

Increase...from Page 1

costs for items that include transformers, conductor equipment, and electronics necessary for the safe operation of the company continue to steadily rise.

The same reduction in sales has impacted EMC's generation and transmission provider, the Tennessee Valley Authority, according to the EMC.

EMC's total kilowatt-hour sales declined by more than 55.4 million in 2011 and 2012, according to the EMC.

The EMC has experienced limited sales growth over the past year, selling 30 million fewer kilowatt-hours than in 2011, according to the EMC.

The decline in sales is attributed to mild winters and summers over the past two years, according to EMC, as

well as customer conservation, and business and industry slowdowns.

Customers with a usage of 1,000 kilowatt hours will see a monthly increase of \$4.92, or a 4.06 percent increase; customers with a usage of 1,500 kilowatt hours will see a monthly increase of \$5.52, or a 3.17 percent increase, and customers with a usage of 2,000 kilowatt hours will see a monthly increase of \$6.14, or a 2.71 percent increase, according to a scale provided by the EMC.

The EMC's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 21st, at 10 a.m. at Anderson Music Hall at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in Hiwassee.

Registration for door prizes begins at 8 a.m.

Crash...from Page 1

al awareness, Union County Fire Chief and EMA Director Charles Worden said.

"There was a miracle on Horsetrough," Chief Worden said.

The McCarters' ordeal prompted the first situational crisis at Union County's new Emergency Operations Command Center.

A 911 call came in around 11 a.m. reporting the McCarters' plight, Chief Worden said.

"The plane crashed into the mountain (Horsetrough) between Low Gap and Testanee Gap," Chief Worden said. "We organized a rescue team, seven members, including folks from the Union County Sheriff's Office, Union County Fire & Rescue, the Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Forest Service.

"We had 10 folks working on the situation at the EOC, including the Federal Aviation Administration," Chief Worden said. "Our ground team went in on the White County side of Horsetrough. It was some of the most rugged mountain terrain in Union County."

The crash was attributed to pilot error," Union County sheriff's Lt. Tim Derflinger said.

"Mr. McCarter lost track of where he was flying," Lt. Derflinger said. "Officially, he experienced a loss of situational awareness."

The Diamond Industries DA40 four-seater crashed between two trees shortly after 11 a.m. on Friday, leaving the cab of the aircraft intact. The aircraft never touched the ground, coming to rest about 10 feet up in the trees, Chief Worden said.

The plane was a total loss, Lt. Derflinger said.

The plane crashed on the Appalachian Trail, making the rescue that much more difficult.

Because the area is federal Mountain Wilderness, the rescuers had to hike to the McCarters, no ATVs are allowed.

"It was a two-hour or so hike to find them," Chief Worden said.

Other than some bumps and bruises, the McCarters were in excellent health, Lt. Derflinger said.

"Unfortunately, they're feeling the pain of some bumps and bruises," Lt. Derflinger said. "But, fortunately, they're feeling the pain of some bumps and bruises. They are extremely lucky to be alive."

Following their rescue, the McCarters were brought to the EOC, where they were interviewed by FAA officials, Chief Worden said.

"Mr. McCarter asked the FAA folks where he could send his pilot's license," Chief Worden said. "He was told he could keep his license. He told them that, if it was all the same to them, he had flown his last flight. He said it was a seven-hour drive to Charleston or a two-hour flight. He said from now on, he would rather do the seven-hour drive."

The McCarters declined to speak with the *Towns County Herald* following their ordeal.

"I'm sure they're a little shaken; I'm sure they're just glad to have their feet back on the ground," Lt. Derflinger said.

Lt. Derflinger said that the Atlanta Flight Center was in contact with the plane, owned by George McCarter, before and after the crash.

"Mr. McCarter said he had no idea he was going to impact the mountain until he did," Lt. Derflinger said. "He said he lost situational awareness. The McCarters are grateful to be alive."

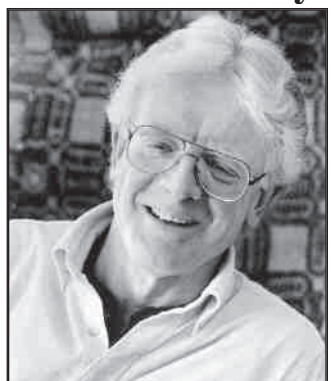
Both Chief Worden and Lt. Derflinger said the crisis was a perfect situational crisis to christen the EOC.

"It was a solid team effort," Chief Worden said.

"It was a solid experience for the county's EOC, we need practice," Lt. Derflinger said. "I like to practice when people aren't injured."

Friday concert features Norman Kennedy

The John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown will present a concert by Scottish folk singer Norman Kennedy on Friday, September 6 at 7 p.m. in the Festival Barn. Those attending are urged to park near Keith House or the Dining Hall and walk to the Festival Barn where there will be only a limited number of handicapped parking spaces available. Admission is free and donations are welcome.



Norman Kennedy was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, into a family with roots in that port city dating to the 13th century. While learning songs, stories, and lore from family members and neighbors, Kennedy spent part of his teen years "hanging around" the local handweavers.

Kennedy travels the country performing the old songs, telling stories, and teaching traditional weaving techniques. He received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2003 and in 2006 appeared with Nova Scotia fiddler, Natalie MacMaster at Carnegie Hall. Don't miss this special treat!

Upcoming Folk School concert performers include Aubrey Atwater (Thursday, Sept. 12) and Steve & Penny Kilby (Sept. 20). The Folk School concert schedule is available on the world wide web at: www.folkschool.org. For further information call the Folk School at 1-800-FOLK-SCH or 837-2775. NT(Sep4,Zep)gg

Bees...from Page 1

to purchase Sourwood Honey from North Georgia saying, "once you have good local raw honey, you will never ever want to get the store-bought mega-brands of honey ever again."

Dr. Arnold added that honeybee pollinated crops have a least a \$9 billion impact on the U.S. economy.

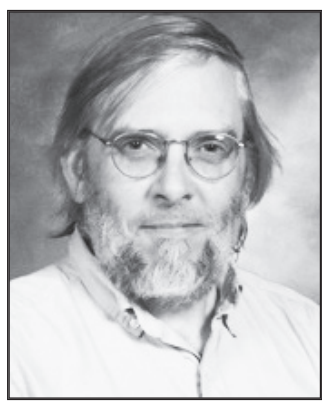
Due to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), the opportunity to purchase any kind of honey is quickly diminishing.

CCD is a complex phenomenon that quickly destroys bee colonies. Neonictinoids, a type of systematic insecticide, are helping destroy honeybee colonies.

A study by Dr. Christian Krupke at Purdue University indicated that drilling machines, such as those that plant corn seed, can cause the Neonictinoid chemicals to go into the air.

The effect is so overwhelming, that the levels in the air expelled from the drills contain 700,000 times more Neonictinoid concentration than needed to kill a honeybee.

Aside from the danger-



Dr. Paul Arnold

ous pesticides, Dr. Arnold also contributes the declining numbers to greater urbanization and declining rural population.

On top of that, the 1980s brought along Tracheal and Varroa mites, creatures that carried diseases deadly for honeybees.

All of the bad breaks caused beekeepers to walk away, as it is a huge economic hardship to lose colonies every year.

Currently, Georgia has around 75,000 Honeybee colonies which are kept by more than 2,000 beekeepers.

While most of those beekeepers are hobbyists with just a few hives, there are some

beekeepers with hundreds or thousands of colonies.

Keith Delaplaine, state Agriculturist at the University of Georgia, ranks Georgia 14th in the U.S. in honey production, and second only to California for Queen Bee production.

With the declining colonies, those numbers could easily change.

"In addition to the economic worry, I worry about traditional agriculture," Dr. Arnold said. "Although I have seen more interest among young people in becoming beekeepers, many of the old beekeeping families in our area have closed their apiaries, which they have operated for generations. We lose our heritage every time we lose a beekeeping family."

In order to solve the crisis, Dr. Arnold believes there is a need to educate young people about the art of beekeeping.

He is doing his part at the college, teaching a class on beekeeping as a regular part of the YHC curriculum.

He boasted that the YHC Beekeeping Institute has had record enrollment every May

for the last several years.

He also added that there is a need to scientifically address the causes of bee decline.

While a lot of research is being done, it is not enough.

Unfortunately, in a downturned economy, money for research is scarce.

Dr. Arnold stressed that there is a need to be responsible landowners and have a bee friendly environment.

"If you have an orchard or garden plants and are indiscriminately spraying pesticides, while bees are pollinating your crops, you are probably causing the demise of bee colonies because of pesticide kills."

Dr. Arnold encourages everyone to check with their county extension agent before using pesticides.

For anyone interested in beekeeping, the Mountain Beekeeping Association meets the first Tuesday of every month at the United Community Bank in Blairsville.

For more details about beekeeping, research can be found online at www.gabeekeeping.com/mountain.

Hydrants...from Page 1

so effective in helping control fires that Towns County has gained national recognition for its Firewise program and has been honored to receive the invitation to join an advanced program called Fire Adapted.

Towns County will be the only county east of Wisconsin to hold that title.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) rates counties based on how well emergency crews can respond to fire calls and their ability to handle those calls determined by the equipment and water available.

The additional hydrants and the community efforts to clean up dangerous fire areas along with the great equipment

that Towns County uses to fight fires have all contributed to the ISO rating going down.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall was pleased with the way things have turned out.

"We couldn't be happier about this money being well spent," Commissioner Kendall said. "The new hydrants have played a big part in lowering the insurance rates for homeowners in the county, but most importantly, they make the people who live here safer."

"Our firefighters have the ability to tap into a hydrant and carry water through the hoses for up to 2,000 feet," he said. "We have run the system to most

every part of the county that had big enough lines to carry the water it takes to operate a hydrant.

"These hydrants required six-inch lines to provide the 250 gallons per minute they need to work. It really is a great thing for everybody."

The hydrants are also color coded for efficiency.

Blue being the strongest and then followed by green, orange and red.

The color designation tells the firefighters just how much water and how much pressure is available from that particular hydrant.

This knowledge can affect the way the team fights a

given fire and helps the emergency personnel be more effective in their attack.

Typically homes need to be within 1,000 feet of a hydrant to qualify for insurance savings.

Some companies will extend that distance even farther, so Kendall suggests that policyholders check their coverage.

"Homeowners should check their policies to see what the requirements are for receiving any savings from their insurance provider," Commissioner Kendall said. "Some folks are seeing 10-12 percent savings from the reduction in the rating. It would pay folks to check."

Peters wants Towns to lose - pounds

By Heather Poole
Towns County Herald
heather.tcherald@windstream.net

Georgia Peters shared her vision of health last week with the Mountain Movers and Shakers.

Peters has a plan, and it begins with Towns County losing 10,000 pounds.

Those at the meeting were taken aback by the number, but Peters assured the group it is realistic.

So realistic in fact, that the goal can be reached even if only 300 people from the Towns County community sign up to lose a little over 30 pounds each.

With a population of almost 11,000 people, Peters feels confident she can find 300 people in the community willing to give it a try.

Peters has included herself in the goal, as well as her husband and children.

The family has already lost weight, and the best part is that the program is free.

Peters assured everyone the program is not about financial gain, but rather health.

Out of all the states, Georgia ranks at number 38 for obesity.

Colorado is the healthiest state, winning the title of No. 1 healthiest state in America.

Peters want that number to change, and she is determined to get our state to first place.

Peters has numerous



Georgia Peters and Truman Barrett were the featured speakers at Mary's Southern Grill.

plans for the future, including a Little Black Dress Party every January for people to share their testimonies about how the diet has positively changed their lives.

She is so sure the program will be successful, that she already foresees calling Good Morning America as well as other news media to let them know about the efforts.

She hopes it will one day spread across the world, leading to a healthier, happier existence.

On Sept. 17th, Peters will be at the Senior Center in Towns County at 6:30 p.m. for a sign up.

Anyone interested in losing weight, be it a pound a week or a pound a day, is encouraged to come and sign up.

Peters plans to take the

program to Union County next, and eventually move on to Fannin.

It has to start somewhere, and Peters feels that the Lord told her to start right here.

Laughing, Peters explained that the idea started when she promised the Lord 50 days of her life in exchange for a weight loss of 50 pounds.

Smiling, Peters admitted, "I did not lose a pound."

She did, however, gain an idea. Peters felt inspired to create a diet program, and chose to head the project herself.

"As a Christian nation and as a Christian community, we have the ability to reveal what God wants us to know," Peters said.

Before Peters spoke, Truman Barrett opened the meeting and also had the group laughing as he bragged about his daughter, Rinday.

His daughter is a pet acupuncturist at Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital, but Barrett made sure to explain that she is just as capable of doing acupuncture on people.

He recounted a hilarious story in which he told Rinday he had a headache.

She told him to close his

eyes, and she proceeded to put needles all over his head.

In no time, not only was the headache gone, but he was sound asleep.

Barrett also spoke about the upcoming speech contest the Movers and Shakers are sponsoring.

"No other cause is better suited to our area. There is nothing any of us need more growing up than the ability to speak comfortably."

A preliminary round is scheduled for Oct. 19th at Towns County High School, and the finals will be held at Young Harris College on Oct. 26th. Currently, those in charge of the event are hoping to get more homeschool students signed up for the contest.

The event is open to all students in Towns County. This includes Faith-based schools, public schools, homeschool students, and Towns County residents who may attend school in a different county.

The contest still needs a few more sponsors. Sponsorship starts at just \$10.

For details on competing in or sponsoring the speaking contest, come visit the Movers and Shakers at Mary's Southern Grill in Young Harris.

Auditions...from Page 1

ated when mixed with the traditional steel guitar, vocal harmony in which the words are minimal, and a slightly unpolished sound.

No one needs to be able to imitate the *Bakersfield Sound* to open for Haggard, they just have to be able to sing.

One hopeful, 18-year-old Kyle Moss of Hayesville, NC is anxious.

"I would love to win because it is a great opportunity for me to get my name out in the community," Moss said. "But when it comes down to

it, music is my first love and I always enjoy tapping into any musical outlet."

Moss admitted the cash prize did not hurt his incentive either.

For those interested in being in the Haggard audience rather than onstage, tickets for the concert go on sale Friday.

The cost is \$46 plus \$2 handling for Level I seating, and \$36 plus \$2 handling for Level II seating.

To buy tickets, call the Fairgrounds at (706) 896-4191 for ticket information.

Shakers...from Page 1

prisons.

HB 1 makes it more difficult for drug dealers to face any jail time, as it allows for numerous loopholes criminals can jump through to avoid punishment altogether, the sheriff said.

District 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson spoke to the Shakers recently, and was unable to shed any light on the

bills, as he is not a part of the Georgia House of Representatives.

The Movers and Shakers invite everyone, regardless of their political views, to come out, eat breakfast, and talk to Rep. Collins about the issues that impact Georgians.

Mary's Southern Grill is located at 1615 Georgia 17, in Young Harris.

Al-Anon

meetings/times

Blairsville: Mountain Presbyterian Church, 2945 Young Harris Hwy. 76, Wednesday 8 p.m. Al-Anon Family Group Discussion, open meeting. Saint Clare's Episcopal Church, Friday 12 noon Al-anon Group Discussion, open meeting.

Young Harris: Sharp Memorial Methodist Church, Tuesday 12 noon Al-Anon Family Group discussion, open meeting.

Hiwassee: Chatuge Regional Hospital, 110 South Main Street, Sunday 7 p.m. Al-Anon Family Group Discussion, open meeting. Christ the King Church, Monday 7 p.m. Al-Anon Family

Group Discussion, open meeting.

Al-Anon is open to anyone who has been affected by another person's drinking. The only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or a friend.

Call 706-835-5827, 706-897-0628 or 828-389-8981. for more information. NT(Sep4,ZD)CA

TC Historical Society meeting

Towns County Historical Society meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiwassee. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiwassee, GA 30546, 706-896-1060 www.townshistory.org. NT(Sep4,ZD)CA

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