

Towns County Herald

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Williams faces opposition; newcomers qualify for Post 2

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Assistant Editor

Five candidates for Towns County Board of Education qualified ahead of the May 22 General Primary and Nonpartisan General Election.

Qualifying ended on March 9 at noon, and when all was said and done that Friday, two of the three open school board seats had become contested races.

Incumbent Robert Williams will face challenger Steve Green for the Post 1 board seat in Macedonia, while Post 2 of Towns Harris will feature two political newcomers in the way of Brandi Rutan and Tamie Bradley.

Incumbent Stan Chastain is running unopposed as the

sole qualifier for the Post 3 Hiawassee seat.

Retired educator Jerry Taylor is in his eighth year holding the Young Harris school board post. He did not qualify for a third term and will come off the board at the end of 2018.

Mickey Cummings qualified as a Republican candidate to run against incumbent Matt Gurtler for Georgia House District 8, a race that will be decided in the May 22 primary.

Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley qualified unopposed last week, as did District 50 State Sen. John Wilkenson and Enotah Superior Court Judges Stanley Gunter and Raymond George.

U.S. Rep. Doug Collins is facing Democratic

Towns County BOE Post 1



Robert Williams (I)

opposition in this year's 9th Congressional District race, though he qualified as the lone Republican.

Democrats Dave Cooper of Clayton and Josh McCall of Gainesville will face off in the May 22 primary for a chance to compete against Collins in the Nov. 6 General Election.

This is a big year for state races, as candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, commissioner of agriculture, commissioner of insurance, state school superintendent, commissioner of labor and more vie for political office.

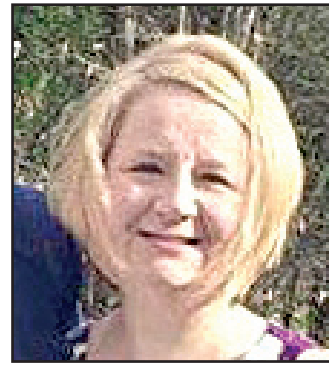


Steve Green

Towns County BOE Post 3



Stan Chastain (I)



Brandi Rutan



Tamie Bradley

Georgia House District 8



Matt Gurtler (I)



Mickey Cummings

AirMedCare takes questions at City Hall

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Every day around the country, lives are saved thanks to medical helicopter flights, though the cost of transportation can lead to big medical bills for patients.

Fortunately for Hiawassee residents, the city has teamed up with AirMedCare.

Through the city's municipal membership, AirMedCare covers the cost of medically necessary life flights through its participating helicopters.

Helicopters used by AirMedCare go by the call signs LIFE FORCE 4, based out of Blue Ridge; LIFE FORCE 6, based out of Murphy, North Carolina; and LIFE FORCE 6, based out of Calhoun.

This coverage only covers residents of Hiawassee City Limits, and it comes as a membership paid by the city to cover all current and future residents.

The service comes with an unlimited number of uses as well, meaning that residents can use this service whenever necessary without the worry



Photo by Jarrett Whitener
AirMedCare Representative
Tony Garner

of ever having to pay out of pocket.

The city pays \$4,900 per year for this service, which has been in place for Hiawassee residents for a few years now.

If an accident occurred where a new resident of the city was in critical condition and needed to be airlifted to the nearest hospital, then they will still be covered by the AirMedCare service. The only requirement for the coverage

See *AirMedCare*, Page 6A

School board talks water easement, school safety

By Mark Novak
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Discussion of a water line easement through school property to a subdivision behind the school led the March 5 work session of the Towns County Board of Education.

"The water to the subdivision is being pumped all the way around the school now," said Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong. "The (City of Hiawassee) is trying to improve the infrastructure, and the easement would save them time and money."

Board members voted on the easement in their March 12 regular meeting, which occurred after press time Monday.

A discussion about school safety also occurred in the March 5 work session, as

See *BOE*, Page 6A



Towns County Board of Education, left to right: Laura Banister, Stan Chastain, Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong, Robert Williams, Dr. Kilee Smith and Jerry Taylor.

Hiawassee City Council hears from auditor, passes ordinances

By Mark Novak
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Accountant Ed Burton addressed the Hiawassee City Council in its regular monthly meeting on March 6, regarding this audit findings for the city's July 2016 to June 2017 fiscal year.

Burton said that, all in all, he felt the audit was a good report.

"What I would like to see is that you have a little bit more timely information, where the city and the CPA firm that provides your bookkeeping can work a little quicker to get up-to-date information, so we will be able to respond and react to things."

Added Burton: "That leads me to the second thing, that was a budget overrun. Basically, this was a technicality more than anything, I think. It was dealing with the purchase of a police car."

"In budgeting, you have to budget at the departmental level. The general fund had enough budgeted for the purchase, but it was not in the police department for public safety, so that's considered an overrun."

Following the meeting, Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales said that she, too, thought the audit went well.

"We have already had three meetings with the accountants since I've



Hiawassee Mayor
Liz Ordiales
been around, so I feel pretty good about that change," said Ordiales.

See *Hiawassee*, Page 6A

Elijah Moody steals the show at Movers and Shakers

By Mark Novak
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Mountain Movers and Shakers welcomed special guests Elijah Moody and Truman Barrett to their weekly meeting on Friday, March 9, at the Sundance Grill in Hiawassee.

Emcee Michael Borkman opened the meeting with a prayer before Moody stole the show with his tremendous talent in public speaking.

The 11-year-old young man engaged the group in a speech about not fearing the future but embracing it with excitement.

"The future, what exactly is it? What exactly comes into your mind when you hear the word, the future?" said Moody. "Just think about that for a second."

With this opening statement, Moody quickly grabbed the attention of the group and retained it with interesting topics about technology in medicine, manufacturing, space travel and the military in the future.

"Well, some people think of flying cars, some people think of floating cities, wars or elections, or even the end of the world," said Moody. "Personally, I think some of these things could be pretty

See *Moody*, Page 3A



Photo by Mark Novak
Young Elijah Moody spoke on technology in the March 9 Mountain Movers and Shakers meeting.

Young Harris City Council talks road improvements in meeting

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

As Young Harris residents may know, the city has been working on installing sidewalks along Maple Street.

Members of the Young Harris City Council discussed the status of that project and others in their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 6.

Ultimately, the Maple Street project will include a sidewalk with handrails in certain areas to meet guidelines established by the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the city will also re-pave a portion of the road.

Young Harris Mayor



Photo by Jarrett Whitener

The new sidewalk on Maple Street in Young Harris.

Andrea Gibby is hopeful that the entire project will be completed by the end of

March, weather depending. The total project cost is

See *Young Harris*, Page 3A

DAR discusses Founding Fathers and environmentalism

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

BLAIRSVILLE – The Old Unicoi Trail Chapter 3117 GA Daughters of the American Revolution imagined the Founding Fathers with green thumbs in their meeting on Saturday, March 10, at the Union County Public Library.

Recording Secretary and UGA Master Gardener Sharon Griffith presented the history of the Founding Fathers and gardening.

Griffith explained the significance of the gardening techniques of George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.



Photo by Lowell Nicholson
Old Unicoi Trail DAR Recording Secretary Sharon Griffith speaking on the Founding Fathers in a March 10 meeting.

Ideas about Great Britain changed during the

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Lake Levels
Blue Ridge 1,677.36
Chatuge 1,919.50
Nottely 1,763.20



Baseball

Mar 13

@ Tallulah Falls 4:30 PM

Mar 14

@ Commerce 5:55 PM



FREE Hunter Education Class

See page 3B

FREE Safe Boating Classes see page 2B for varied locations

Low Income Heating Assistance Available

See page 2B