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Audit puts EMC in clear; Annual meeting Saturday

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Aside from the Roy and Taylor Construction debt, consisting of an unpaid power bill of more than \$62,000 from the company of former Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Director Terry Taylor, a thorough audit of the EMC's books has discovered no financial wrongdoing.

In a called meeting with members of area local media on Friday, Sept. 2, several of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors relayed the

findings of a recently completed forensic audit, which cost the EMC a total of \$75,981.47 to conduct.

The reason for conducting the audit that was initially called for late last year, the board said Friday, was to address concerns of the membership over the financial health of the EMC, and also to lay the books bare to give any potential new general manager a "clean slate."

"The forensic analysis and examination of the books and records of the (BRMEMC) by DHG Forensics did not identify any apparent

unauthorized disbursements or any additional abuses in the billing and collection process," read Director Roy Perren from a statement by Richard Livingstone, the lead director of DHG Forensics.

Continued the statement: "As with every organization for which we conduct such examinations, we did identify areas where we believe internal controls and policies could be strengthened and have provided recommended changes to the Blue Ridge Board and management to address those concerns."

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Roy Perren, right, reads from a prepared statement concerning the outcome of the board-commissioned forensic audit of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC. The board held a meeting with area media to discuss the findings on Friday, Sept. 2.

Commissioner stands with property owners on septic systems

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Georgia Department of Health has told all 13 counties of District 2 that it's time to toe the line when it comes to the permitting of lots utilizing septic systems.

Up until June 1 of this year, all lots platted prior to 1984 could be developed without needing full recovery areas for septic systems, at least according to a 30-year-old "grandfather clause" the counties have been practicing.

Lots platted since 1984 have followed the up-to-date standards as far as new construction. It's just the lots platted prior to 1984 – the first year the state published rules regarding recovery areas – that are in question here.

After June 1 of this year, all lots, old and new,



Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall addressed those in attendance in the latest Quarterly Meeting of the Towns County Board of Health.

that are "reviewed for new construction septic permitting require an unobstructed area on each lot for the installation of an approved onsite sewage management system, and a complete replacement area

which would accommodate a full-length conventional system or larger," according to current state standards.

But it's not like anything

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Veterans honored with Quilts of Valor



Oliven Cowan, Gordon G. Allison Jr., George Goins, John Maynard and John T. Fowler received Quilts of Valor at Brasstown Manor on Thursday, Aug. 25. Photo/Maria Eckols

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Those who have bravely served this country, both in times of war and in peace, have given of themselves more than many can imagine. Now, it is time for those men and women to receive something

in return.

The Misty Mountain Quilters Guild awarded five Quilts of Valor to local veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam on Thursday, Aug. 25, at Brasstown Manor Senior Living.

It is one thing to be

honored by a group – it is another thing entirely to feel the love and support from an entire community.

Veterans at the Aug. 25 Quilts of Valor ceremony were given an experience of both as locals gathered at Brasstown

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WW II surrender of Japan remembered

By Lily Avery
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

On Dec. 7, 1941, the United States endured the devastating loss of more than 2,000 American soldiers and sailors at the Japanese attack of the Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii.

That assault of American soil would be the turning point for the U.S., bringing the country out of her neutral shell and into World War II.

The years that followed President Franklin D. Roosevelt's decision to join the ranks of the Allied forces would prove to be tumultuous times for the United States, with a death toll outnumbering most wars the country had endured to date.

Despite the costs of war, the United States celebrated a day of victory on Sept. 2, 1945, as Japan officially surrendered following the calamitous

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Pictured here, the body of Mehmet Munir Ertegun, late Turkish Ambassador to the United States, is brought aboard the USS Missouri in Bayonne, New Jersey, in March of 1946. Japan surrendered aboard the USS Missouri six months before this picture was taken, on Sept. 2, 1945. Far right: Chief Petty Officer Clarence "Bud" Johnson of Towns County.

New field a place for kids to call home

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

Jimmy Smith has waited 20 years to have a season start like this one.

Now, don't get him wrong, the longtime youth football director is certainly thankful to the Towns County School System for letting his kids play in Frank McClure Memorial Stadium all this time.

But let's also get one thing straight – nothing beats having your own field.

That's what the children of Towns County Youth Football got, located just outside of the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center at Foster Park.

They played their first conference games of the season on the new field against Andrews, North Carolina, after a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony that opening day of Aug. 13.

"It means a lot," said



Last month, the Towns County Youth Football League joined Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall for a ribbon-cutting ceremony of their new field, located at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center at Foster Park

Smith. "We've got something now we can call our home that belongs to the youth football. One of these days, when these kids go back 20 years from

now and see a field that they played on at this age – it means a lot to them, and it means a

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Towns County's Kenzie Jenkins headed for Bear country

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

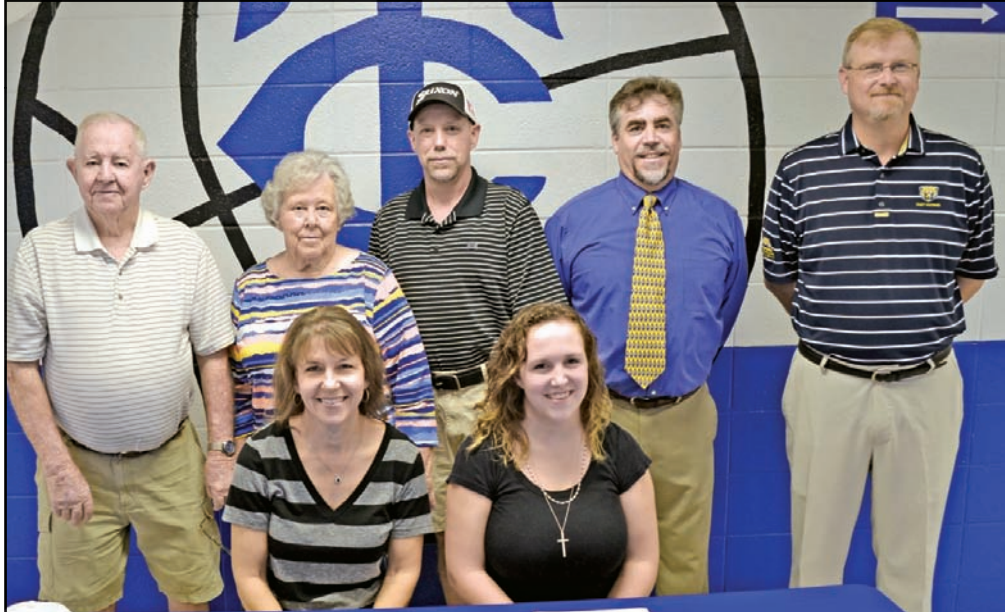
Whoever first offered the prospect that hard work pays off must have been thinking of Towns County High School Senior Kenzie Jenkins.

On top of having been named an All-State athlete at the start of her last summer vacation before graduating, Jenkins placed Runner-Up at the 2016 GHSA Class A Public School Individual State Championship.

She also helped her team clench the 2015 GHSA Class A Public School State Championship, in which she finished third individually.

And now, before hitting even a single golf ball for the upcoming 2016-2017 Lady Indians Golf Team, she has secured an athletic scholarship from Truett McConnell University.

Jenkins held a signing ceremony with Truett



Kenzie Jenkins, a TCHS senior, signed with Truett McConnell University on Thursday, Sept. 1. Pictured left to right: front row, mother Ingrid Jenkins and Kenzie Jenkins; back row, grandparents Jerry and Betty Jenkins, father Tracy Jenkins, TCHS Golf Head Coach Brett Keller and Truett McConnell Golf Coach Steve Patton

McConnell on Thursday, Sept. 1, in the lobby of the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium. Surrounded by family and

friends, she put pen to paper in a mutual pledge with the Bears.

"I am ecstatic," said

Truett McConnell Golf Coach Steve Patton after Jenkins signed. "This is a big day for

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Blairsville man wanted for rape arrested in NC

From Staff Reports
North Georgia News

CLAY COUNTY, NC – A fugitive from Blairsville is in custody after a three-day manhunt that ended across state lines, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Franklin Regeious "Reggie" Shook, 50, was arrested Saturday in Clay County, North Carolina, after being wanted in Union County since Thursday of last week, according to UCSO Lt. Daren Osborn.

Leading up to his arrest, Shook was wanted on two felony counts of rape, though he fled Union County before investigators could detain him, according to Lt. Osborn.

Once in custody Shook confessed to the crimes, according to Lt. Osborn.

A native of Towns County, Shook has been living in Union County for years, though he was hiding out



Franklin Regeious Shook

at a relative's house in Clay County, NC, when he was taken into custody by UCSO Lt. Osborn, UCSO Detective Sgt. Tom Mangifesta and Clay County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Giles, according to Lt. Osborn.

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Patriot Day & NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
September 11

16th Annual Putting on the Dog
See page 5A

FREE Computer Classes at Towns County Library
See page 1B

Football
Fri Sept 9 vs. Prince Ave 7:30 PM
Softball
Wed. Sept 7 vs. Fannin Co
Thurs. Sept 8 @ Athens Christian