

Commissioner...from Page 1A



Veteran pilot Chris Harvey of FalconVue Aerial Photography was honored in the county meeting for his contributions to his community. Pictured here, Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw with Chris, Luci, Emmaleigh, Annabelle and unborn Madelyn Harvey.

looks like on tourism and what has been spent in the county. It's going up every year."

Also in the meeting, Townsend resident and retired Army pilot Chris Harvey received special recognition from Commissioner Bradshaw.

Harvey owns and operates FalconVue, a locally based aerial video and photography company, and the commissioner presented him with a certificate of appreciation:

"For outstanding performance and lasting contribution to the citizens of Townsend in the area of aerial drone video and photography to help enrich our community and promote our events to draw new visitors and

help grow our economy."

The Army veteran piloted Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopters during his military career, and later contracted with the Army to unmanned aircraft. He attended the meeting with his wife Luci, daughters Emmaleigh and Annabelle, and soon-to-be born daughter Madelyn.

For more details on FalconVue, contact Harvey at (912) 323-2180, or by email at FalconVueVIS@gmail.com.

As for new business, Bradshaw held a first reading of an amendment to the county sign ordinance via resolution, which will allow the county to assess fees for the review of sign applications and for the issuance of sign permits.

Commissioner Bradshaw

also read and adopted a resolution to allow for the Enotah Judicial Circuit to hold court in the Townsend Civic Center between November 27 and December 8, since two superior court judges desire to preside over cases at the same time in Townsend.

Bradshaw amended the county beer and wine permit schedule of fees to reflect up-to-date changes in the meeting, including a charge for event permits and a charge to change the name of the person on a business' alcohol permit.

The county also amended the 2017 budget to reflect an insurance reimbursement in the amount of \$9,000, which came after the county totaled out a wrecked patrol car.

Board of Ed...from Page 1A

go to college, but also be in high school at the same time. They can also take college courses that can also count toward high school credit.

"Parents get very excited about this because the tuition is paid for, the books are paid, plus they get a \$50 mandatory fee and that fee covers certain costs that the college may ask for students to pay for."

Although the program sounds like a win all around for both students and parents, Parker warned that it can often lead to added stress on the students which could manifest in lower grades and a decrease in an overall grade point average, since these classes still count toward the students' GPA.

"While all of this sounds great and it is a wonderful opportunity for our students, we have to be careful when enrolling them in the dual enrollment program to make sure that they are ready for this," said Parker. "Lots of kids, for instance, hear the word college and they're really excited, as they should be, but once they get in the middle of it, they realize that maybe it's not for them. And that's fine."

Regardless, Parker does not want to discourage students from going the extra mile and pursuing the program, but simply wants to ensure that all students, as well as parents and teachers, are aware of the massive undertaking that comes with dual enrollment.

"These kids have to be very careful when they're in the dual enrollment program because the grades that they make in college can affect their GPA," said Parker. "But, you have so many different scenarios with dual enrollment.



Townsend County Board of Education Member Robert Williams and Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong on Monday, Sept. 18. Photo/Lily Avery

It really just depends on the student.

"The colleges that we have students dual enrolled in right now are Young Harris College, North Georgia Technical College, Toccoa Falls College and the University of North Georgia at the Blue Ridge campus."

As of right now, TCHS has 25 students enlisted in the dual enrollment program.

Also in the meeting, Townsend County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong addressed the two days that students missed due to Hurricane Irma. According to Dr. Berrong, since Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal classified those days as a state of emergency, the school is not necessarily required to make those days up per the status of the school.

"We're fortunate that we didn't get near the damage that most of the surrounding counties got," said Dr. Berrong. "I know several school systems had to miss the entire week so

we are very fortunate to only have the two days missed.

"A lot of schools in Georgia are asking the question about make up days because of the state of emergency that was given by the governor. There are a lot of misconceptions about what that means for schools, as far as the state of emergency goes.

"All schools in the state of Georgia have to be in one of three classifications, either status quo, strategic waiver system or a charter system. So there are certain things we can waive.

"Because we are a strategic waiver system, it's up to us whether we want to make those days up or not. Right now, I'm looking at forgiving those days and the possibility of not having to make those days up."

As of right now, a final decision on whether the days are to be made up has yet to be determined.

Shape Notes...from Page 1A

notes are written as shapes.

"The tradition of shape note singing itself dates back to the 1700s," said Nichols. "Back then, when the folks would gather in church, there were very few music readers. As time went on, there got to be fewer and fewer until there was hardly any music reading that was taking place in America, in the churches anyway.

"The hymns were generally taught by someone lining out a line of text, then folks would sing a phrase of music, and there would be only five or six tunes that people would do all of their hymn singing with, so it was a sad situation."

During the 1700s and 1800s, a group from the New England states began searching for a way to teach the common folk how to read music by a quick method that did not require schooling. At this time in America, people lived off the land and worked hard, having little time to spend learning note names, signatures and measures of music for Sunday hymnals.

"The syllables were already there that were used with the scale notes that were brought over from Europe," said Nichols. "The notes were do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti and do. That is where we get the names

for our shape notes and our scale readings. The shapes were sung in the schools in Europe and folks there learned how to read and sing with the shapes.

"Well, these Northerners in America started adding shapes to the syllables to enable the beginners to recognize the pitches from the note head shape. They added the shape to the different notes so that folks could recognize the shape without having to worry about the line or space that it was in."

As time wore on, the nature of the shape notes evolved, beginning with the simple drawings of the shape notes without the music staff to the full-fledge shape notes that can be seen today.

Shape notes proved to be a popular concept in America, and thus resulting in the singing schools to further promote the singing of shape notes and encourage music inclination among those for which school was not an option.

"Singing schools were held in churches, schools and communities," said Nichols. "They were to instruct in the singing of shape notes and were usually one or two weeks in duration. In 1838, keep in mind all of these things have been happening since the 1700s,



The society really got into Nichols' lessons, singing up a storm that Monday. Photo/Lily Avery

Lowell Mason introduced music in the public schools in Boston."

After Mason's so-called "better music" movement, singing schools and shape notes were thought to be a thing of the past, and were for most of Northeastern America, but the Southeast clung tightly to the concept.

Singing schools continued to be taught throughout the rural South, around the same time as the camp meetings began, with the first being held in August 1801 in Lexington, Kentucky.

"In the South, these shape notes found an acceptance and a real use," said Nichols. "Rural folks didn't have opportunities to get public school music education like they did in Boston or other

16-year-old juvenile charged with attempted murder

By Charles Duncan
Townsend County Herald
Editor

Townsend County sheriff's investigators arrested a 16-year-old male juvenile on Wednesday, Sept. 20th, charging him with one count of criminal attempt to commit murder, one count of aggravated assault, and one count of aggravated battery, sheriff's reports show.

The charges come after deputies responded to an assault call at a residence on Cassie Lane in Hiawassee. When deputies and EMS arrived at the scene, a 48-year-old male was discovered at the home severely injured. The victim was airlifted from the scene

to Northeast Georgia Medical Center, where he was admitted to the hospital, sheriff's reports show.

A lookout was issued for a juvenile male suspect believed to have been involved in the assault. A Clayton police officer, on his way to work, heard the lookout and spotted the juvenile on U.S. 76 near the Townsend County/Rabun County line. The juvenile was taken in to custody without incident, sheriff's reports show.

Upon completing an investigation into the reported incident, Townsend County sheriff's investigators arrested the 16-year-old juvenile suspected of attacking his father with a hatchet.

The young man was charged as a juvenile, however, he could later be tried as an adult, by the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney.

Sheriff Clinton would like to commend all those responding to the incident for their quick response, cooperation, and apprehension of the juvenile suspect.

Townsend County sheriff's deputies, Hiawassee police officers, Clayton Police, Townsend County EMS, and Townsend County Fire and Rescue personnel all responded.

The case will be forwarded to the Enotah District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Hydrilla...from Page 1A

hydrilla ... (and) it was just not going to be possible to really eradicate it from the pond," said Moore. "It was going to be too expensive and too much of a proposition to try to use any kind of herbicide or anything like that."

As an answer to the problem, the county paid for 20 sterile grass carp to be stocked in the pond in August, and they will work to control the hydrilla by eventually eating it into submission.

Townsend County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw and Moore have asked that people not fish the carp out of the pond. The carp are currently small but will likely grow to be several feet long.

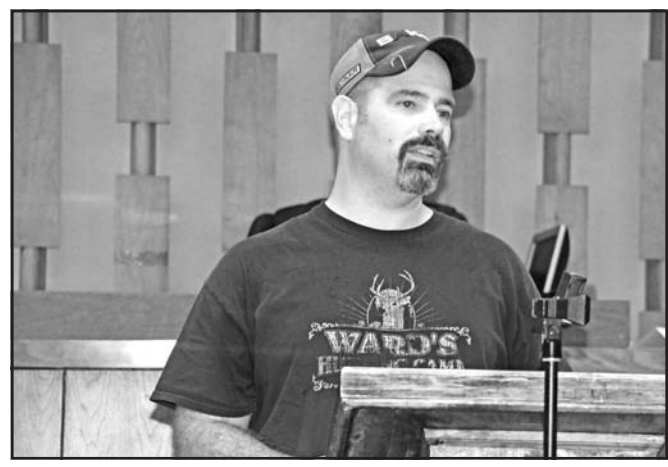
"The fish will not eradicate the weed from the pond," said Moore. "The only way to get it eradicated is either to drain the pond and let it dry out, and even then, we'd have to rake the bottom or use chemicals ... and neither of those solutions are really good solutions."

After breaking the news that hydrilla had somehow managed to make its way into the pond, Moore said that it was imperative it did not move from the pond to Lake Chatuge.

"Measures have to be taken to make sure that if it does get over there ... that we identify it right away, and we contact the TVA so that they can take action to control it in that cove," said Moore.

According to Moore, one way in which hydrilla could be transferred from the pond to the lake is by people not cleaning their fishing gear properly, then fishing in both the pond and the lake.

Another way hydrilla could make its way into the



Tony Ward, HRWC Restoration Coordinator

lake is by getting into the pond outfall via the movement of fish populations in the pond, though Moore is not worried currently about that possibility due to the relatively small size of the carp.

And when the carp are big enough to thrash hydrilla into the outfall, she's hopeful that the hydrilla will have been eaten down sufficiently enough to act as a barrier against that possibility.

"We just want to keep our eye out all the time for what could be invasive exotic weeds," said Moore. "Hydrilla's not the only one, but it's really the worst one for our situation."

Ward was also present for the county meeting, and he offered further information to guests that Tuesday.

"The main reason why hydrilla can overwinter and survive drawdowns is because it actually does take root," said Ward. "A lot of these exotic weeds are just floating plants. Hydrilla takes root and produces a tuber in the substrate, in the bottom of the pond or lake, and this tuber can survive a lake drawdown."

Ward recommends that, in general, boaters clean their boats, motors and propellers thoroughly after pulling them out of a lake, as that has been the major way hydrilla has spread throughout the South.

Furthermore, Ward said people should always clean fishing and boating equipment in between lake visits, and advised that no one should ever release any fish or plants into recreational bodies of water.

Moore added that most non-native invasive plant species arrived in the U.S. years ago via the aquarium trade, and that it's possible someone introduced hydrilla into the pond next to the chamber after dumping an aquarium.

Any residents who think they may have found an invasive plant species can take a picture and send it to restore@hrwc.net.

"The lake is our livelihood to this county," said Commissioner Bradshaw. "We have to have clean water and clean drinking water, and that's what we work together to preserve, and (the HRWC) do a great job."

BRMEMC...from Page 1A

election process.

Currently, candidates are elected by voters in all counties in Georgia and North Carolina.

The number of representatives for each county is determined by the population it serves.

Union County has the largest served population, giving it three representatives on the board.

Townsend County and Clay County, North Carolina, both have two representatives.

Fannin County and Cherokee County, North Carolina, both have one representative.

A second amendment

was proposed by former Townsend County Republican Party Chair Chuck Luca in the Sept. 9 annual meeting. Likewise, it was given the seal of approval by the membership to place on the 2018 election ballot.

That amendment to the bylaws would change what the board hears in executive session.

It would require the board to follow the state Sunshine Laws regarding executive sessions. Following state law would allow the board to go into to executive session for only three reasons - personnel, real estate decisions, and litigation matters.

The amendment, if ultimately approved by the membership, would make all EMC board meetings open to the public.

Cummings said the



BRMEMC Board Chair Mickey Cummings in the Sept. 9 annual meeting. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

board will hear comment from media professionals about open meetings during its Oct. 10 board meeting at EMC headquarters.

Rescue...from Page 1A

On its Facebook page, the Townsend County Food Pantry mourned the loss of Richard Botting.

"Richard Botting, our dear food pantry coordinator and (our) friend passed away due to medical complications. Please be in prayer for our food pantry family and his wife Mattie and family. A truly sad day; he will be dearly missed!"

The Townsend County Food Pantry is a ministry of the Townsend County Cooperative Ministries. Its purpose is to help the needy families of Townsend County. The Townsend County Food Pantry is a nonprofit organization supported solely by area churches, businesses, groups and individuals.

Townsend County's Food Pantry was founded in 2008 by David Mullins and Jim Hicks following the dream of Mr. Mullin's daughter, LaRanda Mauldin, to help feed those families or individuals who, at that time, lacked the resources to obtain it alone.

Then Townsend County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, when approached about the project, brought in Teresa Stephens of Georgia Ninth District Opportunity to head up the project.

It was organized as a mission under the Townsend County Cooperative Ministries, Inc. and housed in a new office/warehouse provided by the Commissioner, which housed both the Food Pantry and Ninth District Opportunity.

Botting volunteered early in the project and eventually became the Food Pantry director.

Roberta Ruths Pifer posted on the Townsend County Food Pantry Facebook page that "God gained the best of the best with Richard's tragic death. Our brother-in-LOVE means the world to so many."

The family held a private ceremony to celebrate Richard's life. Banister Funeral Home had charge of the arrangements.