

# The Badge

October 2022  
Issue Two



## Towns County Sheriff's Office News

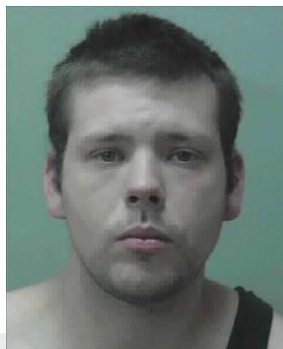


### From the desk of Sheriff Ken Henderson:

I would like to start by saying thank you to everyone who came out for the fish fry at The Retreat at Hiawassee River. It was an honor to see such a great turnout to support the Towns County Sheriff's Office. It reflects the commitment of our citizens to work together with our Office to make Towns County a safer place to live.

Towns County Sheriff's Office remains committed to keeping our community safe. As the weather turns colder, I would like to ask everyone to check on your elderly neighbors and those unable to leave their home. Checking on your elderly friends, relatives, and neighbors can help them feel connected, and will give you an opportunity to spot potential issues and help them get assistance if needed. We have included a few tips on page 2.

### LARGE COIN THEFT SUSPECTS ARRESTED AND LARGE QUANTITY OF COINS RECOVERED



Towns County Sheriff's Office received information from a McConnell Memorial Baptist Church member that Ms. Nancy Kelly, an elderly Towns County resident, was being exploited by a handy man, Christopher James Plush and his accomplice, Devin Barry Lowery.

Sheriff's Office Investigators opened a criminal investigation and found there were missing prescription drugs, a handgun, several hundred rare coins and a large amount of cash. Her vehicle was also stolen, wrecked and damaged.

Sheriff's Investigators worked around the clock to locate the suspects and arrest them. They also worked very quickly to recover cash, the handgun, prescription drugs and hundreds of the rare coins with an estimated value in the thousands.

The victim and her husband, who is deceased, had collected valuable rare coins for years. One rare coin has an estimated value of \$23,000. There is no way to estimate the value of the coins without an expert.

Sheriff Ken Henderson stated that elderly citizens are easy targets for fraud and theft. Sheriff Henderson wants to thank the concerned citizen for the information that led to the investigation and arrests in this matter. The quick work in locating the suspect and his accomplice led to the recovery of stolen property, which will be returned to the victim.

Christopher James Plush, age 30, Homeless, was arrested and charged with one (1) count of burglary and three (3) counts of theft by taking.

Plush's accomplice, Devin Barry Lowery, age 24, of Ducktown, TN was also arrested and charged with one (1) count of burglary and one (1) count of theft by taking.

## SEPTEMBER DRUG ARRESTS:



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

## SHERIFF'S LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY:

This is a free 10-week course offered to all Towns County residents, employees, business owners 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. Our goal is to provide a safer community with citizens and business owners of Towns County through communication and education.

Georgia State Patrol, Department of Natural Resources, and Georgia Bureau of Investigations



## Winter safety tips for our elderly citizens

Elderly Towns County Residents are encouraged to have an emergency plan and kit that will allow them to remain in place for at least three days if they are unable to safely leave their homes.

The plan and kit should include:

- A battery-operated radio, flashlight, and extra batteries for both of those items.
- Food you can open and prepare easily without electricity.
- One gallon of water per person, per day.
- A first-aid kit and backup supply of medications.
- Spare glasses, extra hearing aid batteries, and non-powered alternatives to assistive and medical equipment that may not work without electricity.
- A loud horn, whistle, or bell you can use to help first responders locate you.
- The names and phone numbers of people you can call for help if you need it.
- A plan for where you will go if it is unsafe to remain in your home, and how you will get there.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> – Halloween at the Fairgrounds

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Towns County Sheriff's Office Christmas Parade

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> – Shop with the Sheriff

## COMMUNITY WATCH:

Our Community Watch groups continue to grow. If you and your neighbors would like to join us in organizing a community or neighborhood watch in your community please call Jill Gittens, (706) 896-4444 or email her at [jgittenstcso@townscountyga.com](mailto:jgittenstcso@townscountyga.com)

*Towns County Sheriff's Office*  
4070 State Highway 339  
Young Harris, GA 30582

(706) 896-4444  
[www.townscountysheriff.org](http://www.townscountysheriff.org)

To be added to the monthly newsletter email, please contact Community Relations Coordinator Jill Gittens at (706) 896-4444 or [jgittenstcso@townscountyga.com](mailto:jgittenstcso@townscountyga.com)