

Stancil ...from page 1

Council approved a resolution for a Pouring License for Big Al's Pizza (owned by Jenny Montgomery) for \$1,250.

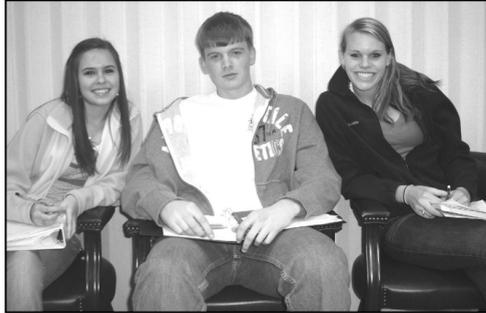
Council approved a resolution for the 2009 Updates to the Ten Year Capital Projects Plan.

Council approved a resolution for Dedication and Acceptance of Deed of Utility Easement and Lift Station from the Towns County Board of

Education.

Council approved a resolution Adopting and Ratifying the Towns County 2005 Ten-Year Solid Waste Management Plan (jointly submitted by Towns County, City of Hiwassee and City of Young Harris).

Read more about this month's Hiwassee City Council meeting in next week's Towns County Herald.



About a half dozen Young Harris College students attended the Hiwassee City Council meeting, including Haley Abernathy, Anthony Payne, and Kelley Hoyt. Photo by David Seckinger

Rehab...from page 1

are part of Cecil Shook's detainee crew. Floyd said he approached Commissioner Bill Kendall and the Georgia Department of Corrections and asked for the inmate labor.

Floyd said the workers saved the county money because their labor is free. The only expense for the repairs was for materials.

Floyd also said the workers were positive, helpful, and knowledgeable in the field of carpentry. "These guys all had real good attitudes," said Floyd. "They wanted to do a good job."

VFW...from page 1

The two men say they did not win national, but they got two out of three from Towns County in state.

VFW quartermaster Glen Greenwald admitted it was unusual to have two people chosen from the same post win state, but he explained "They are good, see, and they had a good write up."

Greenwald said there are about 200 posts in the state, and he guessed at least 30 posts entered in this year's awards.

When asked if the state win was good for the post, Greenwald replied, "We nominated those guys. We will get recognition for that, but no money."

CTDA...from page 1

Development Authority. The 14 acres would return to Towns County with the legal debts of record.

That same vote would keep 6.8 acres in the name of the Clay-Towns Authority as collateral for any other debts that may surface in the future.

A similar meeting was scheduled at the courthouse in Towns County later in the day to hopefully finalize the deal.

The actions would be a step toward closure to a tumultuous situation that has created multiple legal actions and questions regarding the legality of the actions of the Clay-Towns Authority.

The debts of record on the 14 acres include a judgment to Colditz Trucking of Blairsville. The construction company was awarded a six-figure judgment for work completed at the Clay-Towns Industrial Park. With a court-

ordered 12 percent interest rate, that amount is up to \$338,000-plus. The authority also has a \$40,000 consent order judgment against it from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division for violations of Best Management Practices at the Industrial Park site.

"We've already got assurances from EPD that it will waive the cost of penalties that were levied against the Clay-Towns Development Authority for failure to maintain Best Management Practices," Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said. "If the property returns to the Industrial Building Authority, the property will be put to good use and Towns County will benefit."

"However, I do want to assure our taxpayers that no taxpayer money will be used to complete this transaction," Kendall said.

state House passed legislation addressing each of these important issues.

The Georgia 20/20 Statewide Transportation Act sponsored by Rep. Vance Smith, Jr. offers a vision for the state's transportation needs. This legislation will allow Georgians to vote in November 2010 on whether to approve a ten-year, one-percent statewide transportation sales tax that expires at the end of the year 2020.

The 20/20 Act plans on putting accountability and transparency measures in place to ensure the money is used on an approved statewide transportation project. It is believed that this plan will generate sufficient funds to improve Georgia's road, rail, bridge, and general aviation infrastructures. If approved by Georgians, this measure should reduce traffic congestion and increase economic development throughout the entire state.

I have great respect for Chairman Smith, however I along with several of our local elected officials have concerns about this plan and how much of the money that is raised through this tax will make it back to the Mountains. I along with several of the Representatives from Northeast Georgia voted no on this bill, however the bill passed 149-18.

From an educational standpoint, Georgia lacks science and math teachers at all grade levels. For example, our state colleges and universities produced only one physics teacher last year. This demonstrates the significant problem our state faces when trying to attract teach-

Allison...from page 1

ers in high-need areas. For this reason, Georgia has been forced to "import" teachers from other states. House Bill 280 seeks to fix this problem by increasing the salary of math and science teachers in Georgia. It is my hope that this incentive will encourage more teachers in these critical areas.

For the last several years, Georgia has passed some of the strictest immigration laws in the country. Despite this, a loophole in our election laws has not required proof of citizenship to be required before someone registers to vote. As a result of this problem, we passed House Bill 45, which requires all people who register to vote to prove their citizenship before they are added to the voter rolls. Birth certificates, driver's licenses, passports, and U.S. naturalization documents are among the numerous types of proof that will be accepted. This small step is crucial to preventing voter fraud and preserving confidence in the electoral system.

Finally, this week the House and Senate amended our previously set schedule. This new schedule will result in the General Assembly concluding the 40th and final day of the legislative session for this year on April 3.

The state House addressed several of the issues that are important to most Georgians this week. However, I want to know what you think is important and what you think we need to be addressing. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at my Capitol office. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Drugs...from page 1

a female who lived at the residence was questioned concerning the incident. During the investigation, it was determined that the female in question had allegedly committed simple battery by hitting the victim with a guitar. The female was taken into custody.

During this time a second female on the scene was placed under arrest for possession of narcotics. While talking to the witnesses at the residence, deputies saw several different types of suspected illegal drugs in plain view. TCSO Criminal Investigation Division investigators Lt. Mike Davis and Detective Brian Wilson arrived on the scene and assisted with the interviews.

Search warrants were obtained and served at the residence, which resulted in the finding of a quantity of marijuana along with several Schedule III and IV narcotics.

Three females and two males were arrested and transported to the Towns County Detention Center on charges ranging from simple battery to

possession with intent to distribute illegal narcotics. Additional charges of crossing the guard line of a detention facility with contraband were brought against a female subject for attempting to enter the jail with suspected narcotics.

During the booking process, alert Detention Officers noticed that two of the females were showing signs of medical distress. Detention Center Administrative staff conferred with the medical staff who recommended the two females be transported to Chatuge Regional Hospital for immediate medical evaluation.

After being transported to the hospital, one of the females was released and transferred back to the TCSO Detention Center. The other female was admitted to the hospital and placed in ICU for the remainder of the evening and through the night. The next day, this female was released and transported back to the Detention Center.

This article was submitted by the Towns County Sheriff's Office.



Marijuana and prescription drugs were confiscated because of a 911 hang up call last week. Submitted photo

YHCC ...from page 1

motion was made by Matthew Miller, seconded by David Sellers to schedule a Public Hearing on this application for April 7, 2009 at 6:30 P.M.; all in favor.

Young Harris College had also applied for a variance pursuant to height restrictions set forth in Section 7.9 of Appendix A of the Zoning Code of Young Harris. They are asking that a variance be given allowing them to build a 59 foot high building instead of the 35 foot limit that is placed by the ordinance. Chet Roach discussed why they need the change in building height requirements. A copy of his discussion is attached and incorporated herein by reference. The City Attorney, City Council, and Planning Commission told them that their application was not complete enough to consider this variance. Specific plans of what the space will be used for must be presented before the City Council will consider the request.

Attorney Cox also noted that in October, the City Council placed a moratorium on height variances.

SECOND READING OF ANEWAMENDMENT TO THE WATER/SEWER RATE ORDINANCE: Attorney Cox read the Second Reading of an amendment to the Water/Sewer Rate Ordinance extending the requirements for cutting off water customers for non-payment from 15 days after the original due date until 30 days after the original due date. A motion was made by Matthew Miller, seconded by David Sellers to adopt the ordinance; all in favor.

BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN EMC ANNEXATION: Attorney Cox was given authorization to begin the official annexation of the BRMEMC property located between Timberline Road and Brasstown Valley Resort at the February meeting. He discussed the options for proceeding with this annexation with the Mayor and Council.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE REPORT: Mayor Gibby requested that an invoice from Patton Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$4,016.55 for the drainage problems on Sunset Drive/High Street be

approved. The original approval had only included the labor amount which was \$3000.00. Because Patton's could obtain the grass matt at a cheaper price than the City, he had done so and added the \$1016.55 to the same bill. A motion was made by Matthew Miller, seconded by Terry Ingram to approve the invoice; 4 in favor; J. Mulkey - No.

He also advised that Ken Hapner will continue coordinating with Young Harris College, Mike Patton their contractor concerning the rusted drain pipe. David Sellers reported that Young Harris College has said they will handle the repairs.

David Sellers reported that he had been working with the College, testing runoff from the new construction. He said they are improving the situation.

WATER REPORT: Gary Willer reported that Matt Stickney with EPD is coming to inspect the Old Union Water Tank repairs. He discussed the College's need for a 3' meter installation at the new residence hall. Mayor Gibby said that she, Gary, and the City Clerk will gather information on how other cities set their tap fees for 3" meters before the next meeting. He reported that the College will be doing some Geo Thermal drilling and will need water from a City fire hydrant. He was given permission to order a Hydrant meter so that usage by the College and other contractors can be determined.

WASTEWATER REPORT: John Davis reported

that the Sewer Plant treated a Monthly Total of 4,566,670 gal.; a total year to date of 9,811,190 gal.; a Daily average of 163,095 gal., using 68% capacity of plant; a High flow of 493,900 gal.; and a Low flow of 118,290 gal. He said he had had no major problems. He reported that the floating aerator is back in service and that he now has enough spare worn parts to assemble a spare system to install in case of emergency. He said they have ended the temperature experiment and discontinued the flow to the pond.

YOUNG HARRIS VILLAGE SUBDIVISION: Attorney Cox reported that Sherry Shook is and was in compliance with the City requirements but until approached had not presented the documentation to the City.

NEW ZONING ORDINANCE: Mayor Gibby reported that the Zoning Attorney should have the new ordinance to them within the month and she will email it to the Council. She would like for them to get it back as soon as they have read it so that the corrections and adoption procedure can begin.

SIGN ORDINANCE MORATORIUM: Mayor Gibby asked the Council to place a moratorium on all new Sign Permits upon the advice of the City's Zoning Attorney. A motion was made by Matt Miller, seconded by Terry Ingram to place a moratorium on the granting of any permanent or temporary signs; 4 in favor; J. Mulkey - No.



About 30 Young Harris College students filled the Young Harris City Council meeting on March 3, including Amber Davis and David Tise. Photo by David Seckinger