and Hometown Hero Skip Peters during his memorial service over the weekend at Sharp United Methodist.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Early voting underway, runs weekdays through March 20

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Three weeks of early voting for the March 24 Presidential Preference Primary began Monday, with ballots using the very first ballots using the county's new Dominion Voting Systems machines.

And every weekday between now and March 20, registered Towns County voters will be able to cast their votes at the Towns County Board of Elections & Registration Office next to the courthouse from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., even during lunchtime.

Voters who find themselves too busy to vote during the scheduled weekdays will be able to take advantage of one weekend day of early in-person voting on Saturday, March 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., also during



lunchtime.

As this is a primary, voters will need to declare a political party to receive a ballot, and they will be able to declare a different political party when voting in the May 19 General Primary Election.

Election Day for the Presidential Preference Primary, in which voters will be selecting a presidential candidate to lead their party of choice, will be on Tuesday, March 24, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. That day, voters should report to one of the three pre-assigned

Towns County precincts.

Registered voters who will be at least 18 years of age by Election Day will be eligible to vote during early voting, though Monday, Feb. 24, was the registration deadline for voters looking to participate in the Presidential Preference Primary.

For information on applying for an absentee ballot, visit the Georgia Secretary of State's Office website at sos.ga.gov; swing by the Towns County Board of Elections & Registration Office at 67 Lakeview Circle, Suite A, in Hiawassee; or call 706-896-4353.

Voters can access.mvp.sos.ga.gov ahead of the election for information on voter registration status, mail-in application and ballot status, poll location, registration information, sample ballots with the county office, or call 706-896-4353.

See Early Voting, Page 6A

Dragons & Tiaras robotics students place at state tournament



The Towns County High School Robotics Team

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

In a packed Cobb County Civic Center on Saturday, Feb. 22, and Sunday, Feb. 23, spectators and participants alike gathered for a clash of machines

and brainpower as hundreds of student-built robots competed for a chance to advance to the World Tournament stage.

Out of the hundreds of competitors, Towns County High School's very own

Robotics Team, Dragons & Tiaras, finished in 15th Place during the state tournament.

Team Members William McCann, Curtis Ledford, Alex Mullins, Laura Mauldin

See Robotics, Page 5A

Qualifying started Monday, continues through Friday noon

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Qualifying for public office candidacy to participate in the 2020 elections began earlier this week and will run through Friday, March 6.

After qualifying, candidates for each party will square off in a May 19 General Primary Election, and, if necessary, in a July 21 Primary Runoff Election. The General Primary victor from each political party will proceed to the Nov. 3 General Election to face opposing party candidates.

A Nonpartisan General Election will run concurrently with the General Primary on May 19, and winners there will be sworn into office in 2020.

Republican Party candidates running for county

office will need to submit their completed candidacy paperwork to Towns County Republican Party representatives who will be stationed in the upstairs Jury Room of the Towns County Courthouse between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Thursday, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday.

Democratic, Independent and Nonpartisan candidates for county office will file their paperwork at the Towns County Board of Elections & Registration Office next to the courthouse during business hours this week, with qualifying ending at noon Friday. The board office will close each day for lunch.

All paperwork must be notarized, and fees should be paid when filing for candidacy.

Qualifying fees for

the following elected county offices were set by Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw in January: County Commissioner, \$1,407.54; Sheriff, \$1,407.54; Probate Judge/Magistrate, \$1,578.31; Tax Commissioner, \$1,229.04; Clerk of Court, \$1,229.04; Coroner, \$160; and Board of Education Posts 1, 4 and 5, \$36.

Qualifiers are encouraged to bring their paperwork in early so that election officials can help candidates ensure everything is in order. Once candidates have paid their fees, they will be entered into the state databank and their names will be published for public viewing.

Local qualifying is for

See Qualifying, Page 5A

Lions Club members break bread in 80th birthday celebration



Towns County Lions Jeff Myers, Jack Anderson, Clay Dotson, Dr. Lanier Nicholson and Grover Garrett in the club's 80th birthday bash on Feb. 25.

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

In recognition of the Towns County Lions Club's 80th anniversary, members of

the group and the community came together to break bread and celebrate the long, rich history of the local volunteer organization on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

The Towns County Lions Club's 80th birthday celebration began with a special catfish, pork chops and fried chicken

See Lions Club, Page 8A

Sewer moratorium aimed at collecting unpaid utility bills



Hiawassee City Council Members Jay Chastain Jr., Amy Barrett and Nancy Noblet discussing a sewer moratorium in a special called meeting on Feb. 24.

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

In a Feb. 24 special called meeting, Hiawassee City Council members discussed

and approved a moratorium on the establishment of new sewer services where the city provides sewer and the Towns County Water Authority provides water.

Essentially, unless new customers get their water from the city, they can't get sewer for the time being.

The city, which produces most of the drinking water in Towns County, has a longstanding agreement with the Water Authority, wherein it sells water wholesale to the authority, which in turn sells it to some county residents.

Sewer services come solely through the city, but unlike water services, when people refuse to pay their sewer bills, the city can't simply cut off sewer access, as there's no meter or valve to do so, and the city wouldn't want to cause sewage backup anyway, Mayor Liz Ordiales said.

But what the city can do

See Sewer, Page 6A

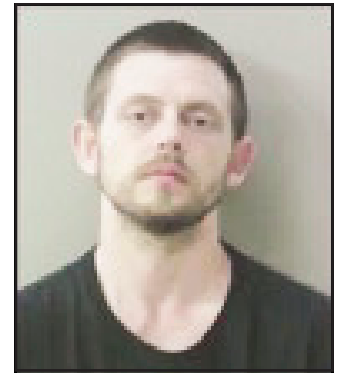
Sheriff's Office makes 27 drug arrests over past two months



Toni Perry

News Special
Towns County Herald

The Towns County Sheriff's Office has continued to make good on its promise to pursue the arrests of suspects on drug-related charges in the Towns County community, with more traffic stops and searches



Jeremy Jemlish

having produced arrests over the last two months.

On Saturday, Dec. 28, a Towns County deputy made a traffic stop on a Toyota Corolla on Fodder Creek Road in Hiawassee.

The driver, identified as Toni Jean Perry, 42, of



Harvey May

Hiawassee, was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine, driving on a suspended registration and failure to maintain lane.

On Wednesday, Jan. 8, Towns County Sheriff's Office investigators and deputies

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Chatuge 1,922.86
Nottely 1,767.81

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BASEBALL
Mar 4 @ Tallulah Falls
4:30 PM
SOCCER
Mar 3 @ Commerce 5 & 7

MARCH 8TH
DAYLIGHT
SAVING TIME
SPRING FORWARD

5th Annual
Military Ball
Get Tickets Now

The Historical
Society presents
Revolutionary War
Heritage
March 9

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