

## Townsend to File for Sheriff

Written by Steve Frank

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The political season for 2014 continues to heat up in the cold December weather, that with the announcement that Randy L. Townsend will run for sheriff against incumbent Sheriff Len Hagaman. In his release, Townsend said, "I am excited to announce my intention to file for the office of Watauga County Sheriff in next year's election as the Republican candidate." He went on to say he graduated Watauga High School in 1988, then to Appalachian State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He said, "I reside in the Rutherwood / Deep Gap community and attend Rutherwood Baptist church, and said, "My career in law enforcement spans 25 years in which I have worked as a Deputy Sheriff under former Sheriff Red Lyons and as a police officer for the Appalachian State Police Department. Currently, I am Chief Probation / Parole Officer for Watauga County, a department in which I have worked for the past twenty one years." Priorities listed by Townsend include aggressive Enforcement of Illegal Drug Activity, Crime Prevention, having an Office of High Standards and Values, accountable to the citizens of Watauga County. Others include School Safety and Quality Investigation. In closing, Townsend said, "I will be a very hard working, hands-on Sheriff, being highly visible throughout the community."