

MADD Awards... continued from page 1

cuit, was awarded the Judicial Enforcement Partnership Award for Aggressive DUI Prosecution.

At the state level, the Blue Ridge Georgia State Patrol Post 27 came home with the Georgia State Patrol Post of the Year Award

for the MADD Cherokee/ATTEN area in addition to the statewide GSP Post of the Year, awarded a day earlier in Atlanta at the Golden Shield Honor Awards.

MADD state Executive Director Emily Clines said that the awards are

presented in appreciation for exceptional dedication and service toward achieving the mission of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, supporting victims of that violent crime and preventing underage drinking.



Jeremy Clough, senior Assistant District Attorney for the Enotah Judicial Circuit, center, was honored March 25 at the Annual Mothers Against Drunk Driving Banquet for aggressive prosecution of DUIs.

Fire Hydrants...continued from page 1

Other materials related to the installation of the highly anticipated firefighting tools. Ferguson came in with a bid of \$159,148.25.

The closest bid to that figure came from Consolidated Pipe and Supply out of Acworth with a bid of \$174,305.45, county records show.

Two other bids were opened, a bid from HD Waterworks, of Kennesaw, which bid \$177,622.50, and a bid of \$181,986.90 from Tech Utilities and Supply of Greenville, SC.

Chief Floyd told Commissioner Kendall that he would closely examine the bids to make sure that all necessary specifications in the bid packages had been met.

Only one bid was received for the Tap Mate device, a tool used to tap into existing water lines for the installation of the fire hydrants. That bid came from Ferguson Waterworks. The bid came in at \$24,448.54. The two sides sat down and discussed items in the bid that would not be necessary and agreed on a reduced cost of \$15,628.60.

The commissioner also unsealed bids for the purchase of an excavator to use with the fire hydrant project. Two bids were received, a bid of \$48,100 from Mason Tractor, and a bid of \$47,227 from Nelson Tractor. The commissioner went with the low bid.

"The county won't install the fire hydrants, rather,

we're purchasing the needed materials and equipment to get the job done," he said. "The Towns County Water Authority (not affiliated with county government) and the two municipalities have agreed to install these hydrants, or contract the work to be done."

The fire hydrant project, a selling point in the recent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum approved overwhelmingly by voters, is expected to be completed in 12 months. It's believed to be able to put the county's ISO rating around 5, which will save local residents hundreds each year in homeowners' insurance.

Violent Storms...continued from page 1

damages also were reported in the Bugscuffle community in Towns County. Emergency crews reported the trees being cleared from Bugscuffle Road shortly after midnight, or early Tuesday morning.

County road crews and crews with the Georgia Department of Transportation were called in to help clear roadways.

Power outages were reported in Young Harris from Ridgecrest community along GA 515. Businesses along the corridor obviously were without power in a cursory drive by.

Reports of trees down from Crane Creek to Fodder Creek to Owl Creek and trees leaning into power lines were constant throughout the night.

Emergency crews reported trees down along Fodder Creek Road in Towns County as well as

trees leaning into a power line in that community, threatening to take the power line down.

The bulk of manpower for Blue Ridge EMC was already in Cherokee County, NC when called by Towns County shortly after the most severe portion of the storm and asked to assist in the removal of the threatening trees in the Fodder Creek community. EMC reported back that they would be there as soon as they could.

Trees also were reported down on GA 180 in Towns County in the area of Owl Creek.

A deluge of heavy rain whipped across the county accompanied by straight line winds, with the most severe storm impact hitting the county around 10:19 p.m.

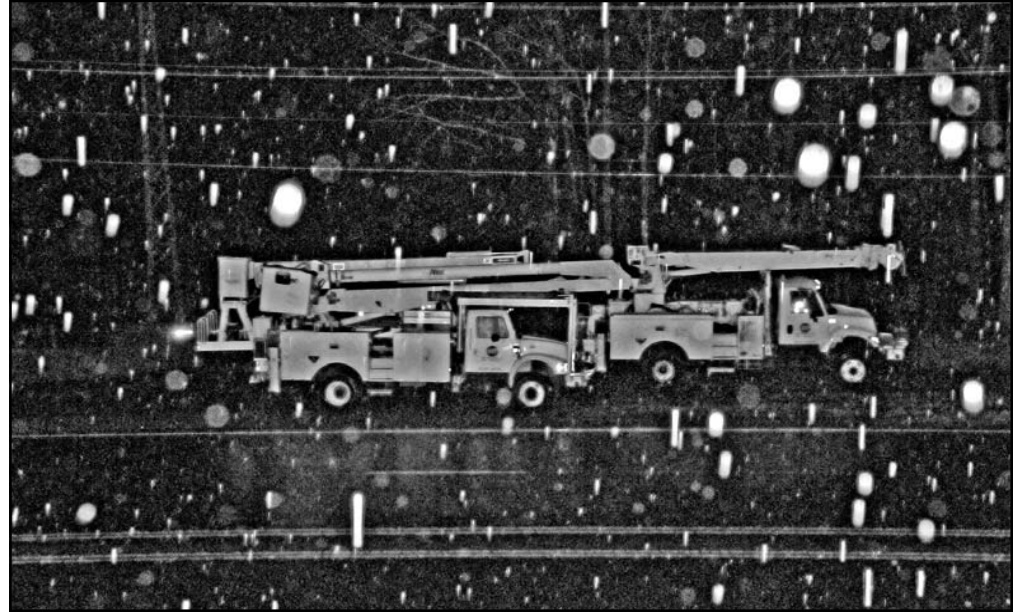
Power was out in portions of Union County as well

as residents there had more to worry about than watching the conclusion of a NCAA national title game. There were reports of trees down and brush fires in Union County potentially threatening a residence, with details unavailable at press time.

Damage also was reported in neighboring Clay County, NC near Shooting Creek as well as Cherokee County, NC where trees had downed power lines and high winds obliterated three power poles.

There also was a report of a structure fire on Friendship Church Road in Cherokee County, NC. No details about the structure fire were available at press time.

See the April 13th edition of the Towns County Herald for addition details about the violent storm system that pushed through Towns County late Monday and early Tuesday.



Blue Ridge Mountain EMC trucks were out in full force in Towns County on Monday night as a violent storm system swept through the county with 60 mph-plus winds. Photo/James Reese

Notary Public...continued from page 1

Clerk of Courts office in the County Courthouse to get signed up again.

Also, as part of HB 41, the legislation signed by Gov. Deal reduces the fee paid to superior court clerks for preparing trial

records for appeal from \$10 to \$1 per page.

The \$10 per page fee also was imposed last session and almost put a complete halt to appeals statewide because of the substantial cost of appealing

a Superior Court conviction. Prior to the imposition of the \$10 per page fee, the cost was \$1.50 per page.

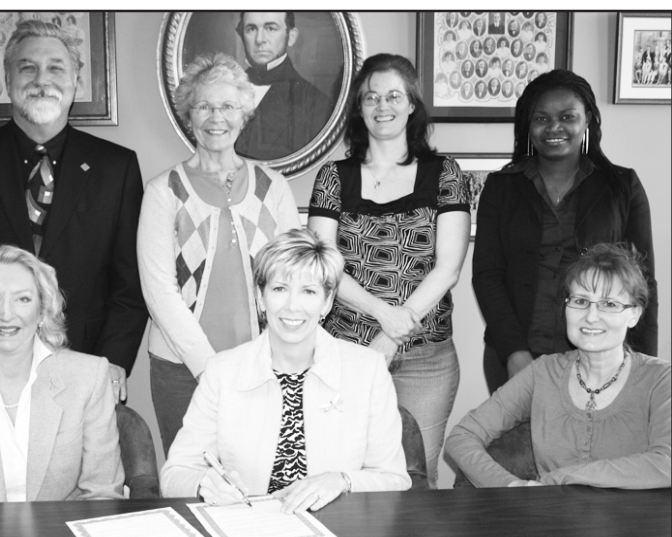
The most recent legislation signed by Gov. Deal cuts that fee to \$1 per page.

Cox proclaims April to be Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Awareness Month

Young Harris College President Cathy Cox has proclaimed April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Awareness Month in conjunction with Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc. (S.A.F.E.). President Cox urges all citizens to participate in activities and programs that focus on efforts to end sexual assault and child abuse.

S.A.F.E. will partner with Young Harris College to host many activities on campus in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month, including educating student organizations about sexual assault prevention and intervention, providing professional training for educators, counselors and staff, and assisting in reviewing and implementing campus policies regarding sexual harassment and reporting of sexual assault.

S.A.F.E. is a non-profit



YHC President Cathy Cox (front row, center) along with (front row, left to right) S.A.F.E. Community Outreach Coordinator Cindy Westberg, Enotah Child Advocacy and Family Visitation Center Program Director Katie Rankin, (back row) YHC Retention Officer and S.A.F.E. Board of Directors Secretary Dr. John Kniess, Enotah Child Advocacy and Family Visitation Center Therapist and Family Visitation Coordinator Janet Kowalski, S.A.F.E. Volunteer Coordinator Margie Porter and YHC Director of Campus Activities Rouseline Emmanuel.

organization funded by the State of Georgia, various United States federal agencies and by local contributions. S.A.F.E.'s mission is to provide support, advocacy and emergency shelter for victims of domestic abuse, child abuse and sexual

abuse, regardless of gender, and to heighten community awareness of such abuse in Union and Towns counties.

For more information about S.A.F.E., contact (706) 379-1901 or info@safeservices.org. NT(Apr6,F4)CA

Rescue of "orphaned" wildlife not necessary

Concern for wildlife, especially young animals, is simply human nature. Most people who come across a deer fawn, a young bird or a newborn rabbit that is alone will initially watch in amazement and then sometimes wonder if the animal is in need of help. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division encourages residents to resist the urge to 'rescue' these animals.

"Despite good intentions, young wildlife taken into captivity can lose their natural instincts and ability to survive in the wild," explains John Bowers, Wildlife Resources Division assistant chief of Game Management. "In most instances, young wildlife that appear to be helpless and alone are only temporarily separated from the adults. This natural behavior is a critical survival mechanism. Adults spend a significant amount of time away from their offspring to minimize predation."

Additionally, handling such animals and bringing them into the home poses health risks for both people and domestic pets. Despite

the fact that they may look healthy, wildlife can transmit life-threatening diseases such as rabies and can carry unhealthy parasites such as roundworms, lice, fleas and ticks. Certain ticks are especially known to transmit diseases such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Southern Tick Associated Rash Illness to humans.

Individuals who are not trained in wildlife rehabilitation should not attempt to care for wildlife and additionally, Georgia law prohibits the possession of most wildlife without a permit. Residents that encounter a seriously injured animal or an animal that clearly has been orphaned should first try to contact a local licensed wildlife rehabilitator. A list of rehabilitators is available at www.georgiawildlife.com (select "Find a Wildlife Rehabilitator" from the home page). People also can contact their local Wildlife Resources Division office to obtain a contact number for a licensed wildlife rehabilitator to provide proper care for the animal until it can be released into the wild.

Residents that encoun-

ter an animal such as a bat, fox, skunk, raccoon, coyote or bobcat during the daytime that appears to show no fear of humans or dogs, or that seems to behave in a sick or abnormal manner (i.e. weaving, drooling, etc.), should avoid the animal and contact the local county health office and/or a Wildlife Resources Division office for guidance. The animal may be afflicted with rabies, distemper or another disease. Residents should not attempt to feed or handle the sick animal. Pets, livestock and humans should be kept away from the area in which the animal was observed.

The two most important steps people can take to protect themselves and their pets from rabies is to 1) get pets vaccinated and 2) avoid physical contact with wildlife. As another precautionary step, adults should instruct children to NEVER bring wildlife home.

For more information, visit www.georgiawildlife.com, contact a local Wildlife Resources Division Game Management office or call (770) 918-6416. T(Apr6,G2)SH