

Cable TV ...from Page 1A

avoid costing the membership more money.”

The cable services division falls under the broadband division, which is outperforming even the electric utility division of the cooperative.

“Our broadband division as a whole is outperforming even our electric utility division in the operating margin per consumer,” Nelms said. “With that, we plan to continue to expand our broadband in the future.”

The board of directors also has come under fire for voting to subcontract right of way projects with Georgia Right of Way. The reason

for the subcontract is the rising cost of health care and workman’s compensation insurance, Nelms said.

Georgia Right of Way is itself a cooperative.

“We’re third in the state in our worker’s comp premiums,” Nelms said. “In 2016, our costs were at \$341,000, which was the third highest in the state of Georgia when compared to other EMCs.

“We were only behind Sawnee and Jackson EMCs,” Nelms said. “Both of those are EMCs that are either reaching or exceeding 200,000 meters on their system. We are only

13th in the state of Georgia at 51,000 meters when compared on meter count.

“This is certainly not the only reason we are partnering with Georgia Right of Way, but it should certainly help to reduce our level of exposure along with our premiums,” Nelms said. “This in turn can help to put downward pressure on expenses in the future.”

Nelms also said subcontracting with Georgia Right of Way allowed BRMEMC to keep its employee numbers manageable. The EMC currently has 188 employees.

Qualifying...from Page 1A

In Hiawassee, the mayor and two city council seats are up for grabs in the General Election, and there will be a Special Election to fill the remaining two years of Council member Liz Ordiales’ term, who resigned from the council to run for mayor.

Hiawassee’s Special Election will be held in conjunction with its General Election.

Currently, there is no one at the mayor post, as Council member Kris Berrong fills in as mayor pro tem, and

the council posts held by Jay Chastain and Rayette Ross are up for election.

Qualifying for the Nov. 7 General/Special Election will run from Tuesday, Aug. 22, through Thursday, Aug. 24, each day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Hiawassee City Hall.

The qualifying fee for the office of Hiawassee mayor will be \$1,278.23, while qualifying for each council post will be \$72, ahead of the November elections that will take place at Hiawassee City Hall.

In Young Harris, the mayor post and three council seats – posts 4, 5 and 6 – are up for election in the city’s Nov. 7 General Election.

Currently, Andrea Gibby holds the post of Young Harris mayor, while Sam Leslie holds council post 4; post 5 is open; and John Kelley holds council post 6.

Young Harris qualifying will run from Monday, Aug. 21, through Wednesday, Aug. 23, each day from 8:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. at Young Harris City Hall.

The qualifying fee for Young Harris mayor is \$180, and the qualifying fee for each council post is \$36.

Eclipse...from Page 1A

filters or ordinary sunglasses are not safe for looking at the sun during this time.

Looking through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars or any other device at the partially eclipsed or un-eclipsed sun will also cause eye damage, as will looking through these devices while wearing the eclipse glasses.

The concentrated solar rays will damage the filter of the device, and the eclipse glasses, and enter the eye, causing severe injury. Only during the two minutes and 20 seconds of total solar eclipse, when the moon has entirely blocked the sun’s bright face, can the eclipse be viewed without the glasses without causing damage to the eye.

In addition to the Tailgating Party at the

Fairgrounds, those looking for Solar Eclipse parties have several options to choose from throughout the county.

Hightower Creek Vineyards will be hosting a Pre-Solar Eclipse Vino & Vibes session on Sunday, Aug. 20, with musician Rob Alwine, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person and includes a glass of wine and a tasting.

And on Monday, Hightower Creek Vineyards will be hosting a Once In A Lifetime Cosmic Event celebration, with reservations available for up to 80 people. Hightower will open its gates at 10 a.m. on the day of the event, with festivities lasting until 5 p.m.

Admission for those 21 years old and up is \$25 per person and includes a pair of

solar eclipse sunglasses and a glass of wine. For those under 21 years old, admission is \$15 per person and includes a pair of solar eclipse sunglasses.

Crane Creek Vineyards, as part of its Tomato Daze Weekend, is also hosting an eclipse party on Aug. 21, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., beginning with a live performance from Surrender Hill at 1 p.m. There is no cover charge for the event, but all beverages and food are a la carte.

Brasstown Bald, Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa and The Ridges Resort & Marina are all three hosting individual eclipse-viewing parties as well, though tickets and rooms are already sold out for these events.

Regardless, there are plenty of places to gather with friends and family to view the Great American Solar Eclipse next week and enjoy a once in a lifetime experience many will not soon forget.

Phillips...from Page 1A

“Morning Coffee” hostess Lori Duke Jones and station owner Jeff Batten took home awards. Jones’ award was for her work on the “John Wayne of the Day” feature; and Batten won for his creation of “best station produced promo.”

“It’s very gratifying to see the daily work done at WRB receive the state’s highest honor,” said Batten, station owner. “We’re humbled to have been recognized.”

Meanwhile, Phillips remembers how he first started

working for the radio station.

“I was promoting some music we (Midnight Express) were doing, and went on the radio with Tim Rose. Tim was wanting to go back to Atlanta and he recommended me for his spot,” Phillips said. “That Sunday, Jeff Batten called me and asked me if I wanted to take over the Morning Show, and I told him I didn’t know anything about being on the radio. I went up there, sat in for two or three days, and five years later, here I am.

“I’ve been on the air going on five years now,” he said. “My whole thing in the morning is that I want to be entertaining. I want it to be fun, and I want people to smile just a little bit in the morning.

“There is so much going on in this world, people are dealing with so much grief. I just want Morning Dish to be a fun show,” Phillips said. “We’re fair, we’re balanced, and we make fun of ourselves more than we do anyone else. I love it.”

Register now for Scott Hogsed Memorial Youth Day

It is that time of year again to get your youth registered for the annual Scott Hogsed Memorial Youth Conservation & Education Day. We would like all youth that can to pre-register. It makes things move much faster to come into the event. This can be done by visiting www.scotthogsedyouthday.com Pre-registration closes on August 25 at 4 PM. We have changed the main gate opening until 7:30 AM on the 26th so be aware that you don’t have to get up so early to get in.

The event, which is held in Brasstown, NC on Fred Cook’s farm, is a growing event.

The date is Saturday, August 26, gates open at 7:30 AM and it is totally free. Youth will be learning about outdoor activities including hunting and fishing, archery and firearm safety, and much, much more.

This event also offers a free wild game lunch for all participants and parents. Of course, youth will receive a free t-shirt and goody bag as well as being entered to win one of our great door prizes.

This year we will be honoring Shannon Christy. Shannon was 23 years old when she lost her life in 2013 doing one of her favorite things, extreme kayaking. This year we will honor Shannon and her love of all things outdoors, by providing youth with another great youth day.

We are also looking for wild game donations for our wild game lunch. Hunters and



This year’s Scott Hogsed Youth Day is honoring the memory of Shannon Christy. Shannon not only loved extreme kayaking but also loved fishing!

fisherman with meat to spare please call Hogsed’s Sports- wear about donating wild meat for our wild game lunch. We need enough meat to feed 1,800 people.

Also if you would like to make a donation to help raise funds for this event please contact Sam Hogsed at 828-361-2117 or call Hogsed’s Sports- wear 828-389-3088.

If you would like more information about the event visit the website at www.scotthogsedyouthday.com or contact the North Carolina Cooperative Extension at 828-837-2210 ext. 4. August 26 will be here before you know it so register soon!

from all across the region and the nation.

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Solar Eclipse to increase visitation on Chattahoochee National Forest - urged to plan ahead



The U.S. Forest Service cautions visitors to carefully plan ahead in order to make the solar eclipse a positive memorable event. The agency expects increased visitation levels on the Chattahoochee National Forest in the coming weeks, with a surge of people anticipated the day of the solar eclipse on Monday, August 21.

“We want forest visitors to enjoy this unique astronomical event, so we’re asking them to help us protect the forest by planning ahead to ensure a safe and fun experience for everyone,” said Forest Supervisor Betty Jewett. “Focus on who you share the experience with that day, not on where you might be standing. It’s not necessary to be on the forest or at a high elevation to get a great view. Consider taking part in one of the many local community events being offered that are designed to accommodate lots of visitors.”

The solar eclipse can be viewed anywhere the sun is visible. The total solar eclipse will be visible from most anywhere in northeast Georgia, and partially everywhere across the entire state. By planning ahead, visitors can choose where and who to share the experience with that day. On the national forest, there could be crowds creating traffic and parking issues on narrow, unpaved roads, and potential damage to natural resources.

Forest visitors are also reminded to check local weather forecasts and the website for safety alerts and potential road closures put in place to ensure emergency access. The agency expects recreation sites and campgrounds to be at full capacity on August 21 and the weekend before, with extremely high demand. Most sites do

not take reservations and are available on a first-come basis, so campers should make sure to arrive with alternate plans in mind. Find information on all our campgrounds on our website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/conf/recreation/camping-cabins>.

To help make a visit to view the eclipse in the Chattahoochee National Forest a safe and enjoyable experience, it is important to know that the national forest is remote and rugged with few amenities available. Public safety and natural and cultural resource protection are high priorities. Some locations suitable for viewing the eclipse may be sensitive and have environmental concerns associated with them. Many of these locations have limited road access, limited crowd capacity, restricted traffic flow, limited parking and little if any sanitation facilities and potable water. A special event at Brasstown Bald for ticket holders only (sold out) will limit the number of visitors to that location in order to protect the facility and the forest from excess impacts.

Consider checking out some of the great community events planned that day which will feature celebrations showcasing the local and regional culture. Local visitor centers have all the details on specific events or visit: www.exploregeorgia.org/blog/ways-to-experience-the-solar-eclipse-in-georgia or www.eclipse2017.org/2017/states/GA.htm.

On August 21, 2017 at approximately 2:35 p.m. EDT a total eclipse of the sun will pass over northeast Georgia. The so-called “Great American Eclipse” will pass over 13 states, including Georgia. The eclipse (partial) will be visible throughout the United States.

A 70-mile wide path of total darkness begins in Oregon and exits the nation at South Carolina. Areas within the 70 mile-wide path will experience total darkness for up to 2 minutes 40 seconds. The center of the total eclipse path will pass through the northeastern portion of the Chattahoochee National Forest in Rabun County, however the total eclipse can also be viewed in Towns, Fannin, Union, Stephens, Habersham and White counties. Running west to east across the Chattahoochee National Forest beginning in Blue Ridge, GA, the total eclipse will occur at 2:35 p.m. (EDT), finishing near Toccoa, GA, at 2:38 p.m.

For updated information on current conditions on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, visit the website at www.fs.usda.gov/conf, or contact one of our local offices. For more Chattahoochee National Forest information contact: Blue Ridge Ranger District: 706-745-6928; Forest Supervisor’s Office: 770-297-3000.

During a total solar eclipse shadow bands are often seen on the ground as totality approaches; Light filtering through leaves on trees casts crescent shadows as totality approaches; Wildlife often prepare for sleep or behave confusedly during totality; and temperatures can drop several degrees during totality. The only safe way to look directly at the exposed or partially eclipsed Sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as “eclipse glasses.” Home-made filters or sunglasses are not safe for looking at the Sun. For more eclipse information visit: www.fs.fed.us/visit/eclipse2017 or eclipse2017.nasa.gov. NT(Aug16,21)jgg

Solar Eclipse Road Closures on the Chattahoochee National Forest - urges visitors to plan ahead

The U.S. Forest Service announced road closures at several sites on the Chattahoochee National Forest in anticipation of an increase in visitors for the solar eclipse on August 21. The agency encourages drivers to understand parking rules and plan ahead for high amounts of traffic on narrow forest roads.

“We want visitors who come for the eclipse to have a safe and enjoyable experience. To ensure safety and protect the forest, we need to keep roadways clear for emergency vehicle use,” said Forest Supervisor Betty Jewett. “As you travel on forest roads, keep in mind that there has to be enough space for fire trucks and ambulances to get up and down roads in case of an emergency.”

To ensure public safety and emergency vehicle access, the following forest roads will be closed to vehicles, open to foot travel only:

- FSR 11 - Glassy Mountain, beyond Apple Gap Road
- FSR 62 - Currahee Mountain
- FSR 413 - Rabun Bald



Don’t expect solitude on August 21. If you choose to visit the national forest on this day, please plan ahead. Ensure space for fire trucks and ambulances to get up and down narrow forest roads in case of an emergency. Image by U.S. Forest Service.

Additionally, Brasstown Bald will be open only for those visitors who made a reservation. The 180 Spur Road will be closed to all other traffic. The site has limited capacity and no further reservations are being accepted. Visitors are reminded to check Twitter and Facebook (@ChattOconeeNF) for safety alerts and additional road closures.

The U.S. Forest Service is focused on public safety and protecting natural and cultural resources. Use extreme caution when driving and parking, and pay close attention to other vehicles, pedestrians, and bikers that will be sharing the roads and may be distracted. Plan to arrive early at your destination so that you can park legally. Plan to leave late following the eclipse to avoid traffic congestion.

Know what to expect before you arrive. Parking is not allowed at locations with “No Parking” signs, in front of closed gates, on closed roads or contrary to posted instructions. If a vehicle is impeding the flow of traffic or blocking gates, it will be towed. When parking on a roadside, be aware that unseen ditches often parallel roads. Sensitive natural forest areas and vehicles can be damaged while

entering or exiting a ditch and vehicles frequently require towing from these areas.

Many roads on the Chattahoochee National Forest are rough and may not be suitable for vehicles without high clearance or 4-wheel drive. Remote locations outside of developed recreation areas have very limited access and parking, restricted traffic flow, restroom facilities or drinking water. Mobile phone service can be limited or unavailable and GPS units are often unreliable in the forest, so plan your route in advance and have a map.

Popular areas will likely meet capacity early in the day, so visitors should have alternate plans in mind. The solar eclipse can be viewed anywhere the sun is visible. It’s not necessary to be on the forest or at a high elevation to get a great view. Consider checking out some of the great community events planned that day which will feature celebrations showcasing the local and regional culture. Local visitor centers have all the details on specific events or visit: www.exploregeorgia.org/blog/ways-to-experience-the-solar-eclipse-in-georgia.

By planning ahead, visitors can choose where and who to share the experience with that day.

Developed campgrounds reserved through recreation.gov are booked for the weekend of the eclipse. There are some first come first served campsites and they are expected to fill up several days before the eclipse. Dispersed camping outside of developed campgrounds is allowed unless posted or restricted by a closure order. Camping is not allowed near water, trails, trailhead parking lots, developed recreation areas, or Scenic Byways. Dispersed camping is free and no permits are required.

For updated information on current conditions on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, visit the website at www.fs.usda.gov/conf, or contact one of our local offices. For more Chattahoochee National Forest information contact: Blue Ridge Ranger District: 706-745-6928; Forest Supervisor’s Office: 770-297-3000.

For more eclipse information visit: www.fs.fed.us/visit/eclipse2017 or eclipse2017.nasa.gov.



Woman's ENRICHMENT CENTER
706-745-7518 • Tues., Wed., Thurs • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
218 Jones Street • Blairsville, GA 30512

Q. I heard your hours may be changing, can you tell me about that?

A. Yes! In an effort to accommodate our clients who work and/or go to school, we will be staying open until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays starting October 3, 2017. These new hours will be on a trial basis. Our last appointment on Tuesdays will be taken at 6:30 p.m. We are hoping to see more of our working clients, and even get some new clients that haven’t been able to come during our regular business hours. Our new weekly hours will be Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The staff and volunteers of the WEC hope this will help us serve more young families in this area! Please call 706-745-7518 for an appointment.