

# Towns County Herald

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## After much discussion, Ordiales elected Mayor Pro Tem

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Hiawassee City Councilwoman Liz Ordiales was elected to the position of Mayor Pro Tem in the May 3 regular monthly meeting by a vote of 2-1.

Ordiales, and Councilwoman Anne Mitchell voted in favor of the motion; Councilman Jay Chastain Jr. voted no. Councilman Kerr Berrong had to leave the meeting early.

Former Councilman Stephen Smith previously held the position until his resignation from the council earlier this year. Mayor Pro Tem carries the responsibility of becoming acting mayor for the city should the mayor fall ill or become incapacitated.

When it came time for the city council to nominate and appoint a new Mayor Pro Tem that Tuesday, a duty reserved to the council in the city charter, Mayor Barbara Mathis asked for a council



Confusion on the long faces of three Hiawassee city council members tells the story of what's happening at Hiawassee City Hall. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

member to make a motion approving Councilman Chastain as Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Mathis made clear in the meeting that she knew it was the council's decision who the next mayor pro tem would be, adding that

she was suggesting Chastain based on a tradition of taking a councilmember's seniority into consideration for the position.

Instead of making the motion, which appeared on the agenda as called out by

Mayor Mathis, Councilwoman Mitchell said that she felt Chastain would not be the best choice because she believed his "because job" would get in the way of

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## Movers and Shakers leader arrested, charged with theft

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

The 80-year-old leader of the Shakers Mountain Movers and Shakers faces misdemeanor theft by taking charges following his arrest for allegedly stealing a campaign sign.

Sam Fullerton was booked into the Towns County Detention Center on May 11 on a charge of stealing a Steven Phillips campaign sign for sole commissioner, Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton said.

"It is what it is," Sheriff Clinton said, in reference to Fullerton's arrest.

Images of Fullerton making off with Phillips' sign from the foot of Young Harris Mountain were captured on a deer cam, Phillips said.

Phillips told the *Towns County Herald* that regardless of his efforts, his campaign signs for Towns County Sole Commissioner kept disappearing.

"It was basically just common sense," Phillips said in reference to the manner in which he collected evidence against Fullerton. "Those signs cost money and the only way I could stop them from being stolen was to catch the person red-handed. The deer cam did just that."

"It wasn't like he was trying to hide anything," Phillips said. "He was taking the signs in broad daylight."

Sheriff Clinton said that Fullerton was arrested on misdemeanor theft by taking charges, and later released on bond.

There were other cam-



Sam Fullerton

paign signs in Fullerton's vehicle, however, Sheriff Clinton said that the owners of those signs told Towns County sheriff's investigators that Fullerton's permission to have those signs.

Fullerton, who was arrested on May 11, declined comment about his arrest during Friday morning's Mountain Movers and Shakers meeting at Mary's Southern Grill in Young Harris.

"Sam contacted me and apologized," Phillips said. "I forgave him, and I'm really not mad at anyone, but stealing is stealing. People who have been running for office over the past few years say they've had plenty of signs stolen."

"I can tell you here today, there is a way to make sure that doesn't happen," Phillips said. "If you're going to steal campaign signs, make sure you smile for the camera."

## Tritt is next Haggard in Country Music

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Travis Tritt played to a crowd of more than 2,000 at the Anderson Music Hall on Saturday, May 14, and the best part? The Georgia native was playing to a home crowd.

The high-intensity show featured live on Tritt's hits, such as "High Time for Gettin' Down" and "The Whiskey Ain't Workin'."

A dazzling light show accompanied the dancing, emotive Tritt throughout the evening, and fans sang along to crowd-favorite tunes "Where Corn Don't Grow" and "Southbound Train."

At a particularly poignant part of the show, Tritt told the audience that when he heard it, tore him up emotionally.

"For anybody that is an anti-God Country Music fan, you know that we've lost one of the greatest Coun-



Georgia native Travis Tritt paid tribute to the recently departed Country Music Legend Merle Haggard at Saturday's concert in Hiawassee at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

try Music icons, heroes, one of the greatest Country Music singers/songwriters that we've ever had," said Tritt.

He then launched into the song "A World Without

Haggard," written by Vince Gill, with its special message about the loss of Country Music Legend Merle Haggard a little more than a month ago.

Opening for Tritt that

evening were the charming and ethereal Hannel Styles and Dethan Daniel, as well as Blairsville band Modern Vinyl.

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## County meeting should be a don't miss event on May 20

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

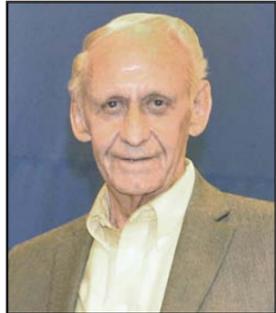
Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall will hold his monthly meeting on Friday, May 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center.

This meeting was rescheduled from the usual place and time of the county meeting, which generally takes place on the third Thursday of every month at the Towns County Courthouse.

In the May 20 meeting, the commissioner will announce a partnership between the county and Chatuge Regional Hospital to offer free emergency life flight services through AirLife Georgia.

Derrick Moody of Hiawassee is regional business manager for AirLife Georgia, and he will be present in the meeting to introduce and help sign people up for the service.

"The take-home point is, what we live, save time, and time saves lives," said Moody. "For instance, if you're taken to a trauma center by ground, and it takes you an hour longer to get there versus going by air, your stay in the trauma surgical ICU could be cut



Bill Kendall

down by days. And that bill in itself can be \$18,000 to \$20,000 a day.

"So you cut that down by days, cut the rehab down sometimes by weeks, get them back in the workforce sooner. And sometimes they may not go back in the workforce if they're not transported by air, because you don't save that time."

AirLife Georgia operates a brand new, state-of-the-art, 2016 year model \$4.5-million helicopter out of Union General Hospital, and signing up for a membership with AirLife Georgia means free air ambulance life flights for people with or without insurance.

Without insurance, a

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## Dyer brothers live on through namesake

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Two brothers – namely Paul and James Dyer – have been recognized by state and local governments for their contributions to the community within which they thrived for so many years.

Thanks to Sen. John Wilkinson with the blessing of Gov. Nathan Deal, the bridge that is currently under construction on GA 17/75 leading from Hiawassee to Helen has been named Dyer Bridge.

Dyer Bridge is a GDOT replacement bridge that has been in the works for many years, one that will be taking the place of the old bridge that Paul and James helped to build together in the 1930s.

And the namesake honor goes to the entire Dyer family, many of whom gathered for the historic event in



The Dyer Family, plus Bill Kendall and John Wilkinson, show off the namesake of the Dyer brothers, Paul and James. The brothers have been immortalized by having a bridge named in their honor. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

the yard of James' son Roger, atop Dyer land overlooking the bridge, on Saturday, May 14.

In his opening comments, Sen. Wilkinson explained how it was Willene Haigler, one of Paul's daugh-

ters, who first reached out to his office about the possibility of naming the bridge after

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## EggFest draws record crowds to Fairgrounds

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Hundreds gathered to taste homemade delicacies at the Sixth Annual Georgia Mountain Eggfest Tournament at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 14.

Cooks and vendors lined the Fairgrounds bright and early Saturday morning, showing off their cooking skills, their bright Green Eggs, and filling the air with the sweet smell of grilled and roasted food.

"You buy a taster's ticket and come in and taste the food," said General Manager Hilda Thomason, "It's



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## Early voting ends Friday, Election Day May 24

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Early voting ends on Friday, May 20, ahead of next week's May 24 Primaries/Nonpartisan Election.

Now through Friday, registered voters who have not yet voted can do so in the Old Rock Jail between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The Old Rock Jail is the headquarters for the Towns County Board of Elections and Registration, and is located next to the Towns County Courthouse.

After Friday, the next chance to vote will be Elec-

tion Day, or May 24, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at each voter's previously specified polling precinct.

The Hiawassee Precinct is located in the Towns County Civic Center, which is the old Senior Center next to the Towns County Courthouse.

The Macedonia Precinct is in the Hiawassee Elementary Gym.

The Young Harris Precinct is in the Young Harris Lodge Hall Building.

The Tate City Precinct is on Tate City Road, located in Clayton.

The following candi-

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Lake Levels

Blue Ridge 1,686.91

Chatuge 1,925.26

Nottely 1,775.08



Lake Chatuge  
Memorial Day  
Fun Run

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MEMORIAL DAY

SERVICE

Monday May 30, 2016

at 11 AM

Towns County Veterans

Memorial Park

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Vietnam Veterans  
Meeting  
May 19th

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Blood Drive  
at the Towns  
County Senior  
Center  
May 18th 9-5

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