

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Rain	64 45
Fri: Rain	51 50
Sat: Rain	66 48
Sun: Rain	66 38
Mon: Sunny	66 44
Tue: Sunny	68 39
Wed: Sunny	60 38



Upstream Elevation Predicted 03/11/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,917.37
Lake Nottely	1,762.71
Blue Ridge	1,674.97

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Head Start/Pre-K Registration begins March 2nd
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Food Distribution Food Pantry - March 17 2-5 PM
N. Mt. Zion - March 19 10-Noon

Mobile Career Coach coming to Hiawassee March 12th
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American Red Cross Red Cross Local Donation Sites and Times
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SPORTS
Baseball
Mar 11 vs. Athens Academy 5:30 PM
Mar 13 vs. Union co 5:30 PM
Soccer
Mar 10 vs. Rabun 4:30 PM
Mar 13 @ Hebron

70 years since Battle of Iwo Jima

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Veterans of Towns County met Wednesday, March 4, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945.

Three local veterans who were present at the Battle of Iwo Jima were honored at the event: Todd Kimsey, Fire Controlman Third Class, USN, U.S.S. Pasadena (CL-65), of Towns County; Jack Rhodes, Runner, 5th Marines, USMC, of Murphy, NC; and Clarence "Bud" Johnson, Chief Quartermaster USN (Ret.) U.S.S. Silverstein (DE-534).

More than 70 people gathered for the event at the Brother's at Willow Ranch restaurant in Young Harris, which had been rescheduled due to bad weather in February.

"This is a momentous year - the 70th anniversary of Iwo Jima," said Wayne Roshaven, commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps League, Unicoi Detachment 783. "But this year will also mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day, May 8th, and the 70th anniversary of VJ Day, when ces-



Jack Rhodes, Bud Johnson and Todd Kimsey were honored last week during the 70th Anniversary Remembrance of the Battle of Iwo Jima at Brother's at Willow Ranch in Young Harris. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

sation of hostilities occurred Aug. 15th of 1945, and the official surrender document was signed aboard the U.S.S. Missouri on Sept. 2nd, 1945, 70 years ago.

The Battle of Iwo Jima would prove one of the costliest battles in American history.

From Feb. 19, 1945, to March 26, 1945, American forces suffered more than 26,000 casualties on the island,

and nearly 7,000 servicemen lost their lives in the service of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for everyone back home.

"The vets that were on Iwo Jima, the vets that were in every aspect of war, could not have done their job without the support of the people behind the lines, including the ones on the home front, Rosie the

Hiawassee Council approves mid-year budget amendment

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Mayor Barbara Mathis and the Hiawassee City Council voted on and approved the Hiawassee Midyear Amended Budget Ordinance for 2014-2015.

This was the second reading of the ordinance. The first reading occurred in the February meeting, followed by a public hearing on the ordinance that took place on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

When the budget was passed last year for the current fiscal year, the total anticipated expenditures for the year were projected to be \$736,950.

At the midpoint of the fiscal year, the city decided to revise the budget downward.

The newly revised total of expenditures that is anticipated come time for the year-end review is \$712,966, or \$23,984 less than previously anticipated.

City Council also conducted a second reading and adoption of the motion to amend the Hiawassee Ordinance for the Retail Sale of Beer and Wine to authorize "growlers."



Mayor Barbara Mathis

"Here in Georgia, a growler is defined as a 32 or a 64 ounce alternative to traditional bottles or cans for the package sale, for off-premises sale of beer," Ed Kountz told city council in the February regular meeting.

Kountz co-owns Bacchus Wine Shoppe with Linda Pallone, his wife, in downtown Hiawassee.

"Growlers were approved at the state level in Georgia about five years ago," said Kountz. "And since that time, they've been approved in a number of cities and towns across the state as well."

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Kendall meets with TCES Student Council



By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall met with the Student Council of Towns County Elementary School on Tuesday, March 3.

Commissioner Kendall presented the council with an iPad in recognition for the students' recycling efforts this school year.

The occasion gave the students a chance to learn more about local government, as some children at first mistook Commissioner Kendall for Mayor Kendall.

"I'm the commissioner," said Commissioner Kendall. "The mayor and the city council are in charge of city government, and that's the city limits

you see in Hiawassee. And then the county commissioner is in charge of the government outside, the rest of the county. That's the difference in the two offices."

Commissioner Kendall passed out copies of the U.S. Constitution to each of the young councilmembers.

"How many know what the Constitution of the United States is?" asked Commissioner Kendall, and everyone in the room raised their hand.

Students fielded questions about why recycling was important.

"So we can save the trees and have more oxygen," one student said, while another answered that it is important "so we can help our earth."

Third-grade teacher Hilary Tallent heads up stu-

dent council at the elementary school.

"I have to say all of the students were super excited to meet a community leader," said Tallent. "They were even more excited about receiving the iPad. We will plan to use the iPad to take meeting notes, take and share pictures with our school, and many other things."

Barbara Shook, who has been with the school system for 26 years and is a longtime friend of Commissioner Kendall, helped to set up the meeting with the commissioner.

"I'm so thankful for the part she played in all of this," said Tallent.

The student council's recycling initiatives have helped the students become more

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Swett speaks to Shakers

By Shawn Jarrard
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Retired Lt. Cdr. Chris Swett of the U.S. Navy spoke on net neutrality at the weekly Mountain Movers and Shakers meeting at Mary's Southern Grill on Friday, March 6.

Swett is an environmental scientist with a master's degree in meteorology and physical oceanography, but has an extensive personal background in computer technology and the Internet.

While in college, Swett bought a RadioShack TRS-80 Model I computer, which launched in the late 1970s.

"Kids go to college today, they've got to have a computer," said Swett. "I was the only kid in Jacksonville University in 1979 who had his own computer."

After graduating college and becoming a commissioned officer in the Navy, Swett saved for a year to purchase a new computer, this one with a modem.

"In 1984, I got connected," said Swett. "And what I got connected to was CompuServe, which was a private online service owned by H&R Block. What H&R Block did was they said, oh, well we have this network, and we have this computer server sitting in the



Chris Swett

back of each of our offices - why don't we try to earn a little money by making an information service with these computers that are sitting there doing nothing, anyway. We just give each one a dial-in number and we'll connect people."

These early days of networking presented challenges for those using such services, as competitors offered no way for users to communicate with competing services.

Swett had accounts with CompuServe, The Source and America Online.

"None of these talked to each other," said Swett. "So, if I wanted to send an

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Taco Bell jobs fair on Thursday

By Shawn Jarrard
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Staff Writer

Taco Bell is having a job fair at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center on Thursday, March 12, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Zack Wilcox, the district manager who will be over the new Taco Bell coming to Hiawassee, worked with Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall to secure the location of the employment hiring event.

The Towns County Chamber of Commerce and Georgia Department of Labor have helped Wilcox and Taco Bell to advertise for the event in the area.

"I'm looking to hire at least 40 to 45 employees, and five or eight shift managers," said Wilcox, who has 14 years of experience with Taco Bell.

The restaurant has already begun construction on the site, and hopes are that the restaurant will be ready in time for summer.

"We're looking at late May or the first week in June," said Wilcox. "What we're basically going to do is, after the job fair, we're going to identify who we're going to bring on our team. We're going to have



Grading is underway at the Taco Bell site. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

a group of guys who are going to shuttle these guys to our Ellijay location, or Dawsonville or Jasper for training, so when we open the doors, they're ready to go."

Six Taco Bell employees will be on hand for the March 12 hiring event, along with someone from the chamber of commerce and potentially three people from the department of labor.

"We're just looking for, with the team members, there's no experience required, but we're looking for smiling faces, and people who are energetic, outgoing," said Wilcox. "For the shift manager, we're requiring that they have at least six months of management

experience, and they must be 18 years or older."

Applicants can apply online at www.tacobell.com, where they should select "Careers" at the bottom of the webpage and report for an interview on March 12.

Walk-ins are also welcome, and people can apply for a position the day of the event.

"We're a franchisee of Taco Bell, so right now, we're presently growing," said Wilcox. "We have an establishment that went from six stores to 10, and now we're building two more locations, so the growth potential is really, really good

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Book and Bible binding Clinic set for Thursday at public library

By Shawn Jarrard
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Staff Writer

The Towns County Public Library in Hiawassee is hosting a book and Bible clinic on Thursday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Mike Grimes, who has had 40 years of restoration experience, will be coming to the library," said TCPL Branch Manager Debbie Phillips. "You can bring your old books, Bibles, anything that needs to be rebound or restored, and they will give you an estimate of what it would cost to have that done. If you'd like them to do it, they will take it with them that day, and then they'll be back in a couple of weeks and bring your items back to you."

Grimes, of Jasper, started binding books in 1974, and recently semi-retired from the National Library Bindery Company in Roswell. He still drives down to Roswell once a week to pick up books for restoration, but he's also working out of his home for individuals.

"Mostly what I do is restore old books, and people have their old books and Bibles that are falling apart," said Grimes. "They'll bring them, and I will have samples and tell them what I can do to fix their book or Bible and give them a price. I will have samples of materials, they can pick out colors."

Initially, Grimes found an interest in the work after graduating high school. College didn't interest him, so he took a job at the book bindery.



Debbie Phillips

years at the bindery, I worked in various departments learning basic bookbinding skills," said Grimes. "I was taught the art of restoring old books and Bibles by two gentlemen who had about 80 years of combined experience in the field. Since that time, I've been binding new books, Bibles, making scrapbooks, clamshell boxes and slipcase boxes, in addition to restoring old books and Bibles."

Grimes estimates that 60 percent of his business is Bible restoration, where a family Bible may have seen several generations of use and be in serious need of repair.

"They start falling apart on them, and people don't want to go out and buy a new

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