

Black bears taking a toll in Towns ...continued from page 1

Southeast who work with bears, Commissioner Kendall said.

"In 2006, Adam was appointed chairman of the Black Bear Committee and given statewide responsibilities for Georgia's Black Bear Project in addition to his regional responsibilities," Commissioner Kendall said. "Adam has been involved in bear research and management all across the state and the United States. One thing all the experts say is 'never feed the bears.' That's because to feed them is dangerous to one's self and to their neighbors and all residents of any community that don't feed them."

The Sept. 21 meeting will be organized into three parts. First, residents will share their experiences and encounters with black bears and their personal safety concerns. Second, DNR bear experts will discuss the dos and don'ts when humans come in contact with a black bear. Third, the government meeting concludes with a question and answer session.

Commissioner Kendall said he's hopeful that the meeting's end result will produce a better informed public regarding personal safety and a reduction of property damage prompted by the ever-increasing black bear population in Towns County.



Commissioner Bill Kendall says local residents have flooded his office with calls over concerns about the local black bear population.

Residents prepare for Nov. 3 vote on tax relief

By Charles Duncan
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Residents attending the Sept. 21st County government meeting will get an up close look and explanation of legislation that prompted the Nov. 3rd tax relief vote in Towns County.

Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall will provide a hand out and legislative breakdown regarding the legislation which he asked Towns County's legislative delegation to enact that allows residents of Towns County to vote for tax relief.

If passed by Towns

County voters, the legislation would provide that residents would not have to pay county property taxes on the first \$25,000 of fair market value or \$10,000 of taxes assessed on their homes.

"The present \$2,000 homestead exemption approved by state law has not been increased or experienced an inflationary adjustment in 70 years," Kendall said. "The original intent of the state legislation was to exempt homeowners from paying any tax on the home they lived in."

That \$2,000 is now obsolete and must be adjusted, Kendall said.

"That was my reasoning

for asking for legislation to allow citizens to make this change," Kendall said. "The vote applies only to Towns County and is entirely in the hands of Towns County voters."

Bottom line, local voters will cast ballots in favor or against a revised Towns County Homestead Exemption that would guarantee local homeowners receive an additional \$8,000 exemption above the \$2,000 already in place.

Commissioner Kendall has approved local legislation that allows for voters to cast ballots on Saturday, 45 days prior to the November general election.

Coach Paul to lead YHC women ...continued from page 1

Geldart was one of the reasons Paul pursued the position. Another was the opportunity to start the women's basketball program from the ground up.

"I am so impressed with the dynamic leadership at Young Harris College," Paul said. "President Cox is very motivated, and her energy is felt all over campus. The college is moving forward with an aggressive agenda that includes constructing state-of-the-art buildings and new degree programs, and I am excited to be a part of that. It's an honor to join the faculty and staff at Young Harris during this historic period of growth at the college."

"Building a new program from the beginning is exciting because we are laying the groundwork. This first team will be the one that starts the tradition that future teams will build upon."

The tradition of women's basketball in the area is already well-known throughout the state, a definite advantage for YHC's program, according to Paul.

"This is a great area to build a women's basketball program, and I want to start building right here in Northeast Georgia," Paul said. "I'll be knocking on doors of coaches in the surrounding counties, and I really want them to be a part of what we are doing."

Bobby Cremins, the head men's basketball coach at the College of Charleston who is the winningest coach in Georgia Tech history and led the Yellow Jackets to the 1990 Final Four, was happy to hear of Paul's new position.

"I got to know Brenda personally when she would bring her Elon teams to play the College of Charleston," Cremins said. "I always enjoyed watching Brenda's teams play, and I admire her enthusiasm. I'm glad she's back in coaching."

Randy Dunn, athletics director at North Georgia College and State University, agreed with Cremins.

"I have known Brenda Paul for almost 35 years, and she is not only a great coach, but she is a great person," Dunn said. "Her positive attitude, dedication to the coaching profession, tremendous work ethic and commitment to the student-athletes are second to none. Brenda will be a tremendous asset to both the college and community."

Paul, a Flowery Branch native, will enter her first season as YHC's coach needing just nine victories to reach the 450 mark for her career, which dates back to the 1978-79 season, her first of two seasons at Tennessee Wesleyan College.

Paul's most previous coaching stint came at Elon University, where she was the head coach from 1994-2008, guiding the Phoenix from NCAA Division II to Division I. Her 14 years at the helm of the Elon program makes her the longest-tenured coach in the school's women's basketball history. While there, Elon played in three different conferences, moving from the Division II South Atlantic Conference to the Division I Big South and on to another Division I league, the Southern Conference.

While Paul's Elon teams found success on the court, reaching tournament championship games in both the South Atlantic and Big South Conferences, they were just as successful in the classroom. Under Paul's guidance, every senior that completed her eligibility at Elon earned a degree.

Paul came to Elon after coaching at Georgia State from 1989-94 and, before that, at Mississippi State from 1985-89. While at MSU, she took a Lady Bulldogs team that went 8-20 her first year and turned it into one with a 19-13 mark in 1987-88, the best single-season record in the program's history. That season, MSU reached the postseason for the first time

and Paul was the runner-up for the Southeastern Conference's Coach of the Year award.

Prior to taking over the Mississippi State program, Paul coached one of the nation's top small-college programs at Berry College.

From 1980-85, her Lady Vikings squads put together a combined 139-28 record and won the district championship every year. While on the Rome, Ga., campus, Paul led her team to three top-eight NAIA National Tournament finishes, including semifinal appearances in both 1982 and 1984. Eight of her Berry players earned All-American honors.

Paul began her college coaching career in 1978, leading Tennessee Wesleyan to a two-year record of 28-21.

In 2004, Paul was inducted into the inaugural class of the Northeast Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.

She is a 1977 graduate of North Georgia College (now North Georgia College and State University).

Paul is the second highly-experienced basketball coach hired by Young Harris this month. Last week the college announced that it had selected former Navy and Georgia coach Pete Herrmann to lead the men's program. The men's team will also tip off next fall.

"We are thrilled to now have two incredibly experienced coaches who are ready to build first-class basketball programs for Young Harris," President Cox said.

Young Harris is building a new, state-of-the-art recreation and fitness center, scheduled to open early next fall. The 57,000 square foot facility will feature a 1,000-seat arena, setting the stage for the return of men's and women's basketball. The college, which currently competes as a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association, has applied for NCAA Division II membership.

Theatre Young Harris debuts in style

Special to Towns County Herald

Everyone knows that "You Can't Take It With You" and on Oct. 1, a theater lover's paradise debuts in Glenn Auditorium at the Clegg Fine Arts Building on the campus of Young Harris College.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy written by George Kaufman and Moss Hart kicks off the 2009-2010 season at Theatre Young Harris, just a sample of the exciting performances included in this season's exciting lineup.

The series offers patrons an escape to a world of memorable music, magnificent drama and irresistible laughter beginning early in October.

For the first time, patrons of Theatre Young Harris may purchase tickets for the entire season as a discounted season ticket package. The season ticket package includes reserved seats at all 2009-2010 season shows. Also new this year, season tickets, as well as individual show tickets, are now available online at www.yhc.edu/tickets. Also, tickets may be purchased through the Young Harris College Box Office at (706) 379-4307. The Box Office, located in the lobby of Goolsby Center, opens Thursday for phone and walk-up ticket purchases for season tickets and the first show. It also will be open two weeks prior to opening night for the remaining shows in the season. Box Office hours are Monday-Friday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The season opens in with the Depression-era classic *You Can't Take It With You*. One of America's most beloved comedies, this Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece takes audiences to the zany world of the Sycamore family. Daughter Alice invites her boyfriend Tony and his parents over

for dinner, hoping all the while that her eccentric relatives do not get in the way of the happy couple's marriage plans. Fireworks and madcap merriment unfold in this captivating comedy that has delighted audiences for generations.

Performances are scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 1, through Saturday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m., with a finale matinee on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 2 p.m., in Glenn Auditorium on the Young Harris College campus. Tickets are \$10 reserved seating, or \$5 with Young Harris College identification.

Next, watch as a pop culture phenomenon comes to life on stage in *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* Based on the Emmy Award-winning Saturday morning cartoon series, this family musical is sure to delight and teach a whole new generation with such memorable songs as "Conjunction Junction," "Unpack Your Adjectives" and "Just a Bill."

Performances are scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 19, through Saturday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m., with a finale matinee on Sunday, Nov. 22, in Glenn Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 reserved seating, or \$5 with YHC ID.

As a "Season Special" for one night only, experience a staged reading of Margaret Edson's 1999 Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Wit*. After being diagnosed with terminal cancer, main character Dr. Vivian Bearing, a renowned English professor, reassesses her life and her work in this found and humorous performance. This unforgettable evening includes a conversation with the playwright following the play. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 8 p.m. in the Susan B. Harris Chapel. Space is limited, and admission is free. Reserved seating is

available to season ticket holders.

Winner of the 1992 Tony Award for Best Play, *Dancing at Lughnasa* is a remarkable drama that tells the story of five sisters clinging to each other in 1936 rural Ireland. Set during the ancient festival of Lughnasa, the family maintains a separate existence from the revelry surrounding them, except for an old radio that serves as their only link to the romance and hope of the world at large. This magnificent play is a celebration of life, love and memory that the *New York Post* calls "simply a wondrous experience."

Performances are scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 18, through Saturday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m., with a finale matinee on Sunday, Feb. 21, in Dobbs Theatre of Goolsby Center on the Young Harris College campus. Tickets are \$10 reserved seating, or \$5 with YHC ID.

The season wraps up with Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular operetta *The Pirates of Penzance*. This smash-hit swashbuckling romp is filled with sentimental pirates, bumbling policemen, silly young lovers and an unforgettable Major-General and his dewy-eyed daughters. Full of romance, comedy and intrigue, this musical masterpiece has been called "a truly perfect show!" by the *London Times*.

Performances are scheduled for Thursday, April 22, through Saturday, April 24, at 7 p.m., with a finale matinee on Sunday, April 25, in Glenn Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 reserved seating, or \$5 with YHC ID.

For more details, contact the Young Harris College Box Office at (706) 379-4307 or visit www.yhc.edu/tickets.

BRMEMC builds new facility ...continued from page 1

Satterfield said that the EMC's administrative building will be about 36,000 square feet. The grounds also will include an engineering building that is about 35,000 square feet.

"And we'll have about 50,000 square feet of warehouse," Satterfield said. "It's a big project."

Satterfield said it was cheaper to build from the ground up than add onto the existing facilities.

He also said that the day-to-day operations won't be interrupted by the remodeling process.

"What we had to do was figure out the space equation,"

Satterfield said. "We were going to be cramped staying where we were at."

"Our architect literally walked in with the final plans and told us that it might be more cost effective to go out, buy a piece of property and build from scratch," he said.

"When we played around with that idea, we actually identified three sites that were 35 to 45 acres," he said. "One of those sites, well we wanted to buy it. The owners wouldn't sell just part of it, so we wound up buying 102 acres."

Satterfield feels strongly that in the future, Young Har-

ris College will purchase 23 acres of the property that adjoins the campus grounds.

He also feels strongly that when the EMC vacates the existing facility, which rests on 14 acres of prime commercial property, it can recover much of its investment to build the new facilities near Brasstown Valley Resort.

"We've got to get out of it and move first, but I almost know that we'll be able to pretty much pay for the new facilities from the sale of the extra property and the existing facilities," Satterfield said.

Generous Towns Countians donate computers

Special to Towns County Herald
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Kenneco Computers of Young Harris has just refurbished four computers donated by Towns County residents for the Fire Department. These computers will be put to good use by firemen at Stations 1 (Hiwassee), 2 (Young Harris), and 6 (Sunnyside).

Polly Simpson and Doug Kennedy of Kenneco donated their time and expertise to this project along with monitors and keyboards. They said they would be glad to work on any other PC's with Windows XP, monitors, and keyboards if anyone else has donations. They are located on Main Street in Young Harris di-

rectly across from Young Harris College, (706) 379-2141.

Simpson also is a member of Towns County Fire Corps whose mission is to help the Fire Department in many needed projects.

To learn more about this group or to how to join, visit the Web at townscountyfirecorps.org.