

## Drill...from Page 1A

Information gathered from the April 3 drill will be used to help the school fine tune the Emergency Operations Plan and help our local and state first responder agencies

and organizations better work together.

The old saying rings true, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Along with the recently

installed panic alarm system, this drill will help speed response time, where every second counts, in the case of an emergency at Towns County Schools.

## Young Harris...from Page 1A

through multiple discussions and negotiations with Young Harris College, have occurred since our last meeting," he said.

The new water rate draft, which took multiple people, including Councilman Stuart Miller, to create, aims to be

more "equitable."

However, the City was unable to vote on it without a public hearing. So the new water rates will be only a possibility, not actuality, until much later in April.

New zoning ordinances

also will be subject to a public hearing later in April.

Although riddled with delays and increasing complications, the Young Harris City Council gives the impression of inching its way, argument by argument, toward progress.

## Robotics...from Page 1A

team has to have programmed its robot to accomplish a set of challenges without human intervention. The most difficult one of the autonomous challenges this year was having the robot's IR Seeker sensor identify the location of an IR beacon (which could be in any of several locations) and place a

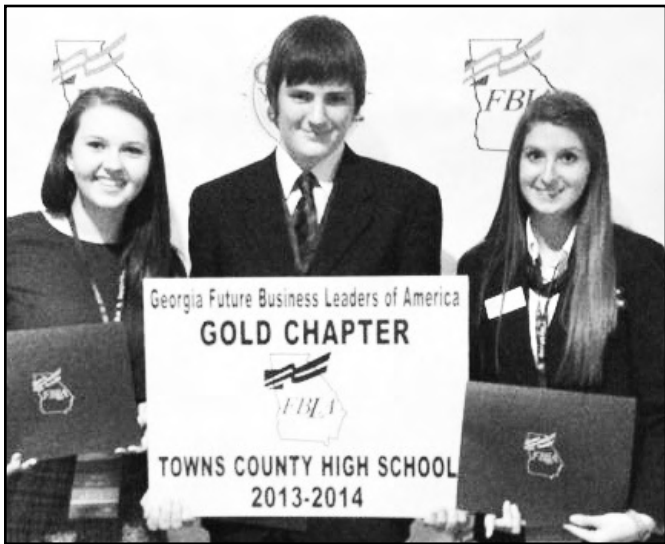
small block in a basket secured to a pendulum arm over the beacon.

This win capped a great season for the rookie team, Mia Manto, Devin Wheeler, Taylor Underwood, Zach Sewell, Kyle Buel, Troy Hatfield, Raven Anderson, Dakota Anderson, A. J. Reynolds, Chad Jones,

and Thomas Mitchell.

The team had already won the Judges' Award at their first competition and Motivate Award at their other competition. Teams can only compete in two events unless they are selected for the State Competition or the FTC Invitational Competition.

## FBLA...from Page 1A



Also at the opening ceremony, Courtney Marshall and Irvin achieved "Leader Level" status through the FBLA Business Achievement Awards Program. There are four levels in the Business Achievement Awards - Future, Business, Leader and America. They earned Future and Business level their sophomore and junior years. The Leader Award focuses on local, regional, state, and national involvement; advanced business skills, and community leadership. Through various projects involving service, education and progress of Business, these students qualified for their third level in the program. The Georgia FBLA Executive Director presented leader certificates and pins to Irvin and Marshall.

Towns County FBLA also received the GOLD SEAL CHAPTER Award, Top 10 in Georgia Local Chapter Award

and the Georgia Superior Chapter Award at the opening session.

The Awards Ceremony was the pinnacle of the conference. The Awarding of Top 10 winners from TCHS included, McKenzi Moss in Word Processing, Alana Calhoun in Word Process, Ashley Abrahamson in Spreadsheet Applications, the team of Lesleigh Irvin and Allison Page in Business Ethics, Mia Manto in Job Interview and Help Desk, Nick McConnell in Principles and Procedures, Major Moss in Principles and Procedures, Alyson Nelson in Principles and Procedures, Courtney Marshall in Computer Applications, and Devin Wheeler in Networking.

Other competitors that advanced from region to state competition were Taylor Underwood in Client Service, Devin Wheeler in Technology Concepts, Jackson Taylor in

Introduction to Business Communications, Macy Shattles, Adam Penland and MegAnn Bradley in Agri-Business, Jackson Taylor, Brianna Shook and Kaelyn Smith in Introduction to Business.

Never before has any TCHS FBLA member competed at the National Level all four years of high school. Senior member McKenzi Moss has set a precedent for all other competitors as she prepares to compete at nationals for the fourth time during her high school career.

Towns County High School and Georgia FBLA will be represented favorably at the Nationals as nine TCHS students prepare to compete this summer against other finalist from across the nation.

Congratulations to Towns County FBLA and good luck at national competitions.

## Hiawassee...from Page 1A

planned renovation of the Hamilton Rhododendron Gardens that detailed long-term plans for improvements. Possibilities for financing the renovations include gaining support from the USDA and the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission.

Mayor Mathis called the presentation "beautiful" and said that it will be "a wonderful thing."

One issue that was brought up last month and has been resolved this month is that of hiring new contractors to do street maintenance. The con-

tract with the old maintenance crews had expired, so the City picked Young's Landscaping and Lawn Service.

For the City, Young will upkeep and maintain the Downtown Square, the areas around the old and new City Hall, the sidewalks and the islands. They will also fertilize and re-seed the Downtown Square area, in order to hopefully have some new growth in time for summer.

The City Council also approved the use of \$5,000 from the Hotel/Motel Fund to

put toward the upcoming bass fishing tournament.

Finally, the City made and seconded a motion to approve the donation of a corner of the Hiawassee City Square totaling .015 acres to GDOT. The DOT will make improvements to the crosswalks and new signal and lighting.

Overall, Hiawassee gives the impression of a city doing "spring cleaning," doing away with what is old and unsightly in order to make way for newer, better projects.

## Wine Fest...from Page 1A

confirmed already," she said.

Tickets to the event are \$30 and include a wine glass for tasting, Thomason said.

"That glass includes four tastings from each vendor," she said.

The event is the brain-storm of Thomason.

"I called Eric Seifarth at Crane Creek Vineyards and asked him if he would like to be on a committee and help me organize the festival," Thomason said. "I just thought we needed to have a Wine and Jazz Festival at the Fairgrounds because there are so many wineries in North Georgia.

"Wineries are such a big tourist attraction," she said. "I've been going to a lot of the wineries to get ideas. It just like a perfect fit for the Fairgrounds. Eric loved the idea."

Hightower Creek Vineyards, Jane Holland, Jane Graves, Faron King, Sonja McClain, Julie Payne, Daniel Nichols and Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall also are on the Wine and Jazz Festival committee, Thomason said.

"We've got the great venue of course, plenty of booths," she said. "We'll use the Anderson-Paris outdoor stage for the Jazz bands, and we'll have piped in music throughout the Fairgrounds.

"We're all just so excited



Shriner Chuck Pittman presents Hilda Thomason with a plaque of Recognition for Towns County's three years of hosting the Yaarab Shrine of Georgia's Summer Ceremonial.

about this event," Thomason said.

Before the Wine and Jazz Festival, the smokers are coming, Thomason said.

That's Big GreenEgg smoker grills as the Fourth Annual Georgia Mountain EggFest comes back to Hiawassee May 16-17 at the Fairgrounds.

The Fairgrounds has played host to a number of events over the last three years, including the Georgia State H.O.G. Rally.

The Yaarab Shrine of Georgia recently honored Thomason, the Fairgrounds, and Towns County for three outstanding years of hosting the Shriners Summer Ceremonial.

"Chuck Pittman presented us with a plaque from the Yaarab Shrine of Georgia," Thomason said. "We were honored to host the Shriners' event for three years in Towns County and we're very appreciative of their recognition."

## Charley Pride plays The Hall Saturday

By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
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Charley Pride is coming to Anderson Music Hall in Hiawassee on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Tickets are still available to see the Country Music Hall of Fame performer.

"Charley has 13 people with him," Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said. "We'll take two buses to go down and pick him and his band up and bring them to Hiawassee."

"When it's over, we'll take him back to Atlanta," she said.

Pride's music career has spanned almost 50 years, and turned out hits that include All I Have To Offer You (Is Me), The Snakes Crawl at Night, Before I Met You, All His Children, which was nominated for an Academy Award, Just Between You and Me, and I'm Just Me.

He has recorded 36 No. 1 hits on the Billboard Charts; he ranks No. 18 in the 40 Greatest Men in Country Music. Pride also is a two-time Country Music Vocalist of the Year, and Entertainer of the Year.

Pride was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2000.

Pride was born on a cotton farm in Sledge, Miss. His father was a sharecropper on the farm at a time. When he was 14 years old, Pride bought a guitar from Sears & Roebuck. He learned how to play by listening to Country Music on the radio.

Two years later, he turned his attention to baseball. He joined the Negro American League, playing with the Memphis Red Sox. After playing ball for two years, Pride joined the U.S. Army, where he served for two years. Upon his discharge, he intended to return to base-



Charley Pride

ball, but injuries to his throwing arm derailed that effort. Discouraged that he would never make it to the Major Leagues, Pride began working construction in Helena, Montana, while he still played in the minors.

Eventually, he earned a tryout for the California Angels in 1961, but they turned him down; the following year, the New York Mets rejected him as well.

Following his rejection in baseball, Pride turned his attention to music. Pride was discovered in 1965 by legendary Country Music guitarist Chet Atkins and soon afterward, was signed to a recording contract with RCA.

His chart-topping *Kiss An Angel Good Mornin'* made Pride a Country Music legend.

"We're so excited to have Charley Pride come to Hiawassee," Thomason said. "He is truly a Country Music legend."

Tickets are available at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Thomason said.

"Level I seating is \$47, and Level II seating is \$37. You can go online and purchase tickets at our website or purchase them at the door."