

BRMEMC meets again...continued from page 1

differ.

"I've lived a lot of places," she said. "I've never been asked to pay for the privilege of being a customer before."

She told the group that if Mr. Turner was so please with the rate increases that have dipped significantly into member pockets, she's be glad to let him pay her electric bill.

Larry Sorgen, general counsel for BRMEMC, said that the customer charge is not for the privilege of being a customer.

"It covers fixed costs," he said. "Operations and maintenance; we try to cover the fixed costs with the fixed charge. We took a long hard look at our financial outlook to try and realize our fixed rate."

"We account for user fees in kilowatt power," he said. "Our fixed rate is the cost to deliver."

Boyette, still standing and still not smiling, called EMC a monopoly with customers at the mercy of a utility giant.

Akins told Boyette that he was sorry she felt that way.

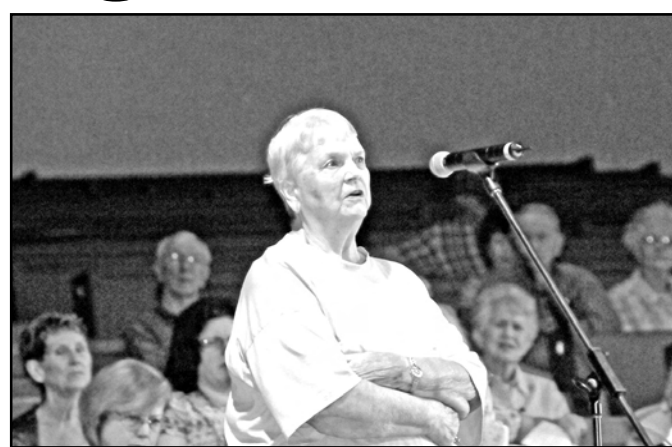
"We've got the third lowest kilowatt rate in the state," he said.

Sorgen chimed in that he understands how Boyette feels.

"Nobody wants to pay more," he said. "We give first rate service for the best price possible. We know it's difficult to adjust to the hard times we face today."

Tracy Nichols of Young Harris told the membership group and board members that she's proud to do business with BRMEMC.

"They have unselfish employees," she said. "They work with people on their power bills if they can't pay all at once. My husband is in the construction business



Mary Jean Boyette wasn't happy on Saturday. Photo/James Reese

and believe me, we've needed that help during the current economy."

Akins said with hard times upon us, he expected hard questions.

"I understand what they're saying and why they're saying it," he said. "Hopefully, we were able to address their questions and concerns."

The one question that

didn't get touched on, the current building project of BRMEMC's new headquarters.

"We're closing in on the completion of grading and the installation of underground utilities," he said. "We've got a Phase Two contractor that's ready to start on building construction. We're looking at the end of 2011 for a completion date."

Senior Center...continued from page 1

Commissioner's office, the Tax Assessors offices, Building Department and Public Defender's offices.

Kendall said a second Courthouse Annex in the current Senior Center could fill the future need for Courthouse offices for years to come.

"The lower portion is already used for Courthouse space by providing offices for the Board of Education and the County Agent," Commissioner Kendall said.

Commissioner Kendall was ecstatic about the news.

He added that he was very happy for Towns County and its Senior Citizens who make up one of the highest percentage age 65 and over groups of any county in Georgia.

The 2012 projected population of persons age 65 and over for Towns County is 29 percent and 52 percent age 65 and over for the City of Hiawasse.

Kendall said that a new Senior Center was one of the top priorities of his

administration along with a proposed recreational park to serve local youth and adults.

"The approval of the Grant for the new Senior Center was a prime example of where persistence by our citizens has paid off," Commissioner Kendall said. "After being turned down for two consecutive years the third application was approved."

He applauded Senior Center Director Pat Nicholson who helped gather information for the Community Development Block Grant applications, as well as the countless residents who wrote letters in support of the project.

"One example of the hard work and persistence put into this grant application is one lady, Shirley Stallings," Commissioner Kendall said.

Stallings worked hard to compile 350 letters of support for the project, Commissioner Kendall said.

"I would also like to thank Georgia Mountain Regional Commission's John Phillips for preparing the three applications," he said.

"The grant commitment is conditional upon the state's receipt of a properly executed grant award package which will take place Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, at Calloway Gardens."

New pharmacy; the same friendly faces

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

Stephens Lodge No. 414 F&AM came to life on Highway 66 in Young Harris in 1966.

Today, the storied lodge has made the move just up the street to new surroundings along with its longtime partners, Young Harris Pharmacy and John and Janice Cochran.

The new lodge will continue to be a partner with Young Harris Pharmacy as they complete the move up the road. The facility also includes a community room for wedding receptions, birthdays, reunions and family get togethers.

On Sept. 19, Young Harris Pharmacy will host Open House at their new community-friendly location, north on Highway 66, just a quarter-mile from the traffic light in Young Harris. The Open House is scheduled from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

John Cochran, owner and pharmacist, invites everyone to attend and see the new facility in Young Harris.

Cochran said that he and his wife couldn't think of a better project for the property.

"We're glad to be a part of all this," he said, referring to the multiple uses of the facility.

The community center is able to host and seat 100 to 150 people.

The ground-breaking ceremony was held approximately a year ago.

Young Harris College has purchased the former Lodge facility shared with Young Harris Pharmacy on Murphy Street.

That transaction was completed more than a year ago, said Lodge member Clint Hobbs. "About the time we were closing out the sale, we were ap-



John and Janice Cochran

proached by Johnny and Janice Cochran about helping us out to find a new location," he said. "We've had a wonderful partnership with them throughout the years. The good news is that Johnny wants to continue Young Harris Pharmacy. With the generosity of Johnny and Janice Cochran, we were able to get where we are today."

"They're really the ones that have made all of this happen," Hobbs said. "The partnership

will continue for many, many more years now and we're excited about that."

John has owned and operated Young Harris Pharmacy for 32 years and the pharmacy offers a full prescription service. John will continue the high standard of quality service in the new facility.

Other features at the pharmacy include health and beauty aids, women's and men's fragrances, books, magazines, greeting cards, collegiate items, Jim Shore collectibles, and a wide selection of \$1 items. Dry cleaning pick-up also is available as well as hand-dipped Mayfield ice cream.

John and Janice hope to see you at the new Young Harris Pharmacy location on Sept. 19 where "old-fashioned friendliness is not Forgotten."

Come out and enjoy the fellowship, refreshments and door prizes.

Wilkins makes Darton Merit List

Robbie M. Wilkins of Suches made the Merit List at Darton College for the Summer 2010 semester. To qualify for

the Merit List, a student must be part time and have earned a 3.4 or higher grade point average. Congratulations! (N/Sept15.A8)SH