

# Young Harris...from Page 1A



Photo by Shawn Jarrard

**Young Harris City Council and Mayor Andrea Gibby. Left to right: Matt Miller, John Kelley, Donald Keys, Mayor Gibby, Lynne Nation and Jared Champion.**

\$165,000, with \$40,000 coming from a safety project grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation and the remainder being paid for by SPLOST.

Mayor Gibby said that, so far, the project is coming in under budget, though the city won't know the final cost of the project until construction is finished.

Also in the March 6 meeting, the council discussed another upcoming construction project, this one on School Street.

School Street residents are likely familiar with the problem of standing water along parts of the roadway due to improper drainage, and the

project will revise the street's drainage lines with some minor road re-alignment.

The project has been in the planning stages for several years and finally went to bid last year, though construction has been delayed due to ongoing right-of-way negotiations with residents.

Mayor Gibby said she believes that Colwell Construction Company, which will be repaving Maple Street this month, will also be able to begin work on School Street in the coming weeks.

Colwell Construction successfully bid the School Street project for \$20,000 last year.

Of course, city officials

are always concerned with the safety of Young Harris residents, which is why they have made plans to improve visibility on a stretch of Bryson Road containing a blind spot.

The Bryson Road project, which is in the planning stages and doesn't have a cost yet, will entail straightening a pair of sharp turns in the road, and the city hopes to have that completed by the end of 2018.

In addition, the city will install a culvert in a trouble spot on Bryson Road to solve a minor drainage issue.

J. C. Berrong appeared in the March council meeting to discuss "Clean Sweep Week," which will take place between April 16 and April 21.

According to Berrong, the problem with plastic litter is that it becomes unrecyclable the longer it sits on the side of the road, so it's imperative that

residents be proactive about picking up trash.

The council has committed to helping Berrong build community support for the weeklong event, and Berrong noted that the individual, organization and group that picks up the most trash will be eligible for a cash reward.

Mayor Gibby said that the new Young Harris City Charter has passed the Georgia House of Representatives and

has made its way to the Georgia Senate.

For more information regarding the current state of the charter and its progression through the General Assembly, visit [Legis.GA.gov](http://Legis.GA.gov) and search for HB 845.

The Young Harris City Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m., and the public is encouraged to attend.

# Moody...from Page 1A



Photo by Mark Novak

**Former Towns County Sole Commissioner Truman Barrett spoke to the Mountain Movers and Shakers on Friday, March 9.**

terrorifying, but you don't have to fear them.

"New cures for diseases – this is one of the biggest things on my list, because scientists have predicted that in the next 60 years, the chance of dying from a disease will decrease by 4 percent."

Continued Moody: "That means that one life that should have died will not, one life will be spared, one life will be freed. Just think about that. It might just be someone in this room."

Cures that excited Moody included ones for diseases like cancer, influenza, the common cold, bird flu and many, many more.

"There's going to be another big military weapon," said Moody, shifting gears. "Honestly, I don't know how it's going to work because not much has been revealed to the public. All we know is that it will be a tank-like machine that will disable other technologies that are being used."

Moody is a student at Eastgate Life Academy, and he recently finished in First Place for the sixth-grade division of the Top of Georgia Student

Speech Contest put on by the Movers and Shakers and Towns County 4-H.

Following Moody's speech, local historian and former sole commissioner Truman Barrett took to the podium to address the group about the county and a project he is working on.

Barrett is planning to build a park on a tract of land he owns for a pet center for public use.

"There is about two miles of stream I can fill with trout, give a five-acre tract to run their dogs, let them go fishing, put a picnic table out there, and let them have a picnic while exercising their dogs," said Barrett. "We're talking horses, we're talking dogs, fishing and recreation for the people."

"I hope to pull it all off, and we're still working on it."

This week, the Mountain Movers and Shakers will welcome 2017-2018 Towns County High School Teacher of the Year and STAR Teacher Brooke Whitt, alongside Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity in Towns/Union Counties Bryan Thomas.

# AARP Smart Driver™ Class Thursday, March 22nd at North Georgia Technical College

AARP Smart Driver™ – the new and enhanced driving refresher course from AARP Driver Safety will be offered at the North Georgia Technical College Conference Center in Blairsville. The college is located at 121 Meeks Avenue (off Highway 515). The class will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 22. The class will be taught by certified volunteer instructor John Daniel.

Since 1979, AARP Driver Safety has helped over 15 million older drivers stay safe, educated and confident behind the wheel. AARP Smart Driver Course participants will learn: valuable defensive driving skills; proven safety strategies; how to stay current with the

latest driving technologies; the current rules of the road, specific to your community, and how to manage and accommodate common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time.

Participants are encouraged to check with their insurance agent to see if they are eligible for an insurance discount. There are no tests required to pass the course.

The course is open to drivers of all ages and costs \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Lunch will be on your own.

Participants need to pre-register as class size is limited. Call John Daniel at 706-400-9957. NT(Mar14-ZS)CA