

## EMC...from Page 1A

to fill the unexpired Towns County term of former Board of Directors' President Terry Taylor. Payne is a closing assistant for local attorney Cary Cox's office.

Payne told the crowd that she has always been an independent thinker and only has ties and devotion for her Towns County community.

She quickly shot down a rumor that she had previously been employed by Terry Taylor.

Payne said if elected to the Towns County post, she would proudly serve her community as she has always served her community.

Her opponent, Phillips, is the owner of Benny's Sanitation in Hiwassee, and also serves as a local radio per-



EMC Clay County, NC director candidate Chris Logan has no interest in spending \$30,000 to buy an EMC opinion. Photo/Charles Duncan

sonality in the Towns County area. He has served on the Board of Directors of Towns County FFA Alumni Board, and Towns County Food Pantry.

Parks has been an appointed Union County director for the past 11 years, and has been elected by his peers on the EMC Board of Directors to serve as Vice-President for the past five years.

His opponents include former State House District 8 State Rep. Charles Jenkins, of Blairsville, and Mike Patton, also of Blairsville, the owner of Patton Excavating, who has served on the Board of Directors for the Union County Board of Health, and Coosa Water Authority.

Online voting ends Sept. 10 at 4 p.m.

## Dr. Nuelle...from Page 1A

Charlotte County, Fla., from 1979 until 1999, and moved to Blue Ridge in 2000.

"We'd practiced and lived in Florida for 20 years, where it's nice and it's summertime all the time," said Dr. Nuelle. "I said to my wife, you know, maybe when I retire I want to move to the mountains. And she said, why wait until you retire? Other than sloth, I couldn't come up with any answer."

Dr. Nuelle performed medicine out of Fannin Regional Hospital for 14 years, and then decided to give



Dr. Doug Nuelle

Union General a try last year. "I came over here, talk-

ed to Mike Gowder (Union General Hospital's CEO), and he welcomed us with open arms," said Dr. Nuelle. "And I'm really glad I made the move."

He began his tenure in Blairsville as early as July 1, 2013, but officially moved his offices here in March. And Union General Hospital CEO Mike Gowder couldn't be happier about Dr. Nuelle coming aboard.

"He's one of the best surgeons in the country as far as orthopedics, so we're just very blessed to have him

here," said Gowder.

One reason Dr. Nuelle moved to the mountains was to experience "three full seasons," he said. Another reason? The community.

"There's this mentality when people seek out their health care, that things must be better if you're in a big city," said Dr. Nuelle. "And that's really not true. In a smaller community with fewer facilities, we have limitations, but there are some really good people here. It's the people – a hospital can buy equipment – it's the people that count."

## Isakson...from Page 1A

friend of our college, and we are very glad to have (Sen. Isakson) back on our campus," said Cox.

Students of Young Harris College asked the first round of questions, on subjects ranging from the national debt to the recent Ebola outbreak.

"I'm here to hear what's on your mind. I'll do the best I can to answer your questions, and if I can't get you an answer today, I'll get you an answer when I go back to Washington," said Sen. Isakson.

The first question of the day dealt with the United States' foreign policy interest in the Middle East. In answering, the Senator enumerated several U.S. interests in the area, including global interest in the region for being "the cradle of civilization" and



Former Georgia Governor and retired U.S. Sen. Zell Miller speaks on Friday at Young Harris College. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

having a large reserve of natural resources.

"But most importantly, it's the home of a radical Islamic terrorist sect. They're killing people and destroying people's lives, and they stand for everything that we don't stand for."

Sen. Isakson expounded further on ISIS when asked about the possibility of putting troops on the ground to deal with the threat.

"The answer is I don't think we will, my opinion is I hope we won't, but you have to let the situation dictate whether or not you do or do not ultimately do that," said Sen. Isakson.

Outlining the approach so far, Sen. Isakson talked about the U.S. Military working with and training Kurdish Peshmerga fighters, as well as making calculated air strikes to diminish ISIS' infrastructure.

"There is no question, though, that there will be places that the only thing you can do to solve the problem is use special operations forces," said Sen. Isakson, saying that he was not aware of any U.S. involvement in that capacity, but would not be surprised if special operations were currently underway.

Sen. Isakson expressed disappointment over President Obama remarks that the United States doesn't currently have a strategy for dealing with ISIS, saying that "you've got to have a strategy."

"Our Department of Defense is always developing strategies and what-ifs, and I'm sure there is one somewhere," said Sen. Isakson. "ISIS needs to know we have a strategy. And there is one ultimate strategy for ISIS – you can't negotiate with them, you can't make a deal with them, you can't trade with them. You've got to kill them. Anybody who will kill themselves to kill you, or cut off somebody's head to intimidate you, is a force that you have to eradicate."

Meanwhile, on immigration, Sen. Isakson believes the first step is to seal this country's borders, then to implement a biometrically secure ID system to replace "pencil and paper" visas so that the United States is always aware of foreign presence in the country.

And when one citizen expressed concern over climate change, the Senator

keeping children on their parents' policies until age 26. But Sen. Isakson feels there is an overly oppressive regulatory environment.

"Take the things that are good, preserve those, then take the things that are bad and reform them or unwind them so the health care system doesn't go down the drain," said Sen. Isakson.

Sen. Isakson spoke passionately about Towns County's favorite son, Sen. Miller.

Sen. Isakson expressed appreciation for Sen. Miller, his longtime friend and colleague.

"There's nobody in politics that I've ever served with before or since that has meant more to me in my career than Zell," said Sen. Isakson. "And I appreciate very much his being here today. He's a great governor, a great senator, but most importantly, he's a great friend."

The town hall meeting came to an end with kind words from Sen. Miller to his longtime friend, Sen. Isakson.

"Thank you for being simply the best political officeholder I've known in Georgia in my lifetime," said Sen. Miller.