

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Clouds	79 56
Fri: Sunny	81 57
Sat: Sunny	83 60
Sun: Clouds	82 61
Mon: Clouds	77 59
Tue: Clouds	77 58
Wed: Rain	77 58



Upstream Elevation Predicted 09/16/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,921.66
Lake Nottely	1,769.01
Blue Ridge	1,678.86

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Puttin' on the Dog
Sat. Sept. 26th
Union County Farmers Market

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N. Mt. Zion

Thurs. Sept. 17th
10 AM - Noon

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Wellness Day at Fairgrounds
Thurs. Sept. 17th

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SPORTS FOOTBALL

Fri. Sept. 18

@ Hebron 7:30

SOFTBALL

Tues. Sept. 15

@ Hebron 4:45 PM

Wed. Sept. 16

@ Lakeview 4:45 PM

CROSS COUNTRY

Tues. Sept. 15

@ Tallulah Falls

4:30 PM

Wed. Sept. 16

@ Murphy 4:30 PM

Perren, Cummings and Williams on EMC Board

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

The Blue Ridge Mountain EMC membership outdid itself at the Annual Meeting in 2015.

In 2014, 3,657 members cast ballots, or 9 percent of the membership.

In 2015, 9,045 members cast ballots, or 22.14 percent of the membership.

The overwhelming winners were Roy Perren, Mickey Cummings and Larry Williams as the makeup of the board now includes six people elected that petitioned to be on the EMC Board of Directors ballot.

Perren defeated Incumbent Towns County Director Jerry Nichols 4,186 to 2,412, for a 51.7 percent vote of confidence.

Cummings defeated fellow Union County petition candidates Patrick Malone, and Charles Rich. Cummings received 3,983 votes to 1,513 for Malone, and 1,337 for Rich. Cummings received 47.1 per-



EMC Board Member Charles Jenkins welcomes three new faces to the Board of Directors on Saturday. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

cent of the membership vote.

Williams, who ran unopposed, won the Fannin County director's post with 62.3 percent of the membership casting ballots for him.

The membership also imposed term limits on its board of directors. The membership overwhelmingly passed an amendment to the EMC's by-laws limiting board members to

three, three-year terms.

After the election results were announced, Perren was humbled by the show of support from the membership.

"I'm overwhelmed," he said. "I pledge to do my best to serve the membership, I mean everyone, even if they didn't vote for me, I'll do my best for them."

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Hiwassee Council agenda full of business happenings

By Mason Mitcham
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

Hiwassee held its Committee Meeting on Monday, Aug. 31, followed by its regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

At the Hiwassee Committee meeting, the city was presented with a proposal from Jimmy Morse, membership sales manager for Airmedicare Network.

"You live two hours away from a level one or level two trauma unit. If you have a first responder come to you, and it means you have to be flown, chances are, it's going to be us, Airmedicare, that's going to be called," he told the council.

"The average cost of a flight nationwide is approximately \$25,000, and the average cost that your healthcare insurance pays is \$9,000," he went on. "So on average, the exposure can be \$16,000 and sometimes it can be much higher. It just depends how much your insurance will pay on the bill."



Rick Stancil

Morse recommended that the council purchase a coverage plan from Airmedicare Network.

"Something really unique that our company came out with a couple years ago, and it's called a municipal site plan. And what that does, it's a way that you can cover your residents of your town. Someone that lives in your zip code, if they are flown on us, they will not get a bill if they have health insurance," he said.

After the meeting, City Manager Rick Stancil said

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Towns public safety remembers 9/11



By Mason Mitcham
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

On Friday, Sept. 11, Towns County Fire and Rescue held its annual 9/11 Memorial, this year marking the 14th anniversary of the Al Qaeda terrorist attacks on U.S. soil.

Only this time, something was different – the fire-

fighters had upgraded to a bigger flag given by the Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall.

"We had a flag that was large, but it wasn't that large. It's a pretty awesome spectacle," said Fire Chief Harold Copeland, looking up at the flag, which hung from a retractable crane on the firetruck.

The Towns County Fire

Department has held a memorial every year since the attacks of Sept. 11.

"Our saying is 'We will never forget.' Three hundred and forty-three firemen died on that day. There were several Port Authority police officers also, but the fire department took the biggest hit. If you

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Never forget Home Cooking

By Shawn Jarrard
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

Get ready to cook, Towns County – the Taste of Home Cooking School Show is coming to Anderson Music Hall this Saturday, Sept. 19.

For only \$15 plus \$2 handling, residents can attend the one-of-a-kind live cooking show, and for \$37 guests can upgrade their tickets to be VIP status, which has its own perks.

"VIPs get to go back and have a meet and greet with the chef, and they get a cookbook and a goody bag," said Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason. "We'll have a reception backstage with hors d'oeuvres and appetizers, and they'll get a glass of wine as well."

Doors open for the show at 4 p.m., giving guests plenty of time to peruse the selection of vendors, and the live cooking demonstration begins at 6:30 p.m.

"The show is a lot of



Michelle Roberts

fun," said Martha Cunningham, owner of Chatuge Medical Supply. "Chef Michelle Roberts will prepare 10 recipes. It'll show up on the big screen at the back of the stage so people will actually see what she's preparing, what she's doing. All 10 dishes will get wrapped up and given away at the end of the show."

"Throughout the show, there will also be things given away, and at the end of the show, we hope to have 75 give-

aways that we will be drawing for to give door prizes that are being donated by local businesses."

Cunningham, who is on the Georgia Mountain Fair Board and is a Lions Club member, attended a Taste of Home Cooking School Show in Franklin, North Carolina, and after seeing the fun and positive energy of Chef Roberts, she decided to talk to the fairgrounds about hosting a show.

"She's a great chef, but she's also very funny," said Cunningham. "It's something different, something new that we thought we could bring to the fairgrounds. All I can say is it's fun. The show lasts about two hours, and it's just a fun show."

When pressed on her favorite part of the show, she said it would have to be everything about it.

"I enjoyed it all," said Cunningham. "The chef preparing the dishes was my favorite part. I cook some, not a lot, but

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Towns students head to Costa Rica

By Mason Mitcham
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

The biology and Spanish classes at Towns County High School have teamed up to offer a unique traveling experience to students – they will be going on a nine-day trip to Costa Rica.

High School biology teacher Heather Moss has almost all the bases covered.

"We explored different avenues through different travel companies. We got quotes from four different places. Once the board approved that we got to go on this trip during Spring Break, we decided to set an itinerary and select a travel company that could fit our needs. We went with Explorica, it's a travel company that's been in business for over 20 years," she said.

"We're going to leave out of Atlanta on Thursday before Spring Break and we're going



Jennifer Hogsed

to fly to San Jose. We're going to do different excursions. One day we're going to be in Tortuguero. We're going to Monte Verde. We're going zip line, we're going to hike, we're going to raft, we're going to see hot springs," she added.

Moss is looking to recruit more students to help offset the cost.

"They've got tour busses.



Heather Moss

And right now we only have like 16 in our group, so I'd like to get around 25 or 30, so I need some more people. Right now if we keep our group too small, they're going to charge us some extra fees, because we're not filling up the bus," she said.

For many, this will be the chance of a lifetime.

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YHC, City Council discuss water and sewer rates

By Mason Mitcham
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

Young Harris - During its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 1, the Young Harris City Council clarified that it was not arbitrarily raising water and sewer rates.

At the meeting, Cathy Cox, president of Young Harris College, brought up a concern.

"My concern has to do with what I understand to be a proposal to arbitrarily increase rates at five percent per year for the next three years. There's a longstanding principal of law in Georgia that governments cannot charge more than a certain cost to administer or it is considered an illegal and unconstitutional tax," she said.

She said that for the college specifically, an increase in the current rates would mean thousands of dollars worth of billing.

"It is an enormous part of our budget that we have to pass on to our students and users, so we're just doing everything we can to try to hold those costs down. We hope that you're looking at it as the cost of your service and not something that you can just add a cost to, to pay for the costs of other city services," Cox told the council.

Although the proposed rate increases show an increase by five percent across the board, John Kelley told Cox that it would be easy to show her that the city was in fact losing money with the current rates. He said that the city has done everything it can to prevent raising the rates.

"It's easy to show factually that we're losing money, and because of that, we've adjusted, tightened our belt, tried to look at every way we could squeeze a nickel and save money. We didn't want to face another rating increase. We actually asked the water and sewer committee to meet with us so that we could hammer it out together and come to a consensus, and it was a unani-



Cathy Cox



Mayor Andrea Gibby

mous consensus based on the numbers that we had that we went over, that we did not have an alternative," Kelley said.

"I don't want to pay higher rates than I have to, and neither does anyone else in the room, but we've got to stay afloat. And we would be remiss in not exercising our fiduciary responsibility if we did not adjust the rates. I would go on record at this moment that if we get to a point where if we have any overage that we see, the rates will be adjusted," he added.

After the meeting, Mayor Andrea Gibby responded to Cox's concern by clarifying that nothing is arbitrary about the necessity of raising the rates.

"We did a really good job, the council and Chris Poje, of looking over things and really analyzing what we needed. Nothing's arbitrary. That's the reason we don't do things ourselves, we get an en-

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Towns County Schools host Title I parent involvement meetings

Towns County Herald
 News Special

Towns County Schools will hold Annual Title I Parental Involvement meetings on Thursday, Sept. 17.

Each school will have an individual meeting.

The meeting at Towns County Elementary School will be in the Elementary Media Center at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17.

The meeting at Towns County Middle School will be held in the Middle/High School Media Center at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17.

The meeting at Towns County High School will be held in the Middle/High Media Center at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17.

Towns County Schools will hold districtwide Title I parent meetings on Monday, Sept. 21.

To offer greater conve-

nience for parents, the schools will hold the meeting twice; once at 10 a.m. and once at 6 p.m., in the Towns County Schools Auditorium on Sept. 21.

Some of the topics discussed at these meetings include - the Title I program at each of the county's three schools, parent involvement policies for each school, the district parental involvement policy; and how parents can be involved at our schools.

If you have questions please contact Roy Perren, Towns County Schools Federal Programs Director at (706) 896-4131, ext 1525, or by e-mail at rperren@townscounty-schools.org.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

