

## Nelms...from Page 1A

fiber optic cable as one for instance.

"Everybody wants fiber in Union, Towns, Fannin and Clay County, NC and Cherokee County, NC, Cummings said. "We have to develop a plan to raise the funds to get there. We're looking at grants, and we've already started looking for the funding.

"Jeremy is one of the up-and-coming stars in the EMC world," Cummings said.

Nelms served as the director of Engineering and Operations Services for Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TECI) in Quincy, Fla., where he has been a team member since 2006. In addition to traditional supervisory duties, he also provided transitional and technical leadership in converting TECI's current utility system to a smarter electric grid.

Nelms' aggressive research and implementation skills are credited as being an integral component of deploying TECI's \$12 million Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) initiative as well as a high bandwidth, redundant, territory-wide telecommunications and tower upgrade project in excess of \$8 million.

Additional professional credits include that of principal author and technical specialist for application devel-

opment of the much sought after Department of Energy Smart Grid Investment funding, then awarded to only 100 electric utilities across the nation. Awarded funding has afforded TECI historically unprecedented operational efficiencies and cost reductions.

Academically, Nelms has both a Bachelor's of Science in Electrical Engineering and Wireless Engineering from Auburn University as well as a Master's of Business Administration from Florida State University. A licensed professional engineer, Nelms is also a certified professional distribution engineer by the Tennessee Valley Public Power Authority.

Nelms was born in Newnan and raised for several years in Watkinsville before moving to Cullman in North Alabama. He currently resides in Tallahassee, Fla. with his wife, Elizabeth, and their two children, Bradlee and Mara.

BRMEMC President, Steven Phillips was ecstatic about the news of Nelms' hiring.

"We are excited to have someone with Jeremy's knowledge of the electric industry and educational background to lead us into the future," Phillips said. "The Board is looking forward to working with Jeremy to provide our members with the best service possible."

## Garmon...from Page 1A

quickly filled with the many people Judge Garmon has come to know in his professional, private and civic lives, the judge called for order and everyone's attention by banging the gavel one last time.

"Today is a day for celebration," said Judge Garmon, before thanking everyone for their attendance. "I'm going to miss you guys, I really, really am. It's going to be an experience trying to do all of the honey-dos that Eva's got set up for me.

"But it is going to be really an experience. And I told somebody the other day, I'm 69-years-old, and I ain't never not had a job. So I don't know how it's going to feel to wake up tomorrow morning and not have a job, not have any, really, responsibilities. I don't know if I'm going to feel like a bird out of a cage or if I'm going to feel lost.

"Either way, we're go-

ing to work on it, and I thank you so much for coming and being with us. Relax, enjoy the refreshments, enjoy the fellowship, and thank you very much."

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris then presented Judge Garmon with a commemorative plaque expressing appreciation for his nearly two decades of service to the residents of Union County, after which those gathered mingled and shared stories, visiting in turn with Judge Garmon.

Union County Associate Magistrate Teresa Collins and Deputy Clerk Barbara Holbrooks, both of whom have worked with Judge Garmon for years, made sure everyone was comfortable and having a good time.

Judge Brackett was one of many judges present – along with retired Chief Superior Court Judges Hugh Stone and David Barrett, among others – and he has presided alongside Judge Garmon in the Union County Courthouse since Garmon came to work with him in 1999.

"The first time I was in office (starting Jan. 1, 1997), I served as the Chief Magistrate Judge also," said Judge Brackett. "And local legislation was passed to divide the offices, to separate the probate and magistrate offices like most of the other counties were.

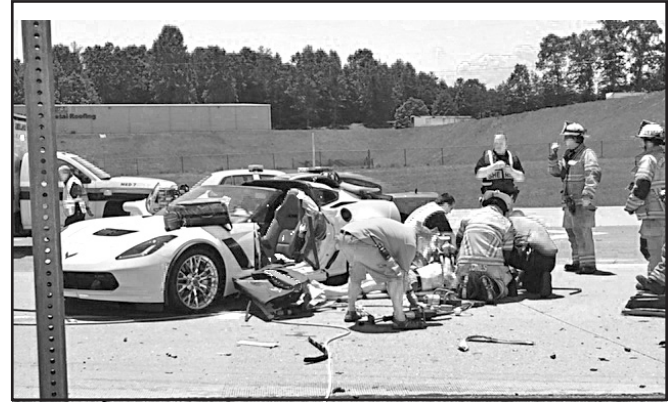
"Judge Garmon, I'd hired him whenever he retired from the state, to come and be a full-time assistant magistrate judge for me, and that was in 1999. In 2000, the offices were separated, to be effective in 2001. So he ran in 2000 and got elected then, and went into office in 2001.

"He's been an asset to the county. His knowledge and his level-headedness has gone a long way. The Magistrate Court is typically considered the people's court, where they can come and air their grievances and represent themselves.

"It takes a special person to be the magistrate judge to make that work good with the people, and he's done a good job with that. The people in the county, we've been blessed to have him."

Eva, Judge Garmon's wife, has been retired for two-and-a-half years from Family Connection with Union Coun-

## Crash...from Page 1A



westbound lane on Georgia 515, Sgt. Barrett said.

"The Corvette failed to yield to the silver VW Passat," Sgt. Barrett said. "The front of the VW Passat struck the left side of the white Chevrolet Corvette. The contact killed the driver of the Corvette.

"Mr. Sekera was transported to Union General Hospital where he was pronounced dead. His wife and passenger, Nedra Sekera, 76, also of Epworth, was airlifted to Northeast Georgia Medical Center. I think she's going to

make it," Sgt. Barrett said.

"The driver of the Passat, Donald Griesinger, 83, of Glendora, Calif., and his wife, Emily, 62, were transported to Union General Hospital," Sgt. Barrett said.

Sgt. Barrett said it was his understanding that Mr. Sekera had just purchased the Corvette from Max Ware Chevrolet on Georgia 515 and was taking it home.

No charges were filed because the deceased was at fault, said Sgt. Barrett, who was the investigating trooper.



ty Schools, and she said she's excited about what the future holds for a retired Johnnie Garmon and their family.

"He's a very good man – a very good man and a very good judge," said Mrs. Garmon. "He was made for that job. In all those years, nobody

ever ran against him because they knew they couldn't beat him. He loved the job and loved the people he worked with."

Added Mrs. Garmon: "He's even a better husband, father and grandfather than he was a judge."