

Crash... continued from Page 1A

in the eastbound lanes of Georgia 515, approaching the intersection with Kiutuestia Creek Road, according to GSP.

A witness was facing east in the eastbound left turn lane, according to GSP.

The intersection is equipped with traffic lights but does not have turn arrows for the opposing turn lanes on Georgia 515.

"Traffic in the opposing turn lanes have to yield for east and westbound traffic at the intersection," a spokesperson for GSP said.

Hanby and the witness both stated they both had a green light at the intersection, according to GSP.

Hanby turned her Dodge Durango left across the eastbound lanes of Georgia 515, attempting to travel south onto Kiutuestia Creek Road, according to GSP.

"Vehicle 1 failed to yield for vehicle 2 traveling east on (Georgia 515) with the green light," the patrol spokesperson said. "The front

of (Hanby's Dodge) struck the front of (Ballard's Ford Focus). The area of impact was in the eastbound lanes of (Georgia 515) at the intersection with Kiutuestia Creek Road. (Hanby's Dodge) came to an uncontrolled rest facing south on the south side of the intersection. (Ballard's Ford) came to an uncontrolled rest facing in an easterly direction on the south side of the intersection."

Hanby's condition, including injuries sustained, were not available at press time.

Funeral services for Ballard were scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 2 p.m. from the Mountain View Chapel with the Rev. Marty Duncan officiating. Interment was scheduled to follow on Wednesday Feb. 1, at noon from the Walnut Grove Cemetery in Roebuck, SC.

Ballard was preceded in death by her first husband, Johnny Worthy, and her second husband, Robert Eugene Ballard Sr., and a

daughter, Barbara Ann Worthy. Alice was a member of the Fellowship of the Hills Church. Surviving Ballard are her loving husband and best friend, Claude Pitre of Blairsville, two sons and daughters in law, Jack and Melissa Worthy of Blairsville, Robert and Tiffany Ballard Jr. of Commerce, one daughter, Robyn Ballard of Blairsville, three sisters and brothers in law, Mary Ellen and Roger Weaver, Susie and Jerry Cheek, Janie and Joe Williams, all of Blairsville, two brothers and sisters in law, Freddie and Pat McGaha of Blairsville, Charlie Joe and Tonya McGaha of Murphy, grandchildren, Joseph Eugene Ballard, Layla Alice Reanna Cothren, Starr Worthy, Gracie Ann Ballard, Robert Elijah Ballard, many other relatives and friends also survive.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to help defray expenses in memory of Ballard. Mountain View Funeral Home of Blairsville is in charge of the arrangements.

Paris... continued from Page 1A



The meeting boasted one of the larger turnouts for the Movers and Shakers, at least in recent memory. Photo/Lily Avery

county and a development authority to do so. With this in mind, Commissioner Paris was invited to explain the developmental strategy that he uses for Union County to foster continuous growth, without losing the integrity of the county's history and culture.

"I was asked to talk about economic development and what we do in Union County," said Commissioner Paris. "I want to tell you briefly what we do, not that that's the way that anyone else should do it, because while our counties are similar, every county is different."

"The citizens of each county are different in what we think and what we want and what we like. Nothing is ever going to work exactly the same, but there are a lot of similarities between our counties, more so than most."

According to Commissioner Paris, while the two counties are similar, the financial budget and size of the two counties is not the same, lending to different opportunities that are available. However, Commissioner Paris did encourage Towns County residents to continue to strive for change if they wish to see their community grow.

"This job is not fun if you can't do something for the people," said Commissioner Paris. "We're hired and elected to be your voice, and to try and make our counties better."

In terms of economic development, Commissioner Paris explained that such progress comes with a price. If the county is not willing to use tax dollars to expand, then such expansion will not be able to take place. According to Commissioner Paris, the county must spend money to make money and create a better economy for the citizens.

"In Union County, we have an economic development director and his name is Mitch Griggs," said Commissioner Paris. "We also have a development board. Their sole purpose is to bring business to Union County, not just industrial business but commercial business. Anytime there is a new shop or a new restaurant or a new facility, they go through Mitch and he helps them get their DOT permit. He helps with any problem they have and any kind of funding



Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw also spoke in the meeting. Photo/Lily Avery

that might be available through the state of Georgia.

"So, anybody who comes through our county or the city looking for assistance, we can give it to them. It makes it a business-friendly atmosphere when they come in."

Commissioner Paris went on to explain that there are many funding opportunities for new businesses, and how to create a community that is compatible for such endeavors. One suggestion that Commissioner Paris presented to the group was to design a spec building for future business to see the possibilities of available commercial land lots throughout the county.

"When companies are looking for places to expand, you have to have something to show them," said Commissioner Paris. "You can show them a piece of land and that's good. But a spec building is something you might want to look at in the future. It does cost money to build a spec building."

"We worked with TVA especially on this project. This is a unique design that if someone comes in and wants to buy an 8,000 square foot building, they can do that. Or if they come in and want a 20,000 square foot building, they can buy the two 8,000 and build a 4,000 in between."

"It's just a really good option. We needed this about five years ago in our industrial park."

Commissioner Paris closed by explaining that

bringing industry into the county not only provides jobs for current residents, but also for future generations that would otherwise have to leave the area to find work.

Following Commissioner Paris, Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw spoke briefly about economic development within Towns County, what he sees for the future and what he and his staff have been working toward since he entered office.

"We talk about Union County and what they've done," said Commissioner Bradshaw. "Let me tell you this, as commissioner, I'm more energetic now because I see light at the end of the tunnel. We're going to work hard and we're going to get there."

During the meeting, Commissioner Bradshaw shared an exciting update for Towns County residents.

"I've reached out to the owner of Advanced Digital Cable, and I have talked to him," said Commissioner Bradshaw. "He owns the old Mohawk building, and they are getting ready to remodel that building and he's bringing his business to Towns County."

According to Commissioner Bradshaw, Advanced Digital Cable already had plans of opening up shop in Towns County when he reached out initially, and he expressed his enthusiasm and readiness to make them feel right at home in Towns.

Cruisers... continued from Page 1A



The Blairsville Cruisers volunteer their time for various causes throughout the community. Here's one of their annual shows from Sept. 4, 2016, at the Union County Nursing Home. Photo/Lily Avery

Cruisers earlier in the week and asked to speak at the meeting in hopes to gain involvement from the group for certain community activities and fundraisers in which Chick-fil-A is currently involved, specifically an effort to aid Union County High School student Dakota Collins.

A senior at UCHS, Collins began having severe health issues and became hospitalized in December before being diagnosed with a kidney disease. Since then, Collins has suffered from the flu, pneumonia and experienced a seizure, and has recently lost his hearing. Cook and the staff at Chick-fil-A recently held a fundraiser on Collins' behalf.

"Tuesday night we had what we call Spirit Night," said Cook. "It was for Dakota Collins, and he's a senior at Union County High School. He is very active in the FFA, and they're down at the Farmers Market every week during the summer."

"He was hospitalized back in December, and he has a kidney disease and it has caused other issues. He's just a young guy with his whole life ahead of him."

"The school reached out to us asking if we could do a fundraiser, and we said absolutely, we would love to. This community is so great that we were able to raise over \$2,000 for this family this week. I know they greatly appreciate it. We're just praying for him and trying to help out the best we can."

"So, if you guys could help then that would be amazing and everyone would greatly appreciate it."

Cruisers President Pete Barley suggested to the group that they donate \$500 to help the Collins family, which was agreeable to the membership.

"We'd like to be able to make a contribution to help this young man out and his family," said Barley. "We'd like to make a donation of \$500 to help with everything that he's going through."

Another endeavor in which Cook asked the Cruisers to



Wes Cook representing Chick-fil-A Blairsville. Photo/Lily Avery

participate is Chick-fil-A's upcoming Second Annual Daddy Daughter Date Night that will occur on Feb. 4. Old Hollywood will be the theme for the evening, and according to Cook, having classic cars present only makes sense.

"We have an old Hollywood theme, and we're asking all the dads to dress up and let the girls dress up in their finest dresses," said Cook. "They're going to come in like it's a sit-down restaurant. We're going to totally transform the restaurant. We're going to have waiters in ties and just have a great night."

"It's a good opportunity for dads and daughters to get together. It's so important for girls to realize what a male figure is so when they grow up they know what they're looking for."

"Last year we had a limo to take the dads and daughters on a ride after dinner, but with the theme of this year we thought we'd do something a little different. We think it'd be cool if we had some really awesome classic cars there."

Community involvement is something the Cruisers are known for, especially when it comes to helping the children in the community. The Cruisers are more

than excited to participate in helping make sure each father/daughter duo has a night to remember, and they immediately jumped on board for the occasion.

The Cruisers will be arriving periodically throughout the evening to offer rides to the daughters and fathers after dinner, driving up around the square and back down to Chick-fil-A.

"We have some old cars and pick-up trucks that we can bring," said Barley. "I think it would be good community support if we go out and help them out a little bit."

In other Cruisers news, the group recently purchased a car for this year's raffle, a 2001 wine-colored Mustang Convertible. This year, the group will raffle off the car on Oct. 21 on the Blairsville Square.

Tickets for the car will be available as soon as the group's cruise-ins begins in April.

Anyone who has a love of classic cars is welcome to join the Blairsville Cruisers at their monthly meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Major Leon Davenport Veterans Center.