

# The Badge

May 2023  
Issue Nine



## Towns County Sheriff's Office News



### From the desk of Sheriff Ken Henderson:

April was a very busy month for our deputies, investigators and K-9s. Working together, they successfully kept a large amount of Methamphetamine, some laced with Fentanyl, from making it to drug dealers and onto our streets. One individual was a high-level supplier who was delivering to local drug dealers in Towns and surrounding counties. You can read about these arrests in this issue. We are committed to locating and removing these dangerous drugs from our community.

It is the goal of the Towns County Sheriff's Office to provide responsive and professional law enforcement services to the residents and visitors of our County. Each member of our Sheriff's Office strives toward our goal by working with the community and solving problems daily.

I would also like to personally invite everyone to the Guns and Hoses kickball game on June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Towns County Recreation Center. Towns County Sheriff's Office will be competing against Towns County Fire at the Summer Heat of Towns County Taste of Towns Family Fun Day.

As always, if I can assist you in any way, please call our office at 706-896-4444.

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### SHERIFF'S LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

We are now accepting applications for our next Sheriff's Law Enforcement Academy which will begin June 6, 2023, and will be held each Tuesday from 10:00-Noon. This is a 10-week course offered to all Towns County residents, employees, and business owners that are age 21 and over. During the course, presenters from the Towns County Sheriff's Office and guest speakers from other partnership agencies will provide a better understanding of operations through hands-on training and law enforcement knowledge. You can pick up an application at the Towns County Sheriff's Office. Applications are also available at <https://www.townscountysheriff.org/tcsa>. Completed applications may be dropped off at the Towns County Sheriff's Office, located at 4070 State Highway 339, Young Harris. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, May 31, 2023. For more information you can contact us at (706) 896-4444.

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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

### April 14, 2023

Towns County Sheriff's Investigators made a major drug bust on Friday evening, April 14th. A traffic stop was conducted at the intersection of Hwy. 76 and Hwy. 17. A search of the vehicle resulted in a substantial amount of Methamphetamine being confiscated, which field-tested positive. Further investigation revealed the driver was a high-level supplier who was delivering pre-packaged Methamphetamine designated for sale to local drug dealers in Towns County and Clay County.

These prepackaged bags of Methamphetamine can be cut by local dealers who can then lace the Methamphetamine with other dangerous drugs.

The following were arrested and charged:

Anderson David Dowdy, age 24, Cleveland, GA

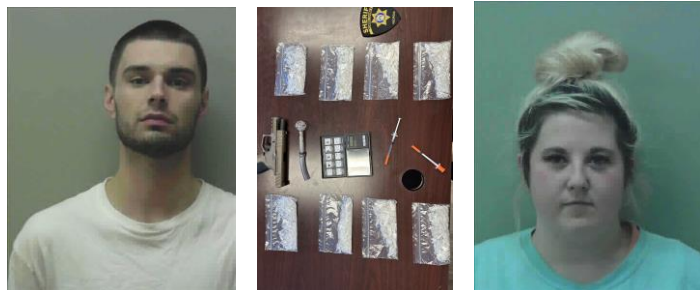
- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute
- Felony Trafficking in Methamphetamine
- Felony Possession of Firearm during the Commission of a Crime

Shannon Nichole Philbeck, age 24, Cleveland, GA

- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- Felony Trafficking in Methamphetamine
- Felony Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Crime.

Sheriff Ken Henderson is pleased with this major bust that intercepted drugs packaged for sale in our community. An investigation indicated that this supplier has been supplying drugs to our local dealers for three years. Sheriff Henderson would like to thank Clay County Sheriff's Office for their assistance in the investigation.

The investigation is ongoing.



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### April 18, 2023

On Tuesday evening, April 18th, Towns County K-9 Deputy made a traffic stop on Highway 76 West near Young Harris for a suspended tag. A free air search of the vehicle resulted in K-9 Xena alerting on the vehicle. A search was conducted, and Methamphetamine laced with Fentanyl field tested positive. During a search at the Towns County Detention Center additional Methamphetamine was found on the suspects person resulting in additional charges.

Sheriff Ken Henderson commends the patrol deputies and their keen observation. Along with the additional resources of our K-9s Towns County Sheriff's Office will continue our war on drugs in Towns County.

Bobby Dewayne Cantrell, age 43, Blairsville was arrested and charged with:

- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- Felony Crossing Guard Lines with Weapons/Drugs/Intoxicants
- Possession and Use of Drug Related Objects



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### April 24, 2023

Monday evening, April 24th, Towns County Sheriff's Office deputies received information that led Sheriff's drug investigators to a residence where a fourth amendment search was conducted, and an amount of Oxycodone, Methamphetamine, and Fentanyl was recovered.

Kyle Brandon Kittinger, age 33, Hiawassee, was arrested and charged with:

- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- Simple Battery (Family Violence)
- Possession of Marijuana
- Possession of Drug Related Objects

Mellissa Joy O'Keefe, age 28, Hiawassee, was arrested and charged with:

- Possession of Methamphetamine
- Possession of Marijuana
- Possession of Drug Related Objects
- Probation Violation

Sheriff Ken Henderson would like to thank the community for continuing to provide the Towns County Sheriff's Office with information through the anonymous tip link on our website,

[www.townscountysheriff.org](http://www.townscountysheriff.org)



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**April 25, 2023**

Tuesday afternoon, April 25th, a traffic stop was conducted on Hwy. 76 in Young Harris. K-9 Dakota alerted on the vehicle and a search was conducted. An amount of Methamphetamine and drug related objects were confiscated.

Further investigation revealed these drugs were intended for sale and distribution in Towns County.

Sheriff Ken Henderson commended K-9 Dakota, investigators, and patrol deputies for working together to combat drugs in Towns County.

The following individuals were arrested and charged:

Kristi Michelle Sloan, age 33, Suches

- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- Felony Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Distribute

Tonia Elaine Huggins, age 34, Blairsville

- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine

Sheriff Ken Henderson is extremely proud of the commitment of the deputies, investigators and K-9s as our war on drugs continues.



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## **Is your house number clearly visible for First Responders?**



In an emergency, Towns County Sheriff's Office, Towns County Fire Rescue, and Towns County Emergency Medical Services depend on your house numbers to find you quickly. Finding your home quickly, especially at night, can save valuable minutes which could save your life.

If your numbers are not legible, missing numbers, hidden or unlighted, this could delay first responders from reaching you quickly.

Towns County Sheriff's Office recommends:

- Post your address clearly and prominently at the end of your driveway and on your home.
- Posting your 9-1-1 address at the driveway entrance and on your home will alleviate confusion for first responders.
- Use large reflective or illuminated numbers which can be seen from all directions so your address can be seen in the evening as well as the day. Numbers that are at least four inches tall are highly recommended.
- Trees, bushes, or other debris should not block visibility from the road.

Sheriff Ken Henderson urges everyone to check your house numbers and update them if needed stating, "When facing an emergency, following these guidelines will save valuable time and ensure first responders can find you quickly and save lives."

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## TOWNS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER TEAM IN THE PLAYOFFS

Monday April 24<sup>th</sup>, Towns County High School Sheriff's Office, Towns County Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw and Mulkey's Wrecker Service escorted the girls' varsity soccer team from Towns County High School to the Towns/White County line this morning as they head out to the Elite 8 playoffs. They will be playing against Hawkinsville Red Devils in Pulaski County.

Sheriff Ken Henderson wishes the girls the best of luck!

Go Indian!!



Friday morning, Sheriff Ken Henderson was proud to lead the send-off for the Towns County High School Girls' Soccer Team as they headed to the Final Four Championship game.

Tonight, the Towns County Indians will be playing the Lake Oconee Titans.

Sheriff Henderson would like to thank everyone who came out from Towns County Fire, Towns County EMS, and Mulkey's Wrecker Service.

GO INDIANS!



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

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