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King enjoyed the support of several friends during his signing ceremony March 10. The student-athlete will be staying close to home at Young Harris College when he graduates in May.

school,” King said. “I ran my first 5k, and it was kind of fun. I kept running throughout the season, and I went to state and placed like 40th or something. “I’ve found that running is therapeutic for me, especially because of my mom. She passed away two weeks ago; she had been battling cancer. I found that when I was running, I could put all the negative energy and bad things behind me.” King has his sights set on attaining a psychology degree at Young Harris College and hopes to become a clinical psychologist focusing on cancer patients and their families. “My goal is to be able to help people like my mom and like me,” King said. “I remember what it was like when there wasn’t really anybody there. My mom was a counselor, but I couldn’t really talk to her

about cancer because she had it, and it felt weird to go to her and rant about it. “I feel like it is my calling from the Lord to go help others like her, and just be there and be an influence for people going through that. I have been battling it for nine years now, and I feel like I have the experience and know what to say to people.” Running is a family tradition, as Liam’s father, Dr. Daren King, ran for Piedmont College and even coached the sport. Dr. King teaches robotics at Towns County Schools, and he’s been incredibly proud to watch his son develop into the student-athlete and young man he is today. “Liam has really come into form in the last couple of years,” King said. “He started really taking things seriously, and he would train when he

Photo by Lowell Nicholson didn’t have to, and I would tell him to take a day off and let his legs rest. “He has been committed 100%. He is academically off the charts. He is a good leader. He believes in community, and he attends McConnell Church. His friend group has good people in it, and that shows me that he has good qualities.” Towns County Cross Country Coach Tim Rosser views King as a role model for other runners and has enjoyed seeing his performance improve over the last four years. “Liam is a great kid to coach because he was self-motivated,” Rosser said. “He knew what he wanted to do, and he knew he wanted to get better. It was fairly easy for me to coach him because he would try to better himself all the time.”

Glidewell...from Page 1A

“I believe in service to others, and electric cooperatives present unique opportunities to serve,” Incoming General Manager Glidewell said. “Electric cooperatives were built on the idea of service, and they function best when service is at the heart of each decision, action and policy. “Employees and the members they serve are a co-op’s greatest asset. An electric cooperative has to be flexible

and nimble, ensuring that we meet folks where their needs are. This includes both employees and members. We’re in an industry that is essential and ever changing, but we can’t forget about service to one another.” Glidewell grew up in west Tennessee. He holds a Bachelor of Science in engineering from the University of Tennessee and a Master of Business Administration degree from Union University.

He is a widower and the father of three grown children, with his first grandchild on the way. Glidewell also enjoys playing bluegrass music. “I offer my sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors for the opportunity to serve Blue Ridge Mountain EMC as the next general manager,” Glidewell said. Visit brmemc.com for more information.

Matheson...from Page 1A



Catherine Brown of Catalyst Church said the volunteers who contributed to the fundraiser for Matheson were the most upbeat and hardworking she’d ever worked with.

but I don’t have anything to do with it,” Matheson said of her situation. “That was God, angels – whatever you want to call it.” Added Matheson, “I feel great. I can do stuff now. That was the big issue to begin with, I couldn’t do anything that required too much effort because I couldn’t breathe good – I had 29 stitches (down my stomach), so I would get tired. “Now, I can get up and around. I kind of ache here and there, but nothing is really painful so much, just achy.” Known for her beautiful singing voice, Matheson recently returned to performing at her church on Sundays, offering a powerful rendition of “Ain’t No Grave (Gonna Hold This Body Down),” which can be seen on the @CatalystHayesville Facebook page dated March 7.

He saw a Facebook post of Reeves speaking on Matheson’s plight, and putting two and two together, Moss asked Reeves if he would team up with Catalyst to host a barbecue fundraiser to offset some of Matheson’s costs, including time out of work, medical bills and other expenses. Next, Moss got with Catalyst Pastor Brandon Matheson and recruited Catherine Brown, who runs the church’s new food ministry, to help in organizing the fundraiser, and the rest is history. Later on March 12, the church raised even more money selling additional plates in an evening singing benefit. Others have also pitched in to assist Matheson financially as she works hard to recover, including Laura Hutt holding an online auction of items donated by the community, and a GoFundMe set up by her friend Luke Goodman and supported by more than 150 people.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard transpired not just in the last month and a half, but for over a year with her now estranged husband, Jason Matheson. In addition to being arrested for shooting her Jan. 26, Jason Matheson was arrested twice last year for domestic violence-related crimes in Clay County, including on July 13 for assault by strangulation of Crystal, and again on Oct. 9 for violation of a Domestic Violence Order. She is comforted by the fact that her husband is behind bars without bond at Towns County Jail, currently awaiting indictment in Towns County; Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley said Friday the case was expected to be presented to a grand jury this week. Still, Crystal finds herself on edge from time to time, and while she is taking everything in stride and trying to get back to her life, she understands that what has happened to her will sink in fully one day. “Even though I know he’s not out there driving around, on the way (to the church today), I noticed the trucks that looked like his,” Matheson said. “It’s kind of like you’re automatically alerted to different things or noises, or stuff like that.” Crystal urges anyone experiencing domestic violence in a relationship to “get out” any way they can, seeking legal help if necessary, even though she knows it can be a tedious process. She is hoping that her story, which has reached the desk of the North Carolina governor, can inspire change to better hold perpetrators of domestic violence accountable and protect their would-be victims.

Making the March 12 fundraiser possible, Clayton Reeves with Full Throttle Ministries brought the famous mobile smoker he uses in his food ministry to the church Friday. Reeves has known Matheson for years, and he jumped at the chance to help after receiving a message from Derek Moss two days after Matheson was hospitalized. Moss is an active member of Catalyst Church, running the sound booth on Sundays and taking part in all the church’s outreach efforts, like the annual Christmas shopping spree benefiting local children. Both being from Shooting Creek, Moss and Matheson have known each other all their lives. When the shooting happened, he knew he wanted to do something for his longtime friend, who was by all accounts incredibly blessed to have survived her ordeal.

“It’s been really overwhelming,” Matheson said. “The level of support has been insane. I’ve got a great church, I’ve got a great family, so I expected that. “But I’ve had a lot of random people that message me, buy stuff, donate stuff, send a check – it’s overwhelming and humbling, especially when you don’t know the people.” Another of Matheson’s major helpers has been Reach of Clay County, a “private, nonprofit organization that provides emergency services to any person who has experienced domestic violence, sexual assault or elder abuse.” Reach is acting as a court liaison and has provided a counselor for Matheson, who has kept a remarkably positive attitude despite all that has

Livingston...from Page 1A



TCHS Senior Kenzie Livingston, pictured here with her family, is excited to be advancing to the next chapter in her life following graduation this year.

I have been working hard to recover and be as good as I can be. It was a lot of work, but I am really glad that I could do it. It is a childhood dream come true.” Shorter University is a Christ-centered, four-year liberal arts university committed to excellence in education since being founded in 1873, and Kenzie’s family couldn’t be prouder of her accomplishment. Her father Clay Livingston served dual roles at the signing ceremony, sharing in Kenzie’s achievement both as her dad and as the head coach of the Lady Indians Soccer Team. “I’m really thankful to have him as a coach,” Kenzie said. “There is nobody on the field that knows me better than my dad. We can butt heads sometimes, but we both are working for the betterment of the team. “It is really nice to know that my No. 1 supporter is on the sidelines to cheer me on and coach me. It is interesting, and I am glad he is there.”

Kenzie is excited to start her journey at Shorter, where she will major in marketing and continue her soccer career. For Coach Livingston, it is important to him that his daughter fulfill her dreams and attend a good school that aligns with the family’s values. “The biggest thing as a father is that she is going to a school she wants to go to,” he said. “She is going to study what she wants to study, to play for a coach that is going to look after her and care for her. We went and met the coach, who is a strong Christian lady, and that is very important to us. “We wanted the total package. It is not just about playing soccer. We wanted good academics, athletics, and a culture where the kids can have someone to look after them through the years. We are very excited for her and proud for her.” Kenzie has a passion for social media marketing, and she can’t wait to pursue the next chapter in her life at Shorter, both academically, athletically and socially.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson “I am doing marketing, and I will probably get a minor in graphic design,” she said. “I will probably have my own specialist office where I can help others with how they are running their social media because it is trending now.” Livingston thanks her dad for being her No. 1 supporter and always being there when she has needed him. When she gets to Shorter in the fall, she looks forward to applying the life lessons she has learned both on and off the field. Coach Livingston has coached all three of his daughters since they were young, making sure along the way that they worked hard right alongside their teammates. “It is about teaching them how to be part of a team and teaching them to be coachable and the important things in life,” Livingston said of his coaching style. “It is the same for my daughter as it is for these other girls. Those are the lessons we want them to learn.”