

Sheriff Clinton welcomes Sons of American Revolution for award



Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton was glad to accept an appreciation award for his office from local SAR President Jared Ogden on Aug. 5.

**By Jarrett Whitener
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YOUNG HARRIS—The Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter Sons of the American Revolution presented Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton and his office with an appreciation award on Wednesday, Aug. 5.

Local to the area, the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter SAR has been presenting a series of awards to area law enforcement as a way of showing support for officers who, on top of their already difficult jobs, regularly face new challenges with COVID-19.

Chapter President Jared Ogden feels it is important

hind our country was individual liberty,” Clinton said. “We as individuals have rights given to us by God, and the purpose of government is to protect those liberties. The office of the sheriff is such that it is the oldest office in the history of the English language, and it is the only office that has the specific duty of keeping people safe.

“That is certainly what we are about, preserving that way of life, which I don’t think there is any question that it is under attack now. To have a group that recognizes those sorts of things and those efforts, we appreciate that.”

Having the support of the community helps the sheriff and his deputies build healthy relationships between themselves and the people, which in turn establishes trust and keeps the area safer.

“Community involvement is everything,” said Clinton, who oversaw the creation of the volunteer Citizens Law Enforcement Academy in Towns County six years ago. “One of the things that we want is community trust.

“This is an office of the people, an office of public trust. It doesn’t belong to me or to anyone who works here, it belongs to we the people. For us to fulfill our mission, we have to be involved with the people. And that is what government is about; to have the people involved is everything.”

Both deputies and jailers of the Towns County Sheriff’s

Office were thankful alongside Sheriff Clinton for the recognition they received last week in honor of the work they do every day.

Capt. Jim Couch said he finds community connections such as these important for maintaining the positive attitude of officers and boosting morale department wide.

“One of the things that I appreciate is that they are taking note of our personnel,” Couch said. “Of course, it is not only the sworn officers like the patrol, but also the detention officers, because they have had it hard, too.

“I appreciate the Sons of the American Revolution and the patriots because the

Constitution means a lot to us. We make sure the Constitution is adhered to, and that is what makes this so special.

“We have a great group of people here, and I appreciate everything they do. It means a lot to us and the officers as well to have others appreciate the job they are doing.”

for the community to show support and let officers know that people stand behind them, especially when there’s been so much negative national and state media attention surrounding law enforcement.

“We do this as a way to thank them for what they do in our area, and we want to support them during these times where they have been getting a lot of bad press,” Ogden said.

Sheriff Clinton expressed his appreciation for local Sons of the American Revolution, speaking to the country’s founding and how the sheriff’s office is responsible for protecting American rights.

“The basic premise be-



The Towns County Sheriff’s Office welcomed the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter SAR last week for some all-around expressions of appreciation.

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The Castoff Pet Rescue Thrift Store is located at 19 Cobalt Street, in the same spot formerly occupied by The Griddle Restaurant.

“We reopened the thrift store and were getting a lot of donations and getting busy,” Hoth said. “We stopped doing the bingo that happens every week, and that is our main income for our shelter.

“We started to get a little concerned about running out of money at the shelter, so we opened the shelter to help with money. Since we have reopened, we have been doing well, and we have a lot of donations and we are thankful.”

Hoth said the Animal Shelter stays full of stray animals, with empty spaces being filled soon after an adoption, furthering the ever-present financial need.

“The shelter has rescued more and more animals, and we have some issues with dogs having heart issues or needing emergency surgery, so those bills get really high,” Hoth said.

In addition to rescues and adoptions, Castoff offers low-cost services that people can use to care for their animals and help them track and return pets that may get lost.

“We are trying to work with animal control, and we are helping them rescue,” Hoth said. “We are trying to focus on our community, meaning Union County, Towns County and Fannin County as needed.

“We do offer a low-cost microchip for animals, and we usually do that the last Saturday of every month. We also offer low-cost tags and IDs for cats and dogs. So, if the animal gets lost you can find them. We are trying to help as much as we can and do as much as we can.”

Because of the cancellation of bingo until further notice due limitations on gatherings amid COVID-19, Castoff is asking for volunteers to get involved at the Animal Shelter and for donations to the organization, as well as shoppers supporting the thrift store.

“We always have a Facebook page to raise money, and thank God that some people can help, but the bingo was a great resource because it was used for rent, electricity and gave more to the rescues,” Hoth

said. “Right now, the center doesn’t allow more than 50 people at a time, and we need at least 60 to make money off bingo.”

Continued Hoth, “We just need the resources to be able to continue doing this. Without money, we can’t continue. Most of the time our rescues have heartworms, and that treatment is around \$1,000 per animal. That is a lot of money that we need to raise to keep rescuing. Some of the dogs we had recently needed eye surgery.”

While money is the main need for the group, its volunteer members are also thankful for any donations to the Thrift Store and adoptions from the shelter.

Again, the Castoff Pet Rescue Thrift Store is located at 19 Cobalt Street, Suite C, which is where The Griddle Restaurant used to be, across Young Harris Street from the Blairsville Post Office.

For more information, visit CastoffPetRescue.org or call 706-487-4539.

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