

# Towns County Herald

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## Marine Corps League honors Battle of Iwo Jima

By **Jeremy Foster**  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – On Monday, Feb. 20, patriots from around the area gathered at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center for the 78th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Hosted by Marine Corps League Unicoi Detachment #783, the event benefited from the one-of-a-kind monument depicting the iconic flag-raising at Iwo Jima located at the Conference Center inside Foster Park.

The commemoration focused on the bloody battle at the Japanese island of Iwo Jima during World War II, which started on Feb. 19, 1945, and culminated on March 26, 1945.

American victory there resulted in a turning point in

World War II, albeit at a great cost – nearly 7,000 Marines lost their lives.

Local Marine Corps League Commandant Alton “Doc” Coleman started things off with a “Call to Order,” and the North Georgia Honor Guard conducted the Posting of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

League Chaplain Richard Hoibraten prayed for everyone “to celebrate the courage and strength of those who fought in the battles of the past and the veterans that are still with us.”

Further, he asked God to “touch our hearts with your spirit so that we may remember the responsibilities that we have for Your beautiful country for generations to come.”

“The Battle of Iwo Jima was one of the deadliest conflicts in U.S. Marine Corps his-

tory, with the U.S. casualties totaling approximately 28,000, which saw 6,800 killed in action,” Coleman said. “We continue to commemorate this day to remember those who were there that gave the last full measure, those who would give all that they were and all that they would ever be.

“Part of their legacy is their commitment, courage, sacrifices, and the willingness to push forward; (they) are a testament that the needs of a nation outweigh the needs of an individual.”

Helen Breen, the commandant of the Marine Corps League Department of South Carolina, was then introduced as the first guest speaker, and she, too, called for people to recall the specific sacrifices made 78 years ago.

“Today we remember

their bravery and patriotism as they fought not only for that small volcanic island on the Pacific, but to ensure the freedoms that we enjoy today,” Breen said. “Even now, 78 years later, their legacy keeps blazing on and will never be forgotten.

“(Their legacy) will forever be etched in our minds of that moment when they raised our flag on Mount Suribachi.”

Coleman then introduced the Keynote Speaker for the event, retired Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Denis L. Shortal, who talked about the strategic importance of Iwo Jima, which was being used as an air base by the Japanese.

“This day reminds us of the main reason that we went ashore, because it was a steppingstone for the future of where we were going to go in



Mark Harbison and Andrew Turner of the North Georgia Honor Guard retiring the colors during last week's commemoration of the Battle of Iwo Jima. Photo by Jeremy Foster

## Young Harris plants crabapple for Arbor Day



The Enotah Garden Club hosted an Arbor Day recognition last month, welcoming the Georgia Forestry Commission and Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council to join in the celebration. Photo by Jeremy Foster

By **Jeremy Foster**  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

As a Tree City USA Community, the City of Young Harris was thrilled to welcome the dedicated volunteers of the Enotah Garden Club as well as officials with the Georgia Forestry Commission in celebrating the annual Arbor Day tree planting last month.

Arbor Day is a nationally recognized holiday that

promotes positively impacting the environment in collaboration with the Arbor Day Foundation. The holiday aims to empower communities across the country and globe to experience “the incredible benefits of trees.”

On Thursday, Feb. 16, local stakeholders held a special gathering at Young Harris City Hall in honor of the occasion.

“We love Arbor Day and like to celebrate plants,

our mountains and valley and people, and (we will) continue to replenish it,” Mayor Andrea Gibby said.

Forester Mark Wiles of Georgia Forestry spoke on the importance of trees, imparting upon those in attendance several of the many reasons why Arbor Day should be recognized each year.

“Trees help break the wind to stop erosion, clean the

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## City of Hiawassee respects environment with planting

By **Jeremy Foster**  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Arbor Day is a nationally recognized holiday, observed in Georgia on the third Friday each February. And for 28 years, the Hiawassee Garden Club and Hiawassee Tree Board have celebrated Arbor Day by planting a tree locally as part of the Tree City USA initiative.

As a Tree City USA

Community, the City of Hiawassee and its arboreal stakeholders follow guidelines aimed at growing local tree cover and “showing residents, visitors, and the entire country that they’re committed to the mission of environmental change,” per arbor.org.

Arbor Day serves a universal purpose of remembering the importance of trees, which extends to oxygen creation, paper and food sources, soil ero-

sion prevention and soil quality, water cycles, wildlife habitat and beyond.

In furtherance of this purpose, for each of the 28 years that Hiawassee has celebrated Arbor Day, a tree has been planted to commemorate the holiday and foster an ongoing commitment to the local environment.

Over the years, trees have been planted at various lo-

See *Tree Planting*, Page 8A



The Georgia Forestry Commission joined the Tree Board, local high school students and city officials to plant this redbud tree in Mayor's Park for Arbor Day. Photo by Jeremy Foster

## Convicted ex-doctor loses in federal appeals court

By **Linda Erbele**  
Towns County Herald

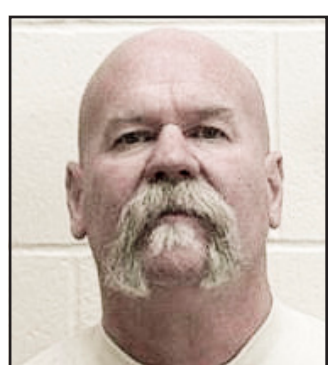
The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has handed down a loss to former Blairsville physician James Heaton, signaling a potential end to his lengthy legal battle to overturn his federal conviction for prescription drug crimes.

Heaton, 66, is about 20 months into his 72-month sentence, which he is serving at Estill Federal Correctional Institute in South Carolina.

Although federal convictions do not offer parole, inmates with good behavior are eligible for early release, and Heaton is slated to be set free Dec. 13, 2025, after about 54 months in prison, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

In the runup to the appellate court's decision last month, the defense team for the former owner of Blairsville Family Practice had been working to appeal his conviction on more than 100 counts of illegally prescribing controlled substances.

The Court of Appeals' ruling, posted on Valentine's



James Heaton

Day, affirmed his conviction in a 46-page opinion.

Heaton was convicted in 2019 in the U.S. District Court in Gainesville of 27 counts of aiding and abetting the acquisition of controlled substances by deception and 102 counts of unlawfully dispensing controlled substances.

The ex-doctor was tried alongside former Union General Hospital CEO Mike Gowder, who was convicted of 75 counts of aiding and abetting Heaton's dispensing of controlled substances, and 27 counts of acquiring controlled substances by misrepresenta-

tion, fraud, deception and subterfuge.

Gowder, 65, was sentenced to a year and a day in prison plus two years of supervised release. He was released from prison Jan. 14, 2022, and will be under the supervision of the U.S. Middle District of Tennessee until Jan. 13, 2024.

Heaton appealed his conviction within two weeks of his June 24, 2020, sentencing, while Gowder missed his deadline to appeal.

As previously reported in the North Georgia News, the men were arrested in 2016, and their trial took place in October 2019, with the COVID-19 pandemic causing unusual delays in their subsequent sentencing hearings and dates to report to prison.

Heaton's appeal was scheduled to be heard before the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in December 2021, but his attorneys requested a delay until the U.S. Supreme Court could issue a decision on two cases that they felt could potentially impact Heaton's case.

See *Heaton Loses Appeal*, Page 5A

## UGH expands medical services with new building

By **Brittany Holbrooks**  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

BLAIRSVILLE – Union General Health System held an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony for its brand new, state-of-the-art Medical Office Building on Friday, Feb. 24.

The occasion marked the culmination of over a year's worth of progress at the site located near the hospital on the main campus, with groundbreaking for the facility having taken place on Dec. 9, 2021, only to wrap up a couple months later than the projected completion timeline in 2023.

Union General officials and medical professionals were excited last week to open the doors and exam rooms of the three-story building to the public, providing tours to reveal just how much the facility has to offer.

Following brief remarks by Commissioner Lamar Paris, Chamber of Commerce President Steve Rowe, and Union General CEO Kevin Bier-schenk, alongside Facilities



The 42,000-square-foot Medical Office Building houses orthopedic, OB-GYN and cardiac medical services at the main hospital campus in Blairsville.

Director Chad Hooper, everyone gathered outside for the center's first big incision – the official ribbon cutting.

“I was here for the groundbreaking,” noted Paris, who added that he “couldn't imagine what it was going to be like and how beautiful it is.”

“Thank you for making our county so much safer

because we have such excellent medical care and medical facilities, doctors (and) staff,” Paris said.

For his part, Rowe said that the new facility shows the Health System's commitment to growing along with the rest of the community to provide the best possible care for resi-

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6 PM

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# Heaton Loses Appeal...from Page 1A

The cases that went before the Supreme Court similarly involved physicians convicted of prescription fraud: Ruan v United States and United States v Kahn.

As background, Xiulu Ruan of Mobile, Alabama, was convicted in 2017 for violation of the Controlled Substances Act and sentenced to 21 years.

Shakeel Kahn, an Arizona physician, was convicted in 2019 of, among other charges, conspiracy to distribute oxycodone and other drugs resulting in death. He was sentenced to 25 years.

Both men used "good faith" as a defense, that is, each believed he was acting in "proper medical practice" in prescribing pain medications.

The Supreme Court heard the combined cases of Ruan and Kahn in March 2022 and issued its ruling the following June. In a 9-0 decision, the justices sent both cases back to the lower courts, which ruled that the government had not proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendants "knowingly or intentionally acted in an unauthorized manner."

With a Supreme Court decision that looked like it might help his appeal, Heaton's case advanced to the appellate court for a Nov. 16, 2022, hearing for oral arguments.

The appeal attempted to establish three facts: 1) the evidence presented was insufficient to sustain a conviction; 2) the particular law, known as the Controlled Substances Act, is unconstitutionally vague; and 3) the judge's instruction to the jury was a "misstatement of law."

That alleged "misstatement" involved the use of the conjunctive versus disjunctive, specifically the use of "or" rather than "and" in the jury instructions at the conclusion of the 2019 federal trial.

Heaton was convicted of 102 counts of writing prescriptions "outside the scope of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose." When U.S. District Judge Rich-

ard W. Story instructed the jury on considerations for a conviction, he linked those two phrases with "or" instead of "and."

The distinction mattered to Heaton's attorneys because, in their assessment, both elements would have to be proven with "and" to warrant a conviction, thereby increasing the burden on the state to prove both rather than one or the other.

Furthermore, the appeal stated that the phrase "outside the scope of professional practice" was "unconstitutionally vague."

The trial prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Laurel Boatright Milam, responded to the appeal by citing court precedents confirming the use of "or" versus "and."

She also rejected the "unconstitutionally vague" argument, pointing out that the jury was given ample evidence of the standard of care in Georgia. She wrote that Heaton was "on notice that repeated failure to prescribe controlled substances according to the standard of care in Georgia was a crime."

Years before his arrest, in 2010, Heaton was called before the Georgia Medical Composite Board to answer a complaint about his prescription practices. In responding to the complaint, Heaton presented two forms he said he required of all pain patients to ensure they weren't misusing the drugs he prescribed, according to Milam.

One form was a questionnaire in which patients described their pain. The other was a contract requiring patients to agree not to ask for prescriptions early or to increase dosage or frequency; to only use one pharmacy and notify the office if they changed pharmacies; and not to share or sell their medication.

When the DEA examined the files of the patients who testified in Heaton's federal case, those forms were absent.

Additionally, two women testified about having sexual relationships with Heaton while he was writing them

prescriptions for pain medications. In 2014, the Medical Board issued him a "letter of concern" about the "boundary with patients" rule that prohibits unprofessional conduct like sex with a patient.

At the appeals hearing on Nov. 16, 2022, Heaton's attorney, Kristen Novay, described him as the "quintessential country doctor," pointing out that he was convicted "with respect to three of his 2,000 patients."

"The jury was wrongfully instructed as to the law with regard to mens rea, and wrongfully instructed with regard to the conjunctive/disjunctive," Novay said. The legal term "mens rea" simply means criminal intent.

Novay went on to differentiate Heaton's office from a "pill mill," pointing out that each of the three patients had testified about their extensive pain: "There was clearly a legitimate medical purpose," she added.

Arguing for the prosecution, Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Hathaway told the court that mens rea was not part of Heaton's appeal, thus it had nothing to do with the Supreme Court's Ruan decision.

As to standards for a "legitimate medical purpose," Hathaway said that a medical expert testified at trial on the standards for doctors prescribing pain medications in Georgia. She said that, with the patients who testified, Heaton had not conducted physical exams, gathered medical history, or looked for signs of addiction in those patients.

In its ruling on Heaton's case, the 11th Circuit stated that the prosecution "presented 13 witnesses and overwhelming evidence of Heaton's unlawful dispensation of controlled substances," pointing out that "from 2013 through 2015, Heaton prescribed these three patients thousands of pain pills, including hydrocodone, oxycodone and methadone."

Not only were the forms Heaton supposedly used with

pain patients not in their files, the "evidence showed that those patients' dosages were increased and sometimes prescriptions written early, in spite of evidence that two of the patients had become addicted," per the ruling.

And Heaton's third patient, Mike Gowder, had received prescriptions for 15,000 pain pills over a two-year period, with only one record in his file documenting it.

Likewise, the court rejected Heaton's argument about the use of "or" rather than "and," citing previous cases and stating that a prescription must have both a legitimate medical purpose and be in the usual course of professional practice. If either is missing, the prescription is not authorized, thus the "or" was proper.

The court found there was an error in the instructions to the jury in Heaton's case, however, it ruled that the error was "harmless," meaning that "the Court is satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that the error did not contribute to the jury's verdict."

Regarding a further appeal after last month's ruling against him, Heaton's attorneys had not responded to a request for comment by press time.

The deadline to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court is 90 days from the Court of Appeals' ruling. According to the Supreme Court's website, it receives requests for hearings in 3,000 cases a year and agrees to hear about 80 of those, or roughly 2.7%.

## Hiwassee Garden Club hears from Mountain Beautification and Revitalization Association

Gordy Jones spoke to the Hiwassee Garden Club members at their February 23, 2023 meeting about the volunteer organization MBRA (Mountain Beautification and Revitalization Assn., Inc.). Jones is the President of the one-year-old group of volunteers doing projects in Towns, Union and Clay counties.

He outlined the many projects they have completed, some of which are constructing 6 benches in Cupid Falls Park in Young Harris, making a large brick fire ring and repairing a boardwalk there; repairing carpenter bee damage at the gazebo at Hiwassee square; making a raised bed at the back of the stage on the square; preparing the very rocky ground at Lloyd's Landing for a

Holocaust Daffodil Garden and then fencing around the area; helping the Historical Society cleanup and place headstones on some of the 130 graves on Cemetery Island in Lake Chatuge; cleanup at Freedom Cemetery in Hayesville.

They have a list of fu-



Gordy Jones is seen receiving a donation check from Cheryl Gehring at the February Hiwassee Garden Club meeting.

ture projects in the tri-county area and they welcome any volunteers. If interested please contact Gordy Jones at MBRA8054@gmail.com They also welcome any donations which are tax deductible as they are a 501(c)3; send to P.O. Box 382, Young Harris GA 30582.

Incoming President Cheryl Gehring welcomed guest Debra Eaton and several new members. Hostesses were

also thanked for a delicious lunch which featured a St. Patrick's Day theme with corned beef and cabbage casserole and cabbage-white bean-potato soup.

The March Garden Club meeting will be on Thursday, March 23 at 12:45 PM and we welcome guests; call Joan Crothers at 706-896-6240 for more information. Our new officers will be installed at that meeting. T(Mar1,F2)JH



February hostesses were Ouida Dickerson, Sheleila O'Neal, Gerri Meade, Ellen Luckenbach, and Lisa Hogan.

# Tree Planting...from Page 1A

locations inside the city and elsewhere, and like last year, the 2023 planting on Friday, Feb. 24, occurred inside Hiawassee Mayor's Park.

Accompanying the planting was a proclamation by Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales in recognition of the event.

As is custom, the Tree Board teamed up with city officials, the Georgia Forestry Commission and students from Towns County Schools for the planting, this year featuring a redbud tree in front of the pavilion.

Redbuds are special ornaments with flowers that help attract pollinators such as bees or butterflies while providing color throughout the seasons with minimal pruning, growing best in full sunlight though tolerant of partial shading.

"We thank Dennison Brothers Nursery so much for their beautiful and valuable contribution," said Joan Crothers, who spearheads the

effort on behalf of the Tree Board and Garden Club. "They have generously given us a tree every year for the past few years."

The Georgia Forestry Commission handed out bald cypress saplings and presented other goodies, such as silver keychains with the word "Smokey" engraved on them and informational pamphlets.

Georgia Forestry Rangers present were Andy Jones, Scott Peter, Ed Berrong and Chief Ranger Blake Melton.

"Arbor Day is very important because it helps us preserve life for today and the future," Melton said.

Others gathered were Hiawassee, Towns County and Young Harris Joint Economic Development Director Denise McKay; Bonnie Kendrick from the City of Hiawassee; and Crothers, Virginia Palmer, and other Tree Board members from the Hiawassee Garden

Club.

"It's an honor to have and support Arbor Day here, and it's just a great way and another reason to make our city more beautiful," McKay said.

In sparking youth interest and engagement, Towns County High School students representing the Future Farmers of America, United Community Bank Junior Board and the Towns County Junior Board of Local Government Officials came on a bus with teacher Brooke Whitt.

Students in attendance were Jayden Taylor, Laura Mauldin, Abby Pate, Sarah Shook, Bella Childs, Rhianna Deaton, Gabe Eller, Loftin Turpin, Kade McConnell, Zane Floyd, Quincy Rosser, Eden Hill, Nathan Garrett and Nicholas Robinson.

"Today was so good," Crothers said in closing. "It's the first time in 28 years without the weather being windy and freezing cold. The Tree Board thanks everyone for coming."

# Iwo Jima Anniversary...from Page 1A

the Pacific," Shortal said.

Taking Iwo Jima eliminated the threat the island posed to U.S. and Allied forces while giving them a base of operations close to mainland Japan from which to launch attacks, Shortal said.

And while the Allies knew their enemy to be fierce, they did not know about the many tunnels on Iwo Jima that allowed thousands of Japanese soldiers to easily navigate the island, which greatly contributed to the intense defense they mounted.

The remembrance concluded with a benediction from Hoibraten and the Honor Guard laying a memorial wreath before retiring the colors.

In attendance were Iwo Jima survivors, Hiawassee Mayor Liz Ordiales, Hiawassee Police Chief Jeremy Parker, Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw, multiple local first responders, veteran organizations, military associations and other dignitaries and distinguished guests.



Marine Corps League Unicoi Detachment #783 Commandant Alton "Doc" Coleman introduced guest speakers in the Iwo Jima commemoration Feb. 20, which also happened to be President's Day. Photo by Jeremy Foster

# New Medical Building...from Page 1A



Union General Hospital cut the ribbon for its new Medical Office Building on Friday, welcoming local officials and members of the public to the event. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

dent of the area. "You can't have a community if you don't have good recreation, good school systems, and good health care," Rowe said. "We are so excited to have this ... It attracts the best surgeons and doctors out here."

Hospital COO Michael Gay's tour group started on the second floor dedicated to obstetrics and gynecology - the new home for the hospital's Women's Health Center. The floor boasts a spacious lobby with a private room for breastfeeding moms waiting for their appointments.

Four doctors in total practice out of the second floor, each having their own office space along with 14 examination rooms, two ultrasound rooms and two procedure rooms.

To help accommodate the needs of both physicians and patients, there are two nursing stations and ample storage space.

With around 650 births in Union County last year, the OB-GYN level was built with local statistics and needs in mind.

"It's beautiful, it's nice, it's so easy. They make our job easy," remarked Dr. Kimberly Denton. "We just come to work, see our patients, don't have to worry about anything else. It just makes it nice."

Next up was the third floor, which is being leased out to the Piedmont Heart Institute. At the time of the tour, Piedmont's physicians and staff hadn't quite moved in yet.

The third floor has 17 exam rooms, one procedure room, two echocardiogram rooms with treadmills, one hot lab, and six provider spaces.

"It's a detailed part of the complex, and Piedmont has been very good to work with during this process of the build, so we're happy to have Piedmont as part of our system here," said Chad Hooper.

Added Bierschenk, "Thank you to everybody back at Georgia Heart for utilizing our services here at Union General. Without having our patients and physicians and staff at Georgia Heart, we couldn't be successful."

Finally, Gay took his group to orthopedics down on the first floor to show them the two new X-ray machines with computers located behind safe-

ty desks. "It's all electronic, so just as soon as you take an X-ray, orthopedic doctors can come in here and take a look at it, Gay said. "They do not have to wait on the radiologist to read it. Radiologists can literally pull it up sitting at home, take a look at that image, and be able to see it."

Patients on the first level can expect to find two X-ray machines per room for a total of four machines in two rooms, one casting room, and one procedure room.

Twenty exam rooms provide a lot of opportunities to help patients with simple or complex broken bones and similar injuries, and a special emphasis is placed on sports medicine with the Union County, Towns County, Young Harris College, and University of Georgia jerseys and photographs decorating the walls.

Four orthopedic surgeons will practice out of the area, including new arrival Dr. Hamidreza Doroodchi.

Dr. Doroodchi practiced sports medicine in Blue Ridge at Fannin Regional Hospital before moving up to the new Union General building.

His experience is extensive, spanning medical school at the Shiraz University of Medical Sciences in Iran; residency at Krankenhaus Barmherzige Bruder in Germany; and fellowship training at the American Sports Medicine Institute in Alabama.

"We really tried to go first-class with everything we're doing here," Gay said. "We wanted to make it the exact same level (of care as we do) with the hospital."

There are plenty of little details that make a difference in the facility. For example, Gay pointed out the rounded corners in each room, which create a "softer," more cozy ambiance than the sharp corners in most other buildings that also get "beat up" easily with their protruding edges.

Another design choice is the glass on the upstairs balcony overlooking the foyer that serves as a dividing half-wall. After concerns were raised about the clear glass being a potential safety hazard to children, those panels were decorated with stylistic stripes to make them more "solid."

Many folks picture sterile white walls when think-

ing of medical facilities, but special efforts were taken to design something more welcoming. Photographs and paintings by local artists line the walls of the Orthopedics and OB-GYN levels, and up a big wall visible at the entrance of the building are decorative metallic leaves.

And Union General Hospital's vision for expansion doesn't end with the new Medical Office Building.

According to Bierschenk and Gay, hospital administrators are still planning to add a tower onto the current main building, but the process to make it a reality will have to be completed in phases.

"When we originally looked at that, we were looking at it being somewhere maybe between \$50 million to \$60 million," Gay said of estimated construction costs. "But as you can imagine, what happened with COVID, now we're up to \$100 million."

Added Bierschenk, "We're actually going to expand the OR. Currently, we're going to expand from four beds to seven beds. The tower will have expanded ER, we'll have a new OB service area, we'll have ICU on the fourth floor, and on the third floor will be all (medical) services."

It's still too early to pin down an approximate date of completion for the tower, but including a new power plant and observation beds, Bierschenk hopes that the entire project will be done within a year or two.

Until then, he and Gay hope that the community will come to take advantage of the new TeleMed services being offered at the hospital.

TeleMed is often met with skepticism for the sole reason that folks would generally rather see their doctor in person, and some problems just can't be fixed electronically.

But for some things, it's easier to streamline the process using TeleMed options. For example, someone with a sinus infection can do a video chat with a provider in the comfort of their own home while having medicine called in on the same day for fast treatment.

As stated above, the new 42,000-square-foot facility is now open to the public, located at 19 Doctors Way on the main campus of Union General Hospital in Blairsville.

# Arbor Day...from Page 1A

water, give us plenty of nice, clean oxygen," Wiles said. "Trees are also important to us by providing paper and lumber; they are renewable; and (contrary to popular belief) the No. 1 uses for paper are cooking and heating."

To mark the occasion with another tradition, Helen Harvey of the Enotah Garden Club led a group recitation of Joyce Kilmer's famous poem titled "Trees."

Frank Riley of Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council and Firewise also spoke on the importance of trees, saying, "Trees are everything. We've got to have them, and they are a necessity for everything we do."

Mayor Gibby finalized the event by reading a proclamation regarding the local Arbor Day observance, which was completed the following week with the planting of a

Calloway flowering crabapple tree at Cupid Falls Park.

The Enotah Garden Club would like to thank Dennison Brothers Landscaping Company for donating the tree used in the annual Arbor Day planting.

National Arbor Day is always in April, but states and municipalities typically observe the holiday to coincide with the best time to plant trees, which is toward the end of February in Georgia.

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