

The Badge

August 2023
Issue Twelve



Towns County Sheriff's Office News



From the desk of Sheriff Ken Henderson:

We had another successful month as we continue our drug initiatives which you can read about in this issue.

I am extremely proud to announce Towns County Sheriff's Office has been awarded state certification from the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. You can also read about it in this issue.

Lastly, as we prepare for our children to return to school Friday, I would like to remind everyone to:

- Be aware of school zone signals and always obey the speed limit.
- Obey traffic laws when passing bus stops, driving through neighborhoods and school zones.
- Watch out for deputies directing traffic in the school zone.
- Watch for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Do not allow your children to exit your vehicle while you are stopped in traffic – it is unsafe and can lead to a tragedy.
- Be patient, be vigilant and allow extra time for your morning commute.

Making sure your kids get to and from school safely is our priority and I ask that it be yours as well.

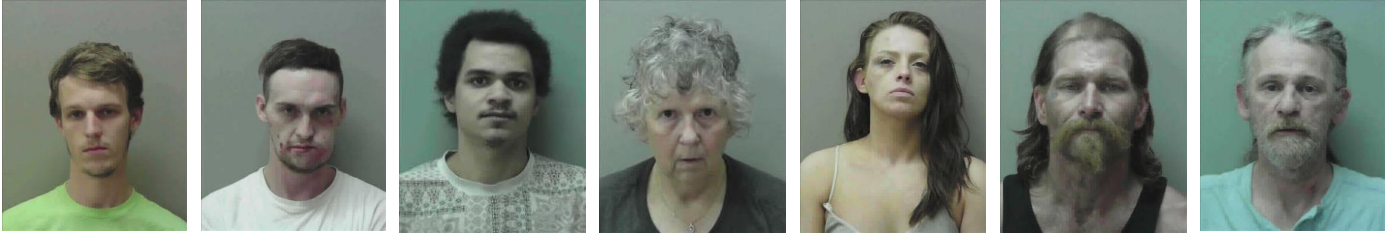
Towns County Sheriff's Office would like to wish all students a successful school year.

Go Indians!!

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.

JULY DRUG ARRESTS:



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

STATE CERTIFICATION

Sheriff Ken Henderson and the Towns County Sheriff's Office were awarded state certification from the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police on July 23rd at their award ceremony in Savannah, GA during the Summer training conference. The State Certification Program is voluntary and comprises management, operational, and service standards which are administered by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. Agencies participating in the program are required to be reviewed every three years. Compliance with the standards allows the Towns County Sheriff's Office to provide our community with the highest level of professionalism.

State Certification has been a priority for Sheriff Henderson's administration since entering office. As Sheriff Henderson entered office in January 2021 the Towns County Sheriff's Office was preparing for its state certification review and it became abundantly clear that the sheriff's office would not be able to attain this highly coveted certification based off the previous administrations' efforts. Sheriff Henderson made the difficult decision to withdraw to ensure the agency was progressing toward compliance and reapply under his administration.


Receiving State Certification is an extreme honor for the Towns County Sheriff's Office. This entire process would not have been accomplished without Sheriff Henderson's unwavering commitment to professionalism and service to the citizens of Towns County.

Sheriff Henderson would like to thank his staff and a special thanks to State Certification Manager Bobbie Shook for her steadfast commitment to attain this certification.




BUS SAFETY LAWS

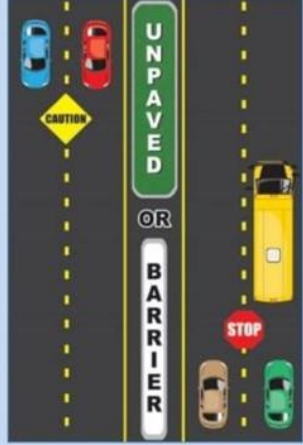
What is the Law?



TWO LANE
Vehicles traveling
In both directions
MUST STOP.



MULTI-LANE – Paved Across
Vehicles traveling in both directions
MUST STOP.



**DIVIDED HIGHWAY – With dirt, grass
or barrier median – Vehicles behind
MUST STOP. Vehicles traveling in
opposite direction must use caution.**

JULY DRUG ARRESTS

On Friday, July 14th, Sgt. Bryan Forsyth initiated a traffic stop on Hwy 76 W at Hwy 66. Probable cause was established to search the vehicle and person, incidental to arrest.

A plastic bag containing a substance which appeared to be Methamphetamine was found in the sock of the suspect, Daniel Mort. The approximate 20 grams field tested positive for Methamphetamine laced with Fentanyl.

Daniel Eugene Mert, age 45, of Blairsville was arrested and charged with:
Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
Possession of Drug Related Objects
No Proof of Insurance

Sheriff Ken Henderson commends Sgt. Forsyth for his hard work and concentrated patrols to keep our county safe by continuing our fight against drugs.



On Tuesday evening, July 18th, Towns County investigators and patrol deputies served an arrest warrant at a residence on Mr. Bert Road, Hiawassee. Rebeka Renee Eichholz was wanted in Cherokee County GA for credit card fraud.

During the arrest Eichholz attempted to flee the residence. At the time of the arrest a white substance appearing to be Methamphetamine was lying in plain view which field-tested positive.

While being transported to the Towns County Detention Center, Eichholz kicked the back door of a patrol vehicle causing damage to the vehicle.

During the investigation, an amount of Methamphetamine was recovered and field-tested positive, along with amphetamine pills, and drug related objects. As a result, Duane Alan Stamps was also arrested.

Rebeka Renee Eichholz, age 28, Blairsville was arrested and charged with:

- *Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- *Felony Interference with Government Property
- *Possession of Drug Related Objects
- *Willful Obstruction of Law Enforcement Officers

Duane Alan Stamps, age 27, Hiawassee was also arrested at the residence and charged with:

- Felony possession of amphetamine pills
- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- Possession of Drug Related Objects.



On Tuesday evening, July 25th, Deputy Darringer Barrett, while conducting concentrated patrols, stopped a vehicle in the City of Hiawassee.

Deputy Barrett's partner, K-9 Xena, was deployed for an open-air search and alerted.

Probable cause to search was established and conducted by Deputy Barrett and Sergeant Bryan Forsyth. A variety of drugs were confiscated to include Methamphetamine laced with Fentanyl, which field-tested positive, Marijuana, THC wax, THC oil, Shroons, and drug related objects.

The items were packaged in a manner consistent with distribution.

Joseph Adam Scovack, age 50, Homeless was arrested and charged:

- Felony Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute.
- Felony Possession of Shroons, Schedule I with Intent to Distribute
- Felony Possession of THC Wax
- Felony Possession of THC Wax with Intent to Distribute
- Felony Possession of THC oil
- Possession of THC oil with Intent to Distribute
- Felony Possession of Hash
- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- Felony Possession of Marijuana over one ounce
- Possession of Drug Related Objects
- Driving While License Suspended
- No Tag Lights

Sheriff Ken Henderson is pleased with the work of our deputies focusing their efforts to combat drugs in our county.



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

EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN INVESTIGATION AND ARREST

A 6-month investigation involving Exploitation of Children lead to the execution of a Superior Court search warrant which was executed at a residence located at 1055 Main Street, Young Harris on Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

A joint investigation between Towns County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Mike Franklin and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation lead to the arrest of Dawson Wade Denmark, age 21, Young Harris.

A search of the location resulted in computers and phones containing a large amount of downloaded sexual exploitation of very young children engaging in sexual acts.

Four ounces of marijuana packaged and sealed for distribution were also confiscated.

Denmark is charged with 7 counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Child

2 counts of Possession of Sexual Exploitation of a Child

2 counts Felony Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute

Sheriff Ken Henderson commends Towns County Sheriff's Office Investigator, Sgt. Mike Franklin and the G.B.I. for their hard work on a very sensitive and technical investigation that has been ongoing for months.

The investigation is ongoing.



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Monday, July 3rd, Sheriff Henderson had the honor and privilege to spend time with and speak with some amazing kids staying up at Riverbend Campground.

Towns County Sheriff's Office works hard to show our children that law enforcement is their friends and are here to help.

Sheriff Henderson emphasized the importance of staying away from drugs and that one pill can kill. The kids got to look in Deputy Christy Moody's patrol unit and see the inner workings of our cars and was allowed to ask as many questions as they liked.

Sheriff Henderson would like to thank the McNabb family for having him up to their beautiful grounds and look forward to visiting with the kids again real soon.



If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter, please contact Community Relations Coordinator Jill Gittens at (706) 896-4444 or jgittenstcso@townscountyga.com

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