

The Badge

September 2024
Issue Twenty-Five



Towns County Sheriff's Office News



From the desk of Sheriff Ken Henderson:

The summer of 2024 is almost over, and we'll soon be wrapping up our summer activities, but our community engagement activities continue to grow. Already this year we've enjoyed many concerts, festivals, and the Georgia Mountain Fair and parade, there are more events to come this Fall and holiday season.

Please make plans to join me at one of my upcoming meetings listed below. This will be an opportunity for open discussions where you will be able to ask questions and voice any concerns you may have.

In November Towns County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a Refuse to Be

a Victim[®] seminar. The seminar, for both men and women, teaches easy-to-understand methods you can use to increase awareness and prevent criminal confrontation and will be presented by Certified NRA Instructor Carol Rosenqvist. More information, including how to register, will be in next month's issue.

Lastly, our search for top quality community minded leaders to join our Office continues. We are currently looking for individuals to join both our road patrol as well as our detention staff. Whether this will be your first time in law enforcement or are looking to continue your career, I hope you consider our Office as a landing spot for a lifetime.

If you are looking for a way to volunteer your time, please consider joining our Sheriff's Office Auxiliary. These folks donate their valuable time at various events to assist our agency in an effort to save taxpayers money.



SHERIFF'S OPEN FORUM

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Stephens Masonic Lodge

135 Murphy Street, Young Harris, GA 30582

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Towns County Civic Center

67 Lakeview Circle, Hiawassee.

Meetings will begin at 4:30 pm

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.

AUGUST DRUG ARRESTS:



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

AUGUST DRUG ARRESTS

On July 25th, Towns County Drug Investigators received a report of drug activity and opened an investigation.

During the investigation at a residence on Dyer Road, probable cause developed, and a search of the residence resulted in the confiscation of an amount of Methamphetamine, which field-tested positive, as well as drug related objects.

Ella Siobhan Nichols-Carver, age 36, Young Harris was arrested and charged with:
Possession/Use of Drug Related Objects.

Dustin Wade Holcomb, age 36, Young Harris is charged with:

Possession of Methamphetamine
Possession/Use of Drug Related Objects

Holcomb is currently incarcerated at Clay County Detention Center and will be transferred to Towns County.

Sheriff Ken Henderson would like to thank the citizen for calling in an anonymous tip and would like to remind everyone, you will remain anonymous with any tip you have. You can call the office at (706) 896-4444 or submit a tip on our website at www.townscountysheriff.org/drug-crime-tips



On July 31st, Towns County Sheriff's Office received a call regarding drug information at a residence on Dills Road in Hiawassee.

When deputies arrived, a family member of the residence produced an amount of Methamphetamine in a plastic bag.

Drug Investigators were called to the scene. During the investigation it was determined the drugs belonged to India Dawn Shelton, a resident at that location.

A warrant was obtained for the arrest of India Shelton for Felony Possession of Methamphetamine.

On Thursday, August 1st, India was arrested on drug charges in Cherokee County, NC and a hold has been placed on her for extradition to Towns County.

On August 21st, India was booked into the Towns County Jail for Felony Possession of Methamphetamine.

The investigation is ongoing.

Sheriff Ken Henderson commends the drug investigators for their hard work and for the confiscation of this amount of drugs to keep it out of our community.



Towns County Drug Investigators received citizen complaints about a residence on Chicken Pitt Road.

During the investigation, probable cause was developed initiating a search of the residence which resulted in the confiscation of an amount of Methamphetamine which field-tested positive along with Marijuana.

Lenord James Fields, age 50, Young Harris, GA was arrested and charged with:

- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- Possession of Marijuana
- Possession and Use of Drug Related Objects

Sheriff Ken Henderson commends the citizen reporting the drug activity. Law enforcement and the community working together can make a difference.



During a call for service at a residence on Hwy 66 in Young Harris on Monday, August 12th regarding a possible intruder, patrol deputies arrived on the scene and could smell the odor of Marijuana and could see drugs in plain view.

Towns County drug investigators were called to the location and probable cause was developed resulting in a search of the residence. An amount of Marijuana and Methamphetamine, which field-tested positive, were confiscated.

After a two weeklong narcotics investigation, David Lee Thomas, age 69, Young Harris was arrested on August 27th and charged with:

- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute
- Felony Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute
- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- Felony Possession of Marijuana

Sheriff Ken Henderson stated that this is a huge drug bust and the Sheriff's Office will continue its fight against drugs.

The investigation into this case continues.



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

Sheriff Henderson and our entire staff are sending our prayers to the family of Deputy Brandon Cunningham, and the Paulding County Sheriff's Office, and to the family of Investigator Taylor Bristow and the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. These officers were tragically killed in the line of duty this month.

Please continue to keep their families in your prayers as they navigate these devastating losses.



AUGUST STATISTICS

August Arrests.	33
Traffic Crimes.	19
Personal Crimes.	13
*Battery.	1
*Battery Family Violence.	1
*Cruelty to Children.	1
*Disorderly Conduct.	2
*Obstruction of Law Enforcement.	3
*Possession of Gun/Knife During a Crime.	1
*Simple Battery.	3
*Terroristic Threats/Acts.	1
Property Crimes.	2
*Criminal Trespass.	1
*Entering Vehicle w/Intent to Commit Theft.	1
Substance Crime.	15
*Driving Under the Influence Drugs/Alcohol.	3
*Pedestrian Under the Influence.	2
*Possess/Use of Drug Related Objects.	1
*Possess/Purch/Manuf/Dist/Methamphetamine.	3
*Possess/Purch/Sale/Manuf/Dist of Controlled Substance.	1
*Public Drunkenness.	1
*Trafficking in Cocaine/Meth/Illegal Drugs.	1

SHOP WITH THE SHERIFF DONATION

It may be hot, humid and just overall uncomfortable outside right now, but we are already thinking about cold weather, hot chocolate and visits from Santa here at the Towns County Sheriff's Office. The Georgia Cobra Club was in town on Saturday and gave the Shop with the Sheriff a kind and generous donation to get us all in the Christmas spirit. Sheriff Ken Henderson would like to thank them for graciously thinking of the kids that will be in need this Christmas.





Towns County Sheriff's Office received multiple calls in August concerning a scam call going around in the area.

Individuals are reporting the caller ID reflects Towns County Sheriff's Office name and phone number.

The scammer is advising individuals that Towns County Sheriff's Office has a warrant for their arrest and is asking them to pay a large sum of money over the phone to take care of the warrant and avoid arrest.

THIS IS A SCAM.

Towns County Sheriff's Office does not call individuals and ask for payments over the phone.

JOINT OPERATION - SHERIFF KEN HENDERSON AND SUPERINTENDENT DARREN BERRONG

Towns County Schools immediately contacted Towns County Sheriff's Office upon receiving information about a possible threat to the school.

Towns County Sheriff's Office Investigators have thoroughly investigated the threat and an individual was identified, and the suspect has been interviewed.

It appears that this is a result of rumors, and no evidence whatsoever was found of such threat.

The individual was given a criminal trespass warning and is barred from all Towns County Schools property.

Towns County School Superintendent Darren Berrong states, "We would like to thank the Sheriff's Office for their prompt response to this allegation. Towns County Schools takes any and all possible threats seriously and will always put the safety of our students first. Thankfully this appears to be a rumor. However, for safety purposes we will be working with the Sheriff's Office for enhanced security at the football game Friday night."



The Towns County GOP, Towns County Democratic Party and Towns County Civic Association packed the house at the Towns County Civic Center on Thursday night, August 15th.

Towns County Sheriff Ken Henderson, Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw, and District Attorney Jeff Langley were speakers for the event.

Sheriff Henderson spoke on drug activity, crime and crime prevention, home and business protection, and shared some personal safety tips.

Fun was had by all, and plenty of important information was shared by all speakers.



Thank you so much to S.A.F.E and the Butterfly House Child Advocacy Center for providing lunch to our staff on Wednesday August 21st

We greatly appreciated them for thinking of us and for all that Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc. and Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia- CACGA do to aid victims of abuse, assault and violence in our communities.



GEORGIA MOUNTAIN FAIR PARADE

The 73rd annual Georgia Mountain Fair Parade is one of the longest standing traditions in Towns County and today it was a great triumph.

Sheriff Henderson led a parade of businesses, churches and civic organizations down Main Street including the Grand Marshal Senator Bo Hatchett.

Sheriff Henderson would like to brag just a minute on his Administrative Staff. The ladies and gentlemen took 2nd place in the business section for their "Life Is Better at The Lake" themed golf cart.

"Congratulations to my staff who always go out of their way to make events like this as special as possible and are always in the forefront of any community event. A big thank you to Mason Tractor Company who always supplies the ride for our staff to be able to participate in these parades in style and today was no different, they had the Cadillac of golf carts."

Sheriff Henderson would like to give a big shoutout to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and parade committee for always putting an event like this together. The sheriff would also like to thank the many volunteers who keep an event like this running smoothly, including the Towns County Sheriff's Auxiliary.



COUNTERFEIT MONEY

Recently, Towns County Sheriff's Office has received reports of counterfeit bills being passed in the community as well as surrounding counties.

In an effort to prevent losses in the community, Sheriff Ken Henderson and staff are visiting local businesses to providing them with educational materials and counterfeit detection pens to assist in recognizing counterfeit money.

Sheriff Henderson would like to remind everyone, if you receive a counterfeit bill, call 911 immediately for assistance from law enforcement and make notes describing the individual(s) and vehicle which can aid deputies in identifying and locating the suspect(s).

Sheriff Ken Henderson is pictured below at Cornerstone BP demonstrating how the detection pens work.



Sheriff Ken Henderson visited the Human Society's Mountain Shelter Thrift Store Saturday to support them in their grand reopening.

Please join Towns County Sheriff's Office in supporting their business and wishing them much success. The thrift store is located at 1620 US-76, Hiawassee.



TOWNS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AUXILIARY

The Towns County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for Auxiliary members.

As a member of the Towns County Sheriff's Auxiliary, you will assist deputies as extra eyes and ears during events like the Georgia Mountain Fair, Shop with the Sheriff, the Sheriff's Office Christmas parade, and so much more.

If you are interested in our program and would like more information, please contact Auxiliary Director Jill Gittens at (706) 896-4444 or jgittenstcso@townscountyga.com

Applications can be obtained at the Towns County Sheriff's Office, 4070 State Highway 339, Young Harris, or at www.townscountyga.com/tcso



CANDY CANES ON MAIN



The Towns County Sheriff's Office Christmas Parade

Saturday, November 30, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars for our community's favorite holiday tradition.

This year's theme is "Candy Canes on Main".

The parade route will begin in the parking lot of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds with lineup beginning at 4:00 p.m. If you are planning to enter the float contest you will need to be lined up and fully decorated by 5:00 p.m.

NO ENTRY FEE IS REQUIRED UNLESS YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO SHOP WITH THE SHERIFF

PLEASE READ RULES AS THEY HAVE BEEN UPDATED

*We ask that each entry try and depict the theme of the parade as judging is based on the theme.

*All parade entries must be well-lit.

*Children under the age of 18 must be supervised by an adult.

*We ask that no float have a Santa Claus on it because Santa Claus will be bringing up the rear of the parade and is the grand finale (too many Santa's will confuse the smaller kids).

*No political floats or vehicles.

*No items or clothing displaying obscene political or sexual language or language attacking or demeaning an individual or group.

Please call Towns County Sheriff's Office to let them know if you will be participating in the parade and your details. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Towns County Sheriff's Office at 1-706-896-4444.

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 jgittenstcso@townscountyga.com

Towns County Sheriff's Office
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