

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Sunny	33 18
Fri: Sunny	42 22
Sat: Sunny	46 29
Sun: Cloudy	51 39
Mon: Rain	53 40
Tue: Rain	48 36
Wed: Cloudy	47 34



Upstream Elevation Predicted 01/07/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,913.27
Lake Nottely	1,760.41
Blue Ridge	1,668.34

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BRMEMC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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Career Coach coming to Library Thursday Jan 8th

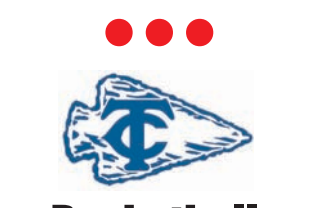
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Federal Employee Meeting Tuesday, Jan 13 G & G Bakery

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Conversational German Class! Wednesday mornings 10 AM

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Basketball Tues Jan 6 @ Commerce 6 PM

Fri Jan 9 vs. Lakeview 7 PM

Sat Jan 10 vs. Prince Avenue 6 PM

WRESTLING Tues Jan 6 @ East Jackson

Sat. Jan 10 AREA DUALS TBA

BRMEMC sued by members

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

A Blue Ridge Mountain Electric membership group has filed suit in Towns County Superior Court seeking remedy to what they call breaches of fiduciary duty by the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC general manager, and the six directors, according to a copy of the lawsuit obtained by the North Georgia News and Towns County Herald.

The suit was filed Jan. 2 in Towns County Superior Court, according to the 219-page lawsuit, and seeks a jury trial to decide the case. No trial date had been set at press time.

The plaintiffs, Krista L. Gooch, Larry Williams, Andrew Stephens, and Barbara Moss, on behalf of the BRMEMC membership, ask for a judgment in favor of the membership against General Manager Matthew Akins, and directors Ronald Burch, William Prather, Robert Ensley, Kenneth Lance, Jerry Nichols and Greg Owenby, according to the suit.

The suit also seeks the dismissal of Akins, legal counsel Lawrence Sorgen, and auditor Gene Allen, according to the suit.

The suit also seeks a judgment in favor of the plaintiffs for the benefit of the membership against the six directors and Akins for breach of fiduciary duty in an amount to be proven at trial.

The suit claims that the
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BRMEMC GM Matthew Akins, and former BRMEMC President Terry Taylor are the subject of conversation in a lawsuit filed last week in Towns County against BRMEMC directors and Akins. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

Langley sworn in for second term

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Blairsville - Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley was sworn in for his second term by Union County Probate Judge Dwain Brackett on Friday, Jan. 2, at the Union County Courthouse.

Langley has been an attorney for 30 years, but has acted in one capacity or another for going on 17 years within the Enotah Judicial Circuit's DA office, which comprises Union, Towns, Lumpkin and White counties.

"I need to thank everybody in this room," said Langley before the start of official proceedings. "A lot of you folks are the people who helped me win my election four years ago. A lot of you folks in this room are the people who worked so hard in my office this year that we did a job that didn't compel anyone to run against me. We didn't do so badly someone felt compelled to sign up and run against me. So, I was elected without opposition, and very thankful for that."

Angela Langley, his wife, stood by him as he was sworn in, and quite a few members



Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley speaks prior to his swearing in ceremony in Blairsville last week. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

of Langley's church showed their support Friday, as well as former colleagues and civic leaders Langley has come to know over the years.

Superior Court Judge Stan Gunter, whom Langley served under as chief assistant DA when Judge Gunter was DA of the circuit in the past, was in attendance, as well as Union County Tax Commissioner

Lee Knight and Union County Sheriff Mack Mason.

The acting chairmen of both the Towns and Union Republican Parties were present, and many of Langley's staff were also on hand to witness the event.

Just before being sworn into office, Langley delivered

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New Year's tradition continues at Cornerstone

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

As 2014 waved goodbye and 2015 said hello to Towns County, many people decided to take part in a tradition that didn't feature the usual countdown with champagne.

Several area churches, in fact, held services to celebrate the New Year.

Revival Baptist and Pine Grove Baptist churches sang and worshipped for several hours until the toll of midnight, and Upper Hightower Baptist Church prayed its way into 2015.

The congregation of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Young Harris spent the evening singing shape note gospel, an American tradition going back more than 200 years.

A healthy crowd attended the event, which began at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31.

Refreshments were served at 9:30 p.m., after which singing resumed.

More than 20 churchgoers from area churches remained past the stroke of midnight, singing shape note and playing piano right on through the end of one year and into the beginning of the next.

"We've been having a New Year's Eve singing ever since about 1965," said Pas-



tor Todd Flanagan, who noted that Cornerstone is an offshoot of the much older West Union Baptist Church of Young Harris.

Flanagan began preaching at Cornerstone the first Sunday in September of 2014, though his membership at the church stretches back to the church's establishment in 1991.

A young man of 29 years, Flanagan is also the agriculture teacher at Towns County Middle School.

"It's an opportunity to get people together from other churches, not just even here in Towns County, but from other counties around us, to get together for the same thing and to share in fellowship with each other," said Pastor Flanagan.

New EMC board members talk to Mountain Shakers

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Young Harris - The three newest members of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors spoke at the weekly Mountain Movers and Shakers meeting on Friday, Jan. 2, at Mary's Southern Grill.

Former Georgia House District 8 State Rep. Charles Jenkins, local radio personality Steven Phillips and North Carolina Forester Chris Logan, who were the first ever board members to be nominated by petition, then elected by the membership, addressed many concerns raised by those in attendance, as the meeting took on a Q&A format.

The trio recently returned from board training in Nashville, which was conducted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, an organization representing more than 900 EMCs.

All three board members trained for five days, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and are now board certified members of the BRMEMC Board of Directors.

"I know a lot of people are interested in the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC," said Phillips. "Of course, we just barely got elected on the board, so we've not been there - it's a slow process. I know a lot of people are wanting change, and I think change is coming. It's just going to be, like I said, a slow process."



Chris Logan, Steven Phillips and Charles Jenkins, the three newest directors for BRMEMC speak at the weekly Mountain Movers and Shakers meeting in Young Harris. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

One hot-button issue with the board of directors has been health insurance for board members paid for by the membership.

"Another thing that we brought up to the board is dissolving the health insurance for the board members," said Logan. "We don't feel that it's something that the members themselves need to pay for. We brought it up, and it's probably going to come up in a motion next time."

Not all of the members on the board of directors have health insurance paid for by the membership, but a few do, as does BRMEMC attorney Larry Sorgen.

"Another thing that we're looking at is this: deposits," said Logan, who is on the board's finance committee. "Anybody

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Shakers endorse Elementary school projects for Dr. Page

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Young Harris - In the first Mountain Movers and Shakers meeting of the year on Friday, Jan. 2, at Mary's Southern Grill, co-founder of the group Sam Fullerton made a special announcement.

"In the last two and a half years, we've done a lot of things in the community," said Fullerton. "This year, we want to endorse Dr. Sandy Page's elementary school out here at the Towns County Schools."

Dr. Page, who is principal of Towns County Elementary School, was a guest at a Mountain Movers and Shakers meeting in the fall of 2014.

"She's got several projects she wants to put through this year, and I want us to dedicate ourselves to the elementary school," said Fullerton.

Those interested will form an Elementary School Committee within the Mountain Movers and Shakers, and will seek assistance from



Dr. Sandra Page within the community to raise money for the school.

"I'd like to see about six or eight people say, yes, I want to help with this project, because we want to do some real serious work out there," said Fullerton.

Dr. Page spoke in detail during that prior meeting concerning the projects she has in mind for completion in the near future, and thanked the Mountain Movers and Shakers for their interest in the school.

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Public hearings begin for statewide deer season



By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Division is seeking public input on a single season for deer hunting.

A public hearing was scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday at Blue Ridge Mountain EMC headquarters in Young Harris.

The meeting is one of eight scheduled statewide this week.

Hunters and other interested residents are invited to attend any of eight upcoming public meetings related to the development of hunting regulations for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 hunting seasons, according to DNR.

The meetings, sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division, are specifically designed to give the public a chance to provide input in the development process.

"Public input is important and valuable," said John Bowers, chief of the Game Management Section. "While we currently have no proposed regulation changes, we are considering establishing a single statewide deer season and adjusting the timing of buck-only days. As always, we want to maintain simple, easy-to-follow hunting regulations that encourage hunting participation, maximize opportunity, and are biologically appropriate."

Previous survey data, public input and other details have clearly demonstrated to the department that most hunters desire a single statewide deer season.

That is, one statewide
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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

