

Fire Hydrants...continued from page 1A

fore their goal of a spring completion is reached. The city of Hiawasse will install 30 of the 150 hydrants and the city of Young Harris will install two of the 150 hydrants.

Towns County Assistant Fire Chief Harold Copeland said that the additional hydrants will save local homeowners thousands each year in homeowners'

insurance premiums.

That's because the closer your home is to a fire hydrant, the lower the cost of homeowners insurance.

Also, the better ISO rating the county has the more money in homeowners' pockets. Infrastructure items like fire hydrants make ISO ratings take a dive. Bottom line: the lower the ISO rat-

ing, the better it is for homeowners.

The additional fire hydrants are just one phase of lowering the county's ISO rating and reaching the 2.6 points that separates the county from a Class 5 fire rating. Additional phases will be handled throughout the six years of the voter-approved SPLOST.

Senior Center...continued from page 1A

overlooks beautiful Lake Chatuge.

When completed, the new Senior Center will be located next to the Recreation Department.

The contract for the construction is \$554,236. The project, bid out last year, attracted 13 bidders, including Winkler & Winkler. The highest bid, from Civil Works Inc., came in at \$1.647 million, while the lowest bid came in at \$709,420 came in from Winkler & Winkler.

The lowest project bid was over the allotted budget by \$239,420.

The Senior Center construction funding comes from a \$500,000 Community Block Grant with a construction allowance of \$470,000 and a \$30,000 administrative allowance to the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said.

Commissioner Kendall, project architect Dick Bachman and Chad Winkler worked tirelessly

for hours on end to revise the construction plans to save construction dollars. The savings amounted to \$155,184. Commissioner Kendall allotted \$84,236 in local funds toward the project to help narrow the financial gap.

"It was imperative to add these additional funds with the other alternative being for Towns County to lose the \$500,000 grant," Commissioner Kendall said. "We think it is well worth it and will serve the purpose."

Robotics...continued from page 1A

Afterschool Program Robotics Team features Gabe Gilliland, Mia Manto and Michael Austin, in addition to teammates Jasmine Forrester, Sara Scott, and Zyndel Payne.

On Saturday the six were on the road to Athens Academy to compete in the Georgia FTC Robotics Competition.

According to Jenny Stowers, the TCHS Robotics team chose the name PiE which stands for People in Engineering. PiE competed against 15 other teams from throughout Georgia and qualified for one of four spots to continue onto state competition in March.

The team qualified by winning the third place In-

spire Award. Stowers said this formally judged award is given to the team that truly embodied the "challenge" of the FTC program. The team that receives this award is chosen by the judges as having best represented a "role model" *FIRST* Tech Challenge Team.

"This team is a top contender for all other judging categories and is a strong competitor on the field," Stowers said. "The Inspire Award Winner is an inspiration to other teams, acting with Gracious Professionalism, both on and off the playing field."

"This team understands how to communicate their experiences and knowledge to other teams,

sponsors, and the judges," she said. "The team was also nominated for two other awards at the event, which was an honor and very exciting for this rookie team."

This is the inaugural robotics team at Towns County High School.

Three of the six students on this year's team – Gilliland, Manto and Austin – participated in the Middle School Robotics First Lego League Challenge and went all the way to Nationals. The Middle School team placed third in the state of Georgia last year and won the first place Core Values Inspiration award at the National Competition in San Diego, CA.

Indictments...continued from page 1A

• Angel Anibal Bair: two counts child molestation;

• William Joseph Thomas: aggravated stalking;

• William Darrell Hood: three counts felony theft by deception; three counts felony theft by taking;

• Melissa Jean Winkler McFalls: burglary; two counts felony theft by taking; felony theft by deception.

Human Remains...continued from page 1A

for additional remains.

They searched until darkness fell across the landscape. The area was secured by Sheriff's deputies overnight and the search continued early Jan. 16th, Towns County Sheriff's Major Jeff Edge said.

About 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 16th, it was determined that searchers had recovered all of the evidence that was in the area. No evidence of foul play was found in the area. After the search concluded, the remains were sent to the GBI

Crime Lab for processing.

A forensic anthropologist was on the scene on Jan. 16 and determined that the remains had been in the area for quite some time.

A forensic examination by the GBI Crime Lab hopefully will be able to determine an identity. At the present, it's unclear if the victim is a male or female. According to Major Edge, there is no reason at this time to suspect foul play.

The sheriff's office is going over missing persons

reports in addition to waiting for information from the state crime laboratory.

Sheriff Clinton said that his department would not speculate on the identity or the gender of the human remains.

"The Towns County Sheriff's Office does not make it a practice to speculate in regards to any case," the sheriff said. "Law enforcement is based strictly upon facts."

No additional details were available at press time.

Qualifying...continued from page 1A

sioner; Cecil Dye is the incumbent Clerk of Court; Chris Clinton is the incumbent Sheriff; Ricky Mathis is the incumbent Coroner; Larry

Kimsey, the BOE Vice Chair, holds Post 4; Donna Hedden holds the BOE Post 5 seat.

Each office or seat is a four-year commitment.

After setting the qualifying fees for 2012 elections, Commissioner Kendall adjourned the regular county meeting for January.

ICL drawing class starts February 1st at YHC

The Institute for Continuing Learning (ICL) at Young Harris College has a diverse array of courses for the this term. The Institute offers a wide range of educational opportunities for adults of all ages who are interested in intellectual stimulation as well as cultural enrichment and shared interests.

One of those upcoming classes starting February 1st, is Art of Drawing and Painting

February is Spay/Neuter Month

Is it "raining cats and dogs" at your house?

The Humane Society's Mountain Shelter and the North Georgia SPCA, along with the local veterinary community are pleased to present a solution to your animal overpopulation problem.

During the month of February, special dates have been established, where you can have your pet spayed/neutered, at a greatly reduced fee!

These low-cost spay/neuter surgeries are designed to help low-income families and families who are currently struggling, due to the present economy.

Call now – space is limited! Humane Society's Mountain Shelter 706-781-3843 or North Georgia SPCA 706-745-7722. NT(Jan25,Z5)gg

Hands. This course is being taught by Colleen Sterling, on Wednesdays (for six weeks) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Art Center at Young Harris College. Class will be held in the Art Center in the old elementary school across the street from the Sharp Memorial Church in Young Harris.

Colleen has been offering art-related courses for the ICL program almost since its inception. She is a professional artist who has exhibited widely in gallery, university, and museum settings. Her art can be found in numerous collections throughout the US and Europe. She is listed in the Marquis "Who's Who in American Art." Colleen is an energetic teacher with a passion for art and art-making. She has been teaching for over twenty years in Blue Ridge, in her Blairsville studio and at ICL. She specializes in lessons for kids, but has enjoyed "kids of all ages" in the ICL program.

Besides eyes, hands are the most expressive element in human anatomy. In this course, you will learn how to capture these beautiful forms by first understanding their shapes, structure and direction of line. You will begin with drawing, and move into color, via pencils, pastels, and paint.

For more information

please visit www.iclyhc.org for registration and detailed course information.

The Institute's curriculum committee continually reviews members' interests and expands the curriculum accordingly. There are no age restrictions for the \$20 annual ICL membership. ICL offers a new series of subjects every quarter, commencing in January, April, June and September.

For more information, call 706-379-5194 and leave a message or send an email to icl@yhc.edu. NT(Jan25,D2)CA

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Sharon Penner Van Huss leads the Local Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group at Cadence Bank in Blairsville on the first Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sharon has a library of information on hand (brochures, videos, books and literature) and offers workshops for caregivers to understand this devastating disease.

Please contact Sharon at (770) 789-2044 or pennervanhuss@yahoo.com for more information about Alzheimer's disease, caregiving, volunteering, donations, caring closet, or becoming an advocate for Alzheimer's. NT(Jan25,Z3)CA