

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Sunny	75 51
Fri: Sunny	79 52
Sat: Clouds	79 48
Sun: Clouds	70 42
Mon: Sunny	71 45
Tue: Sunny	75 47
Wed: Sunny	77 48



Upstream Elevation Predicted 09/19/12	
Lake Chatuge	1920.99
Lake Nottely	1767.86
Blue Ridge	1670.36

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Sports

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Gridiron

Towns County fell last week to neighboring Rabun County 45-7. This week the Indians host Rabun Gap in a 7:30 p.m. meeting at Frank McClure Stadium. Rabun Gap is currently winless on the year, falling 62-7 to Davidson Day and Christ School 47-0. Rabun Gap is a member of the Carolina Athletic Association. The CAA is six independent schools in western North Carolina, Georgia, and South Carolina.

TCMS

Indians lose

The Towns County Middle School Indians football team fell to 3-1 after a 35-14 loss to Union County. The Indians look to rebound on Thursday when they host Lumpkin County at 5:30 p.m.

Cross

Country

Towns County's Cross Country competed at Banks County last week. The GHSA declared Sept. 10th-16th as "Pink Week." The squads ran in honor of Sabrina King, a Towns County guidance counselor, who is battling cancer at this time.

TCHS Softball

The Lady Indians' Cross Country hosted Prince Avenue and wore pink jerseys and pink hair ribbons in honor of the GHSA's Breast Cancer Awareness Week. For more details see Sports Page 10.

Tips from the Range

Towns County Herald Staff Writer Joe Collins shows you how to handle "half shots" or shots that are from a shorter distance from that of any club in your bag.

These shots require a great deal of patience and finesse and Joe Collins will discuss how to manage your game and how to improve your short iron play. For more details see Tips from the Range on Page 10.

GM Akins: 'no rate increases this year'

By Libby Shook
Towns County Herald
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The 73rd Annual Meeting of the Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation was held Saturday morning at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds with a packed out Anderson Music Hall.

The EMC incorporated in 1938 with their first Annual Meeting being held in 1939 according to General Manager Matthew Akins.

Akins had some good news for those present and for EMC members in general.

"TVA has announced that they will not be implementing a base rate increase this year and Blue Ridge EMC is also not planning on implementing a rate increase this year."

This news was good for members given the unstable state of the economy. Akins' comment was warmly received.

Akins introduced the EMC Board of Directors to the crowd. President Terry Taylor was not in attendance.

"A quorum of members has been established," Akins

said. "We want to thank you very much for your presence and your registration."

Three directors positions were open and nominations had been made by nine committee members at their June 14th meeting.

With no opposition, William Prather, Fannin County, Jerry Nichols, Towns County, and Robert Ensley, Union County, were automatically reelected for the next three years.

"Blue Ridge Mountain EMC now has over 43,600 members with more than 49,300 electric meters," said Akins. "During the last fiscal year, we sold more than 582 million kilowatt hours which generated about \$76 million dollars in revenue."

"Your Co-op now owns and maintains over 5,800 miles of electric distribution lines, more than 32 miles of transmission lines, and 10 substations," said Akins.

Akins announced that the net electric plant value exceeds \$149 million with total assets of over \$183 million.

Akins provided an update on value-added services.

"Over 2,300 members



Locals register for door prizes at the 73rd Annual Blue Ridge Mountain EMC meeting at Anderson Music Hall on Saturday. The turnout was solid. Photo/Libby Shook

are enrolled in our water heater maintenance program, 1,600 members are participating in our surge protection program, 575 members in our home security program, and over 4,000 members are now subscribing

to our broadband services," he said.

Akins discussed the new EMC facility and explained the necessity for the relocating from the existing location as well as answering the "million

dollar question" related to when they will be opening at the new location.

"We hope to be able to begin moving next month. Our Phase I general contractor, Panama-See EMC, page 7

Shannon Moss systemwide TOTY

By Libby Shook
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It's official. Towns County's 2012 Teacher of the Year is Shannon Moss, Towns County High School teacher and coach.

This announcement came Monday night, September 10th, at the Towns County Board of Education meeting as they recognized and honored the nominees from each school.

"I am proud to be Towns County's Teacher of the Year. I would like to thank Mr. Perren and all the administration," Coach Moss said. "We have a great faculty. Every educator in Towns County is more deserving than I am of this honor. I have been very fortunate to have the support of caring administration and a dedicated school board."

"I have been blessed with many hard working students and I try to never forget that I once was a student myself," Coach Moss said. "I am honored to be chosen for this distinction. I've learned so much from my co-workers. I want to thank everyone for their support."

Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren said Coach Moss has impressed him over the years.

"I have had the opportunity to work with Shannon



Superintendent Melissa Williams congratulates Shannon Moss on being Towns County's Teacher of the Year. Photo/Libby Shook

Moss for nine years," Perren said. "During that entire time he has impressed me with how much he cares for all students."

"He works as hard, if not harder, with struggling students as he does the honor students," Perren said. "In addition to being an excellent classroom teacher, Shannon has served the high school as Head Baseball Coach, Athletic Director, and currently Assistant Softball Coach."

"Shannon Moss is an excellent role model for our students and teachers alike," Perren said. "I am blessed to have him as a friend."

Superintendent Melissa Williams echoed Perren's sentiments about all Teachers of the Year.

"I am extremely proud of each Teacher of the Year represented here tonight from our three schools," she said.

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Granddaddy Mimm's is on the shelf

By Libby Shook
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Tommy Townsend, local talent and Nashville country music legend who performs on the Country Music circuit with the well known Waymore's Outlaws, has watched yet another dream become a reality.

"Granddaddy Mimm's 100 proof 'smooth as silk' Authentic Corn Whiskey and Apple Brandy," hit the shelves of liquor stores in Georgia this past week.

"The children and grandchildren of Jack 'Mimm' McClure are proud to announce that the legacy of the over 75 year old recipes of corn whiskey and apple brandy that were originally illegally produced in Towns County by Jack McClure will live on," said Townsend.

"Now that moonshine is legal, it's going to be a blast for me to carry on the tradition. I've thought about it for several years of how cool it would be to run 'shine' because of all the stories I've heard about Mimm since I was a child," said Townsend.

"I've always liked outlaws and the folks that colored outside the lines a bit, so that's what motivated me to do this. Now I can run it legally. I just have to pay the taxes," said Townsend.

Jack "Mimm" McClure (January 25, 1914-June 26, 1969) was an American Appalachian moonshiner and local philanthropist from Young Harris.



Tommy Townsend, far right, with members of Georgia Distilling Co., L to R, Shawn Hall, Marshall Linder, and Bill Mauldin. Granddaddy Mimm's is on the shelf.

spirits, his charitable giving, and his self-delivered justice to those who crossed him.

Country/Bluegrass icons Lester Flat and Earl Scruggs even enjoyed the famous brew a time or two when they were in the area according to Townsend.

McClure's career in bootlegging began during the Great Depression and continued until his death in 1969 when he died of pancreatic cancer.

Townsend was only 2 years old when his infamous grandfather died, but the stories of his "shining days" lived on and the family stories of his grandfather sparked an interest in him that could not be squelched.

"I began to question my mother, aunts, and uncles about the recipe," said Townsend.

"With their blessing, I began the process of producing Granddaddy Mimm's using the same recipe and the same simple ingredients with all the taste and tradition enjoyed by folks back in the day of Mimm," said Townsend.

According to Townsend, the nickname "Mimmie" actually came from Terry Roberts, the first grandchild of Jack McClure. It was later shortened to 'Mimm' by the other grandchildren.

In January 2012, Townsend announced his part-

See Granddaddy, page 7

Towns ISO rating upgraded to 5/9

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County homeowners have received a Christmas present in September.

The National Insurance Service Office in Marlton, NJ has informed Towns County government that the county's public protection classification has been upgraded from Class 6/9 to Class 5/9, Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said Monday.

"This will result in owners of residential and commercial buildings being helped with lower insurance premiums and better fire protection for their property," Commissioner Kendall said.

The commissioner said that he was ecstatic that Towns County has been successful in achieving a 5/9 ISO rating, which the county has been working toward for the last three years.

"I want to thank the Fire Department, 911 Dispatch and Mapping, the city of Hiawassee, the city of Young Harris and Towns County Water Departments for their part in this great achievement," Commissioner Kendall said. "County Road Department personnel helped install fire hydrants, my office staff, which played an important role, and most of all the Towns County voters, who approved the local sales tax which funded more than \$800,000 of equipment improvements for our Fire Department."

The upgraded classification takes effect Dec. 1.

Commissioner Kendall said it is important that residents



Commissioner Bill Kendall

and businesses inform their insurance companies of Towns County's improved ISO rating and find out how this upgraded fire rating will affect their insurance premiums.

The study included three major components, receiving and handling fire alarms, including telephone systems and lines, 911 dispatching systems and dispatch staffing of which Towns County received a 4 rating; fire department, including equipment, staffing, training and geographic distribution of fire stations which Towns County received a 6 rating; water supply, including condition and maintenance of hydrants, alternative water supply operations and amount of available water needed to suppress fires up to 3,500 gallons per minute, for which Towns County received a 4 rating.

The three components averaged together gave Towns County its overall 5/9 rating which surpasses all surrounding counties and few if any

See ISO Rating, page 7

Garrett recalls growing up in Soapstone community

By Libby Shook
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W.C. "Dub" Garrett was the recent guest speaker at the Towns County Historical Society.

He presented a very interesting overview of his "memories of growing up in Soapstone."

Garrett served four years in the United States Air Force. He moved to Gainesville in 1951. He worked selling insurance for 35 years and moved back to Towns County in 1993.

He currently resides in the Owl Creek community.

Garrett wanted to make sure that folks knew that he would not be talking about the Soapstone Subdivision, but the Soapstone Creek Community.

"A lot of people think the Soapstone Subdivision is the Soapstone Community. Where I grew up was the Soapstone Creek area going towards Helen, last road on the right going toward Brasstown Bald," said Garrett.

The Soapstone Community got its name from "a



Dub Garrett

real sticky type rock that was in the area. It wouldn't break and heat didn't bother it. It was soft enough to cut with a saw. Folks used to make mantels out of it for their fireplaces," said Garrett.

It also was used to make homemade tombstones according to Historian Jerry Taylor.

Garrett was born at home in 1937. His family home had no running water and no elec-

See Garrett, page 7

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