Wind energy arrives...from page 1A

Dr. Behrens said.

Daily wind turbine generation information will be available on the Towns County Schools Web site when the system is fully operational.

Sonny Mahan of BRMEMC said the study of wind as a renewable energy source is a great opportunity for Towns County students.

"This is a big opportunity for the kids," Mahan said. "The Wind-Working Group made this possible and they are a big reason for the study of wind as a renewable energy source. This is a huge step for Towns County students."

The historic wind turbine event happened June 30th as a team of Blue Ridge EMC linemen and Mike Hoover of Green Point Wind & Solar Company labored to install the 60-foot high turbine.

The turbine soon will allow for Towns County students to study the impact of wind energy, which is growing in popularity among corporate energy producers.

In fact, wind energy is the fastest growing renewable energy technology in the world, according to Georgia Tech's Mary Hunt.

Advances in wind energy research, especially at Georgia Tech, have played a vital role in the cost reduction of producing wind energy over the last two decades.

Wind energy has become a competitive source of renewable energy, even in some cases, diminishing the demand for fossil fuel energy resources.

Energy companies such as the Southern Company are investing a great deal of money in offshore wind farm feasibility studies along the coast of Georgia.

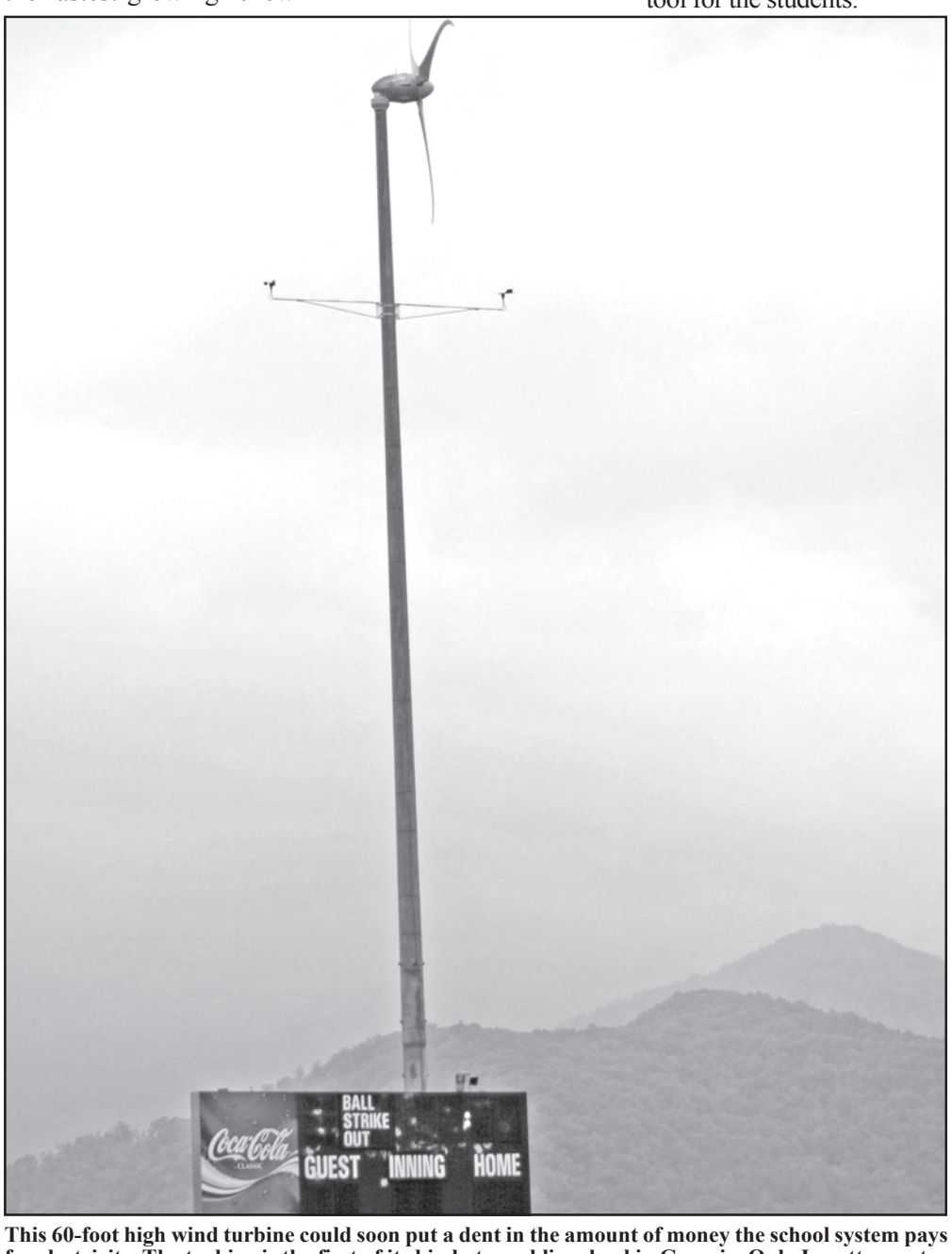
Hunt says that concerns about climate change, fossil fuel depletion, and sustainability have shifted the focus from nonrenewable energy to renewable energy, particularly wind energy because of its economic viability and environmental benefits.

"For the wind working group, what's just happened in Towns County is a really big deal," Hunt said. "This is our first wind turbine at a public school in Georgia, which is great. This is the right place in the mountains, you want to keep the beautiful vistas, but you want to take advantage of the really good winds.

"We're very, very excited. We feel that even though this is such a small step, it will lead to bigger things," she said. "I'm hoping that the state educational curriculum will look at these types of things and place energy use into the curriculum. In the years ahead, it could really infuse economic development and job opportunities in Georgia."

Hoover said the wind turbine will begin to produce energy at between 8 to 10 mph. It's at full power between 18 to 21 mph.

"It'll produce about 2,400 kilowatts, typically enough to run a home," Hoover said enthusiastically. "This is very unique; this is the first public school in Georgia to have renewable energy capabilities. It will produce power that will pay them money and it will be a training tool for the students."



This 60-foot high wind turbine could soon put a dent in the amount of money the school system pays for electricity. The turbine is the first of its kind at a public school in Georgia. Only Lovett, a metro private school, has a similar wind energy project. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Enter youth talent show at Green Bean Festival

GREEN BEAN Festival
Downtown Blairsville, GA

The Green Bean Festival is hosting a Youth Talent Show on Saturday, July 31, 2010 at 10 a.m. at the Union County Civic Center. Do you sing, dance, or play a musical instrument? Then come entertain us! Groups and individuals are invited to compete!

There are three age divisions including Elementary School (1st – 5th grade), Middle School (6th – 8th grade), and High School (9th – 12 grade). There are three categories including Performing Arts Vocals, Performing Arts Dance, and Performing Arts Instrumental.

All students residing in Union County, Towns County, Fannin County, White County, Lumpkin County, Clay County, NC, and Cherokee County, NC, are welcome. First, second, and third place winners in all age groups and categories will receive ribbons, media coverage, and more. All contestants will receive participation ribbons.

To sign up, please call Timothy Jennings at (706) 439-6030. Contestants should sign up by Friday, July 23rd. No fee required.

The Green Bean Youth Talent Competition is sponsored by the Union County 4-H Program (membership in 4-H is not required to enter competition). For more information about the Green Bean Festival, visit www.greenbeanfestival.com. NT(Jul7,V1)SH

Georgia Mountain Writers Club meeting

The Georgia Mountain Writers Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Catholic church on Hwy. 76.

For more information, call Ellee Dobson at 706-745-0678 or email her at jldobson@windstream.net. N(Jul7-G1)gg

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NT(Jun16,23,30,Jul7)P-SC

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TERRY L. COLEMAN
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Paid for by Terry Coleman for Labor Commissioner.

Thyme To Cook

The Oaks Restaurant at The Ridges Resort
Executive Banquet Chef, Karl Engelmann

Beat the heat with watermelon

There is nothing on this green earth that celebrates the season of summer better than watermelon. It is available all year round in the supermarkets, but it is in the summer when this wonderful fruit is sweetest and most thirst quenching.

There are more than 50 varieties of watermelon grown in all kind of shapes and sizes weighing from 5 to 50 pounds respectively. Some have red, pink, or even yellow meat. There are watermelons grown to fit into refrigerators called "icebox" melons, watermelons developed without inedible seeds, and even a watermelon engineered by the Japanese that is a square watermelon to achieve maximum packing capacity in boxes.

So how do you pick the right one? When I am selecting a watermelon, I look for ones with an outer flesh that is deep in color and free of white streaks. If the melon is showcased in half, look for dark colored seeds (except seedless varieties) and a nice dark flesh. There should be a distinct difference in color between the rind and the flesh. Make sure that the melon has a pale area, also known as the underbelly, which is where the melon was resting on the ground in the field. Melons lacking an underbelly tone may have been harvested prematurely which can affect taste and texture. Avoid any melons that look mealy, have cracks or that are not symmetrical, as this could indicate ripeness imperfections.

Watermelon is a great crossover fruit. I say crossover because it can float between that fine line of savory and sweet. You can candy it, make a chilled soup with it, fry or pickle the rinds or just sprinkle salt on it and have a ball. Point is, watermelon works well with lots of ingredients. I am constantly thinking up new ways to mix watermelon with things like shrimp, hot peppers cilantro, etc., and when I finally find the right blend, ¡fantástico! Here's one for you to try:

Mexican Watermelon Salad

Serves four:

1/4 cup fresh squeezed lime juice

4 springs cilantro, minced

2 scallions, minced

2 tablespoons tequila

1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt

1/2 teaspoon excellent chili powder, preferably of Ancho or Pasilla chilies

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil

2 cups seedless watermelon cut into 1/2 inch cubes

1 avocado cut into 1/2 inch cubes

1 Haitian or regular mango also cut into 1/2 inch cubes

1/2 cup crumbled queso fresco cheese -or- mild feta cheese crumbles.

Combine the first six ingredients in a small bowl with a whisk. While whisking, slowly drizzle in the olive oil (this is your dressing). In a separate bowl, lightly toss the watermelon, avocado, and mango cubes with the dressing. Serve on plates or in a bowl and top with the cheese. ¡Muy delicioso! NT(Jul7,Z2)SH

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