

# Towns County Herald

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Publication Number 635540 Volume 80 Number 45

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Storms	76 59
Fri: Storms	78 57
Sat: Storms	78 56
Sun: Showers	77 54
Mon: Cloudy	77 54
Tue: Storms	75 51
Wed: Showers	76 51



Upstream Elevation Predicted 9/17/09	
Lake Chatuge	1921.80
Lake Nottely	1769.10
Blue Ridge	1679.00

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## Chamber letter

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### Last Kiss

Come join the Towns County Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 26 and 27 for a community celebration of creative expression held on the Downtown Square in Hiwassee. The affair takes place Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday Sept. 27 from noon to 5 p.m. If you are a craft or art vendor, contact the Chamber for an application or call (706) 896-4966, or (800) 984-1543 for more details.

### Football Pantry

Friday's 7:30 p.m. home matchup with the Hayesville Yellow Jackets is a special night for the food pantry. The Indians are playing for food to benefit the pantry, which is expecting a rough winter.

Admission is \$6, up from normal \$5. Fans can pay \$6 and the difference in price will be donated to the food pantry, or, fans can bring two cans of food and pay the regular admission of \$5.

### Gun Scare

A replica Vietnam Era rifle caused some Monday morning excitement at Young Harris College.

A student, who saw Dr. Lee March carrying the fake weapon, failed to recognize the Vietnam War expert and alerted local authorities. Authorities responded quickly to the college campus to investigate the gun call.

Towns County officials say that the weapon was actually a rubber replica of a Vietnam Era weapon. Sheriff Chris Clinton said the student acted responsibly, in alerting authorities about the weapon on campus grounds.

School officials released a statement that the college was grateful to the campus police and Towns County Sheriff's Office for their timely and professional response.

Dr. March was bringing several instructional materials back to the school following a presentation that he made late last week.

## Paul to lead YHC women's basketball

Special to Towns County Herald  
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Brenda Paul, a member of the Northeast Georgia Sports Hall of Fame with three decades of head coaching experience at several levels of college basketball, has been selected to become the women's basketball coach at Young Harris College, YHC President Cathy Cox and Athletics Director Eric Geldart announced on Tuesday.

Paul will begin her duties immediately, and the team will tip off the first season of intercollegiate women's basketball on the YHC campus in nearly 80 years in 2010-11.

"We are excited to announce that Coach Brenda Paul will be leading our women's basketball program, and her engaging personality will surely be an asset as she recruits young women to play for Young

Harris College," President Cox said. "Our search committee was doubly impressed by her commitment to assuring that her players are good student-athletes by putting a strong emphasis on academics as well as athletics."

Geldart said Paul's experience will be an asset to the new program.

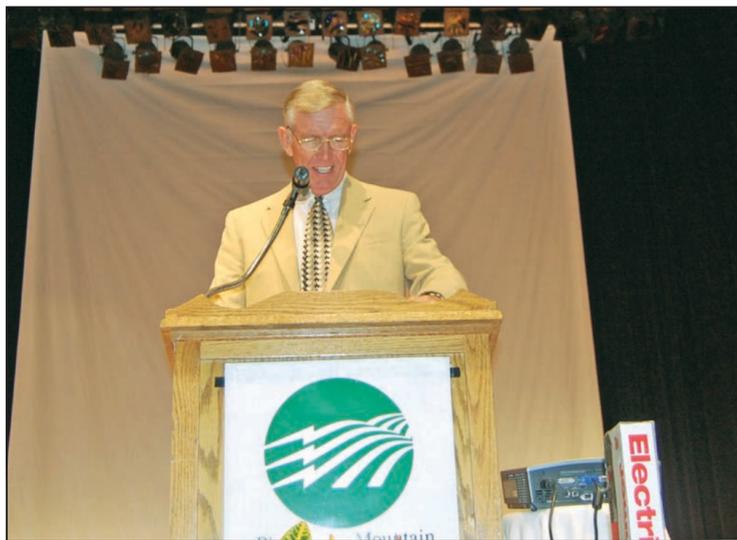
"Coach Paul brings extensive experience to the basketball position at Young Harris College," Geldart said. "Her Southeast recruiting background will give us a great start with our program. She has coached at all levels and recognizes the talent level needed to build a competitive program. I look forward to working with her as we continue our pursuit to become a member of NCAA Division II."

Working with leaders such as President Cox and  
**See Paul, page 5**



Former Georgia State University head basketball Coach Brenda Paul takes the reins of Young Harris College's women's program.

## BREMC to build new \$15 million facility



Blue Ridge Mountain EMC General Manager Joe Satterfield told EMC members that the electric membership cooperative expects to recoup a good portion of the \$15 million to build a new facility near Brasstown Valley Resort through the sale of the existing facility.  
Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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Blue Ridge EMC General Manager Joe Satterfield expected a bigger crowd at Saturday's annual meeting of the members of the electric cooperative at Anderson Music Hall.

And given the recent stirring of emotions over a new substation near Towns County Schools, Satterfield expect a tad bit of controversy. He came prepared to answer any and all questions.

"I was expecting to hear more about the transmission line and substation and frankly I kind of enjoy those questions because that allows me to go into more details," Satterfield said. "I was disappointed a little bit in the crowd. We normally have more people and the

lower numbers are probably due to the economy.

"We serve five counties and I'm sure there were a lot of people that mailed in ballots," he said.

Satterfield heard a comment about the "ugly poles" that hold up the megawatt transmission lines. And he heard a few words about the "unsightly substation" that hopefully "will be camouflaged" by the natural canopy.

However, the several hundred in attendance at the annual meeting, were most interested in the details about the new multi-million dollar facility underway near Brasstown Valley Resort.

Projections have BRMEMC moving into the new facilities in 23 months, Satterfield said.

"They got started around the first of August,"

he said. "We'll move into the new facilities in the summer of 2011. We will be able to pick up and go from the existing site two years from now.

"Our original construction estimate was \$20 million," Satterfield said. "The way everything is stacking up now, it looks like we'll be able to build it for about \$15 million. That's due to the economy.

"It's physically located between Young Harris City proper and Hiwassee," Satterfield said. "We're doing all that clearing just beyond the entrance of Brasstown Valley Resort. We're clearing about 48 acres which we'll be using for either buildings and parking."

**See BRMEMC, page 2**

## Lowery headlines YHC's lecture series

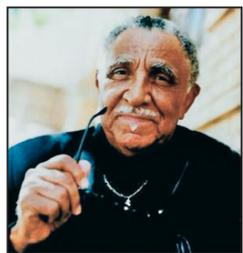
By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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Dr. Joseph Lowery has never been one to shy away from controversy.

More commonly referred to as the "Dean of the Civil Rights Movement," Lowery is scheduled to deliver the annual Ragsdale Lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday in Glenn Auditorium, in the Clegg Fine Arts Building on the campus of Young Harris College.

The event, which is free and open to the public, is being held in commemoration of Constitution Day.

Young Harris College President Cathy Cox said the 87-year-old Lowery seemed a natural choice as a featured lecturer for the



Dr. Joseph Lowery

school's Ragsdale Lecture Series.

"Dr. Lowery is a legend," President Cox said. "When we started planning the Ragsdale Lecture Series, we started thinking about people and so I brought up Dr. Lowery's name. I had gotten to know him over my years of service in the Secretary of

State's Office.

"He's such a true gentleman. He has such a strong spirit. He is a dedicated, lifetime United Methodist minister on the one hand," President Cox said, "but on the other hand, he is one of the strongest Civil Rights leaders on the face of this earth."

Lowery became a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s in Mobile, Ala., where he headed the Alabama Civic Affairs Association. He fought for desegregation of public transportation and other public accommodations. After Rosa Parks' arrest in 1955 for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, Lowery

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## Bears taking a toll on crops, property in Towns

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall is sincere when he asks local residents not to feed the bears.

The county's black bear population is starting to get out of hand as the number of bruin and people encounters continue to be reported locally.

The problem has become so bad, Commissioner Kendall has rescheduled Thursday's 5:30 p.m. County government meeting to Monday at 7 p.m. on Sept. 21 at the Towns County Courthouse to talk with locals about the black bear crisis with state Department of Natural Resources personnel.

"The meeting change was made so that DNR personnel can attend the meeting to inform Towns County citizens about black bears," Kendall said.

Commissioner Kendall wants residents to share their black bear experiences and discuss their personal encounters with the ever-increasing population of bruins with wildlife officials to allow the experts a chance to offer feedback about what to do when residents encounter black bears.

The meeting change was necessary after several residents expressed their concerns about their personal encounters with black bears as well as property and crop damage done by the bruins, Kendall said.



This curious bruin has become a frequent visitor at the home of Jim and Lisa Bryant.  
Photo/Jim Bryant

"Residents also have expressed concerns for the safety of their children and grandchildren playing in the woods or backyard of their own property," the sole commissioner said.

Kendall and DNR officials have arranged a panel of experts on black bear behavior for the rescheduled commission meeting. Speakers include Ken Riddleberger, supervisor of DNR Region 2, wildlife biologist Scott Frazier and Adam Hammond, a regional wildlife biologist assigned to the North Georgia Mountains and Wildlife Management Areas throughout the region.

"Among other things, Mr. Hammond's duties include participation on Georgia's Black Bear Committee and working with citizens to resolve human-wildlife conflicts," Commissioner Kendall said.

Hammond also is an active contributor to the Southern Appalachian Black Bear Study Group, a group of wildlife biologists across the

**See Black bears, page 2**



Larry Swanson tells the Herald's Lowell Nicholson that this oversized black bear has made many visits to the Swanson family backyard looking for a free meal.  
Photo/Larry Swanson

## Gibby unopposed; Mathis seeks final term on Nov. 3

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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The City of Young Harris has cancelled its local election in November due to lack of opposition for existing elected council members.

Mayor Andrea Gibby and council members Donald Keys in Post 4, David Sellers in Post 5 and John Kelley in Post 6 will return to the Young Harris City Council for four more years.

Gibby defeated Tim Mulkey last November to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Danny Nichols, who resigned due to health reasons. Mayor Nichols later lost his battle with cancer. Young Harris voters gave the poignant Gibby the nod with 62 votes to Mulkey's 27.

"I really believe in community," Gibby said. "I grew up here, I did go away, but I came back. My family is from here, my grandparents are from here. I want Young Harris to remain a community that has a really great college here.

"I want the City of Young Harris to grow with Young Harris College," she



Mayor Barbara Mathis

said. "I want us to have a great college, but at the same time, I want us to have a great city and I think that we can do that."

Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis has November opposition in Chris Swett. Mathis said she wants to return to council to see the current list of projects to fruition.

"We have so many projects that we are work-

**See Elections, page 2**

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

