

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

50 Cents

www.townscountyherald.net

Publication Number 635540 Volume 85 Number 41

Wednesday, August 13, 2014

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Sunny	82 57
Fri: Sunny	85 59
Sat: Clouds	86 61
Sun: Clouds	88 65
Mon: T-Storms	86 65
Tue: T-Storms	86 66
Wed: T-Storms	87 66



Upstream Elevation Predicted 08/13/2014	
Lake Chatuge	1,923.50
Lake Nottely	1,772.69
Blue Ridge	1,682.94

INDEX

14 Pages

Arrests	2
Chamber Chronicles.....	6
Church/Obits.....	8,9
Classifieds.....	12
Editorial.....	4
Letters.....	4
Legals	13

SPORTS

Page 7



Food Distribution

Food Pantry

Aug 19th

2-5 PM

N. Mt. Zion

Church of God

Aug 21st

10AM-Noon



10th Annual Scott Hogsed Memorial Youth Conservation & Education Day

August 23rd



See Page 7

Softball

Tues. 8/12

@ Prince Ave.

4:45 PM



Softball

Tues. 8/12

@ Prince Ave.

4:45 PM



Softball

Tues. 8/12

@ Prince Ave.

4:45 PM

Softball

Tues. 8/12

@ Prince Ave.

4:45 PM

Softball

Tues. 8/12

@ Prince Ave.

4:45 PM

Softball

Vote online for EMC Board of Directors' election through Sept 10th

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

The election of three board of directors to Blue Ridge Mountain EMC is ongoing online or at the Cooperative's headquarters off Georgia 515.

In a note from General Manager Matthew Akins in the August electric bills, he tells members that one of the most important parts in the operation of the Cooperative is their participation in the election of Board members.

"In the past, you have had to attend the Annual Meeting to vote in person. To provide more member participation in the process of Director Elections you will now be allowed to vote online," Akins writes.

Online voting is available at www.brmemc.com until September 10th at 4 p.m. Login information (identification number and verification code) is provided on the front side of each member's bill.

"Login information will appear only on the bill tied to your membership number," Akins writes. "If you have any questions, please call our office at (706) 379-3121."

Each member who is not in a status of suspension, as provided in Section 2.01, of the EMC bylaws, shall be entitled to one vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at any meeting of the members, including votes cast by mail ballots and electronic transmission.

All ballots cast other than those cast in person at the meeting shall be in the office of the EMC on or before the close



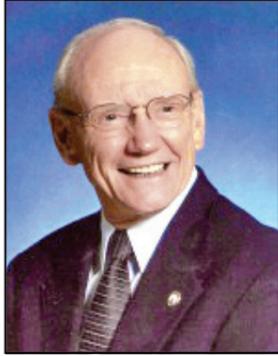
Lenny Parks



Julie Payne



Brian Trout



Charles Jenkins



Steven Phillips



Chris Logan



Mike Patton
of business the day before the member meeting.

There are three members nominated by the Cooperative's Board of Directors. Brian Trout of Clay County, NC, Julie Payne of Towns County, and Lenny Parks of Suches are seeking reelection to the Board of Directors.

There are four persons nominated by petition of the Membership. They are Chris Logan of Brasstown, NC, Steven Phillips, of Towns County, Charles Jenkins of Blairsville, and Mike Patton of Blairsville.

Members from the five-county service area can vote

for all three Board members seats.

Trout recently joined the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors with his appointment as a Clay County, NC director in April 2014. He fills the unexpired term of the late Elois Anderson.

His opponent, Logan, currently is on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Forestry Association, serving as Western Vice President of the North Carolina Forestry Association.

Payne was appointed by the EMC Board of Directors to fill the unexpired Towns County term of former Board of Directors' President Terry Taylor. Payne is a closing assistant for a local attorney's office.

Her opponent, Phillips, is the owner of Benny's Sanitation in Hiwassee, and also serves as a local radio personality in the Towns County area. He has served on the Board of Directors of Towns County FFA Alumni Board, and Towns County Food Pantry.

See EMC, Page 10

Attorney General, GBI involved in BRMEMC probe

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation and Attorney General Sam Olens' Office are investigating Blue Ridge Mountain EMC regarding the debt of former Board of Directors' President Terry Taylor, Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley confirmed on Monday.

"The GBI has become involved in the investigation and has already conducted interviews," Langley said. "I have spoken with the Attorney General's Office and asked them to get involved."

"I have spoken with the Attorney General's Office about the matter and they are involved in the investigation," Langley said. "The GBI is involved as well."

Taylor, the former president of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC owes more than just his unpaid utility bill, documents obtained by the North Georgia News and Towns County Herald show.

The North Georgia News and Towns County Herald reported on April 30 that Ter-



Jeff Langley

ry Taylor was in arrears on his stone crusher company's utility bill in the amount of \$48,643.53.

Taylor was offered and accepted a consent agreement with the EMC Board of Directors to pay a minimum of \$1,000 each month, in addition to current electric charges. That bill is down to \$45,643.53. Prior to Taylor's most recent payments, the last payment he made to BRMEMC was March 22, 2012.

If Taylor doesn't meet

See Probe, Page 10

Moonshine Cruiz-In rocks Towns



By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Sixth Annual Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In rolled into town last week, revving into gear for the

three-day event at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in Hiwassee.

Festivities began Thursday the 7th at 10 a.m. when the Cruiz set off from the Fairgrounds led by the Towns County Sheriff's Office. Citi-

zens of Towns, Rabun, and Union counties got an eye-full of classic cars and hot rods. The long line of Cruiz-In participants made its way first to Granddaddy Mimm's

See Cruiz-In, Page 10

Almost 1,100 report to classes in Towns



Towns County students jumped from the school bus and hit the pavement running on Thursday as classes resumed for the 2014-2015 school year. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Class is back in session in Towns County, as area schools opened their doors on Thursday, Aug. 7th to admit students for another hopeful year of learning.

"The first couple of days of school have gone pretty smooth," said Towns County Superintendent of Schools Melissa Williams. "We have such a wonderful atmosphere this year. Teachers are excited, they're already working hard. Our students are always so well-behaved."

As expected, things started off without a hitch, if not a few snafus.

"It ran like clockwork. I saw lots of students there the first day, we had a few that were crying because it was their first day to Kindergarten.

But other than that, it ran extremely smooth," said Williams.

Estimates for the total number of students in elementary school, middle school, and high school this year have come in at around 1,050, with actual figures coming soon.

"We don't have an accurate count yet, simply because you can't mark a child absent if they haven't actually been to school yet because they haven't enrolled. They have to come one day," said Williams.

"We don't have an accurate count yet—we should have that by the end of this week."

One thing that's different this year is the switchover from Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests, or CRCT, and End of Course Tests, EOCT, to a new program for testing students, the Georgia Milestones Assessment System.

"The one thing that seems

to be constant is that nobody really knows what it's going to look like," said Williams. "Which is extremely frustrating for anybody that's in the school system, as well as I would anticipate for parents that have children that will be taking or participating in the Georgia Milestones."

The Georgia Department of Education is moving away from multiple choice question formatting, and towards open-ended questions designed to measure the depth of understanding a child has for any given subject.

"They'll show their work and actually write out the process, so that the writing assessment - which used to be given as a separate test - can now be incorporated into part of this test. They'll be not only gauging the child's content knowledge, but also

See Back to School, Page 10

Stowers: '21st Century program gets \$310,000 grant for 5 years'

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Jenny Stowers has spent the last seven years enriching the minds of Towns County students.

As program director for the the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Federal Grant, Stowers knows exactly where assistance is needed in after school care.

"All programs are going to be math focused activities, homework help. Certified teachers help with homework," said Stowers.

Melissa Williams, Superintendent of Towns County Schools, said the program was very important to Towns County.

"Our goal is to encourage and increase student awareness," she said.

The U.S. Department of Education provides the grant, and the state monitors and manages the federal dollars. Towns County began receiving the grant in 2008



Melissa Williams

with \$50,000 for a three-year period. The county garnered the grant again in 2011 for another three-year stint and saw a funding increase to

See Grant, 10

Sen. Wilkinson speaks to Shakers

Towns County Herald
News Special

District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson visited Towns County on Friday morning to speak at the weekly Mountain Movers and Shakers meeting at their usual stomping grounds at Mary's Southern Grill.

"You would think he belongs to Towns County exclusively," continued Sam Fullerton, as he introduced Sen. Wilkinson. "Because he likes it up here and he likes the people. When he's on something with the State Senate, nothing distracts him until he's done."

Just before Sen. Wilkinson took his stance at the podium, C.J. Owens, winner of the 2014 Student Public Speaking Contest now held annually by the community-oriented Movers and Shakers, kicked things



Sen. John Wilkinson

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



8 04879 19315 9

See Wilkinson, Page 10