

# The Badge



## Towns County Sheriff's Office News



### From the desk of Sheriff Ken Henderson:

Spring is here. It's a great time of year as school ends, families start to go out and enjoy outdoor activities and plan vacations.

At our office, we are preparing for the increase in traffic and preventing crime from occurring. My constant message and belief has always been to invest in our community and protect our families

and the business community.

This month we have seen an increase in internet scam reports. Individuals are reporting a pop-up screen on their computers that appear to be from a reputable computer company stating a virus has been detected on their computer and advising the individual to call the phone number on their screen.

This is a scam to attempt to gain access to your personal information by installing malware to steal your passwords and account numbers.

Some individuals have reported they are asked to purchase gift cards for large sums of money and provide the scammer with the card information.

Please remember the following tips to avoid becoming a victim of this scam:

- Use trusted security software and keep it up to date.
- Do not email financial information, account numbers, or PIN numbers.
- Be cautious when opening attachments, downloading files, and clicking on unfamiliar links on social media.
- Use passwords that will be hard for hackers to guess. Use a mixture of numbers, symbols, capital, and lower-case letters.
- Don't give control of your computer to a third party who calls you out of the blue.
- Do not rely on caller ID alone to authenticate a caller.
- Do not rely on online searches to find technical support.

I would like to urge everyone to be cautious and remain vigilant because scams are becoming more prevalent than ever before. I would also like to encourage you to attend our upcoming frauds and scam class. Information about this class is in this edition.

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## Towns County Sheriff's Office Mission Statement

Our Mission is to modernize the Towns County Sheriff's Office and to provide quality enforcement services using proactive enforcement, community partnership and problem solving, which will create a safe, secure, and desirable living and working environment for our citizens and visitors.

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## APRIL DRUG ARRESTS:



*ALL PERSONS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY IN A COURT OF LAW.*

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## APRIL DRUG ARRESTS

On April 15th, Uniform Patrol Deputies were conducting concentrated patrols in suspected drug areas, one aspect of their patrol functions and observed a female walking on Hwy. 76 near Hwy. 288.

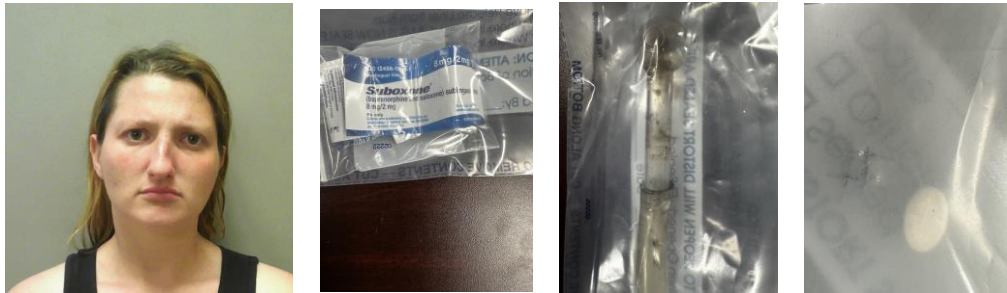
The female was known by deputies and possibly had an outstanding warrant for her arrest.

The warrant was confirmed and during the arrest, an amount of Methamphetamine, which field-tested positive, was found along with suboxone strips, Tizanidine 4mg, and drug related objects.

Christa Sheridan Shook, age 22, Blue Ridge, was arrested and charged with:

- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- Felony Possession of a Controlled Substance
- Possession of Drug Related Objects
- Dangerous Drugs

Sheriff Ken Henderson commends our patrol deputies and their commitment to our continued drug initiatives.



**\*\*All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law\*\***

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During an investigation into a theft case, Investigators with the Towns County Sheriff's Office determined probable cause to search a residence on Lakeview Drive.

During the search, an amount of suspected Marijuana and Methamphetamine, which field-tested positive, were seized along with digital scales.

Timothy Dale Wood, age 38, Young Harris was arrested and charged with:

- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- Two counts of Felony Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Distribute
- Possession of Marijuana
- Possession of Drug Related Objects

Sheriff Ken Henderson is pleased with our drug initiatives which are keeping our community safe and our crime rate low.



**\*\*All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law\*\***



The Towns County Sheriff's Office will be holding a Money Smart for Older Adults program, Wednesday, May 15, 2024, from 9AM – 11:30AM at the Towns County Recreation Center.

With the risk of scams being on the rise nationwide, the Money Smart for Older Adults Program raises awareness among older adults and their caregivers on how to prevent fraud, scams, and other forms of elder financial exploitation.

If you are an older adult concerned about protecting yourself, or a caregiver concerned about an aging loved one, and are interested in attending this informative program, please contact Jill Gittens at (706) 896-4444 to reserve your seat. Space is limited.

The 2024-01 session of the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Academy kicked off May 9th with the Introduction of Command Staff. Sheriff Ken Henderson led attendees through the organizational structure of the Towns County Sheriff's Office and introduced Chief Deputy Gene Moss, Major Eric Wood, Major James Baldwin and Captain Johnny McCoy.

During the weeks following, attendees have learned about the Detention Centers Role and Duties, Uniform Patrol, Drug and Criminal Investigations, a K-9 demonstration. They class were witnesses to a planned scenario to demonstrate the importance of eyewitnesses.



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It's was a busy month for our student and athletes at Towns County High School.

Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>, students traveled to Union County to compete in the Spring Special Olympics.



Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the baseball team headed to the playoffs.



Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, both the boys' and girls' soccer teams headed to the Sweet Sixteen Playoffs.



**GO INDIANS!!!**

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## SHOP WITH THE SHERIFF 2024

Sheriff Ken Henderson and the staff at Towns County Sheriff's Office would like to thank Smokies GT Inc. for their generous donation of \$5,000 to our Shop with the Sheriff program.

Smokies GT Inc is a not-for-profit community of Porsche GT owners whose purpose is to help improve the lives of others through creating life experiences and charitable giving.

Sheriff Henderson stated, "This donation is greatly appreciated and will be used to assist underprivileged children in our community."



## MISSING PERSON LOCATED SAFE

On 4/17/24 Towns County Sheriff's Office received a report of a missing person. Tanya Michelle Sorrells age 47 of Young Harris, GA was last seen on Sunday 4/6/24 at a residence in the Gumlog Road area. Mrs. Sorrells had withdrawn money from her personal banking account and told a relative she was going to Columbia, SC.

A phone ping was conducted on her cell phone and showed her phone was indeed in the Columbia, SC area.

Monday, April 29th, Towns County Sheriff's Office Investigators working to locate Tonya Michelle Sorrells, were able to contact an attendant with Tri-State Shuttle in Murphy NC.

The attendant revealed Sorrells had contacted him on April 6th and that he had picked her up at her residence and taken her to a hotel in Columbia, SC.

TCSO Investigators were in contact with Investigator Yarnal with Richland County Sheriff's Office. Investigator Yarnal was able to physically locate Mrs. Sorrells unharmed, having left of her own free will, and a family member was notified.

Sheriff Ken Henderson commends Towns County Sheriff's Office Investigators, the Georgia Bureau of investigations and Richland County Sheriff's Office for working together to bring this investigation to a successful conclusion.

If you know someone who would like to receive the monthly newsletter, please have them contact Community Relations Coordinator Jill Gittens at (706) 896-4444 or [jgittentcso@townscountyga.com](mailto:jgittentcso@townscountyga.com)

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