

Towns County Herald

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Commissioner signs proclamation against child abuse

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, March 28, Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw signed a proclamation honoring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The proclamation explains that while children are the most valuable assets that any community has, they are also the most defenseless, and it is the community's civic responsibility to ensure their safety and protection.

Enotah CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, is one of the primary advocate groups for abused and neglected children in the area. The Enotah CASA is aligned with the Enotah Judicial Circuit that covers Towns, Union, Lumpkin and White counties.

Through this system, each child is appointed a CASA

volunteer who advocates for the child's best interests and provides a source of stability for the child.

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, CASA volunteers have placed dozens of blue pinwheels on the lawn of the Towns County Courthouse as a symbolic reminder of the children who have been neglected and abused.

"There are 217 children that were neglected or abused that had to be removed from their homes and put into foster care," said Linda D'Angelo, Executive Director of Enotah CASA. "We continue to see an increase in the number of children, particularly in Union and Towns County."

"We use pinwheels because pinwheels are the national symbol to prevent child abuse. Pinwheels are whimsical and childlike, and See *Child Abuse*, Page 6A



Andrew Smith, Enotah CASA Board; Sharon Perry, S.A.F.E.; Molly Cousin, S.A.F.E. Director; Michelle Green, Domestic Violence Task Force; Liz Ruf, Enotah CASA; Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw.

Fire board kicks off Young Harris fire station

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – The City of Young Harris will soon have a new fire station.

In a meeting of the Towns County Fire Board on Friday, March 31, the board visited the location of the future Young Harris fire station, and set into motion plans to start and finish Station No. 2 this year.

Located about a mile and a quarter up Georgia 66 in Young Harris, the future site of Station 2 will be built upon an acre and a half of land acquired from Eddy Corn.

The fire board will soon be soliciting quotes for a three or four-bay building to be constructed upon the site.

Once the building shell is installed, Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw and the board plan to have the county do all the interior installation of electrical and See *Fire Board*, Page 6A



At the future site of Towns County Fire Station No. 2 in Young Harris. L-R: 911 Mapping Director Marty Roberts; Towns County Fire Chief and Coroner Harold Copeland; and Towns County Fire Board members Chairman Clint Hobbs, George "Bud" Dyer, Hugh Howell and Roger Dyer.

Mattee warns of avian influenza at meeting

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – University of Georgia Extension Agent Melissa Mattee shared information on avian influenza and spring gardening tips at the Mountain Movers and Shakers weekly meeting at Mary's Southern Grill on Friday, March 31.

Mattee works as the ag agent for both Union and Towns counties.

According to Mattee, avian influenza can be especially harmful to local poultry, and is a virus that is contracted through direct contact with infected waterfowl, such as Canadian Geese, or the feces of such waterfowl.

Mattee explained that this is not contagious to humans, and should not



Melissa Mattee, UGA Extension Agent for Union and Towns counties

be confused with what is commonly known as bird flu, to which humans are susceptible.

"Avian influenza, the strain that is currently being transmitted throughout Tennessee, Alabama and

See *Mattee*, Page 6A

Youngblood new county rec director

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

In the most recent county commission meeting, Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw introduced Matthew Youngblood as the county's new recreation director.

The hiring of Youngblood follows the retirement of longtime Rec Director Wes Hooper, who had headed up the county rec department for over 30 years.

Bradshaw called Youngblood up to the front of the March 21 meeting, and told everyone that he could not have hired a better man.

Of Youngblood's many qualifications, he has a bachelor's degree in physical education and health from Reinhardt College, an associate's degree from Young



Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw introducing the new Towns County Rec Director Matthew Youngblood in the most recent county meeting

Harris, several academic achievement awards, and he's a veteran of the U.S. Army.

"Some of his past work, he was a basketball official with See *Youngblood*, Page 6A

Royce new operator of record at sewer plant



Clint Royce and Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Hiwassee Wastewater

Treatment Plant employee Clint Royce recently gained his Class III operating licensing, putting him on

a track to become a fully licensed wastewater operator within the next five years.

See *Royce*, Page 8A

Law firm continues to solicit Windstream claimants in Georgia

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Representatives from Beckum Kittle Law out of Birmingham, Alabama, held a Windstream Action Information Meeting at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center on Monday, March 27, to discuss pending investigations against the communications company.

The same law firm held a similar meeting at the Choestoe School House on Thursday, March 16, in Union County.

Currently, there are 25 lawyers from Alabama working on the case concerning Windstream's advertised internet speed.



Attorney Dustin Kittle of Beckum Kittle LLP

Dustin Kittle, one of the leading lawyers on the case, spoke with Towns County Windstream customers during the meeting.

Kittle explained that the purpose of this case is to accomplish two things: to

See *Windstream*, Page 8A

City council discusses water meters and more at work session

By Lily Avery
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Staff Writer

The Hiwassee City Council met for a work session on March 27 to discuss ongoing projects, particularly the current state of the water meter installation program throughout the city.

Recently, the city installed new water meters throughout the city that were meant to decrease the number of misread meters that had become a problem.

However, the new meters required different equipment to function properly and, until now, the equipment has not been used, rendering numerous misreads throughout the city.

"The biggest issue we have is we put in new meters, which work with a certain set of equipment and a certain



The Hiwassee City Council met on Monday, March 27, for a work session

software," said Mayor Pro-tem Liz Ordiales. "The meters were put in, but the right equipment wasn't being used, so it

wasn't being transferred to the software."

According to Ordiales,

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Easter Egg Hunt
TC Rec Park
April 15th

Blood Drive
Tuesday, April 11th
Blairsville Walmart

FREE SHRED DAY!
at Ga Mtn Fairgrounds

Baseball
Friday, April 7th
vs. Tallulah Falls
5 PM (DH)
Monday April 10th
@ Athens Academy
5:30 PM