

U.S. Navy Veteran Todd Kimsey receives Quilt of Valor

On April 21, 2016, with his wife Helen, family and friends present, it was an honor for the Misty Mountain Quilts of Valor Outreach members Linda Powell, Maggie Crider and Linda and Jim Gorman to present a Quilt of Valor to Mr. Todd Kimsey, a U.S. Navy World War II Veteran. Mr. Kimsey was nominated for the Quilt of Valor by Teresa Anderson. Mr. Kimsey was presented his quilt at the Brasstown Manor Senior Living Center in Hiawassee, GA.

Mr. Todd Kimsey was inducted into the U.S. Navy on September 24, 1943, and was honorably discharged on April 3, 1946. Mr. Kimsey served aboard the USS Pasadena. During his tour aboard the USS Pasadena he participated in numerous Pacific Island battles including the Leyte Operation, the Luzon Operation, Okinawa Operation, Iwo Jima and many sea engagements on the way to the Japanese mainland. The USS Pasadena also participated in the Surrender



Todd Kimsey and his wife Helen

Ceremonies in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945.

His medals and awards include American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal and Navy Occupation Service Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal and Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

Quilts of Valor are pre-

presented to those veterans and active duty military who have served in combat zones. Information about Quilts of Valor may be found at www.qovf.org. The patriotic quilt presented to Mr. Kimsey, represents a thank you to him for what he has done to defend and protect our nation. Each Quilt of Valor presented is registered with the National Archives.

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“My daddy’s folks are from West Virginia – I still own the farm up there by the way, but that recipe came from my grandmother, who is from West Virginia, and that’s the recipe that I apply on the trout to smoke it,” said Fix.

The whole point of the Trout Dinner fundraiser each year is to raise money for the various water improvement projects that fall under the HRWC’s umbrella. Working with local landowners, governments, schools and businesses, the Coalition attempts to uncover, make known and address the various and sundry threats to area water resources.

“Our watershed covers four counties – Towns and Union in Georgia, and Clay and Cherokee in North Carolina,” said Amanda Kanack, who is administrative and outreach coordinator for HRWC. “This is very family-friendly oriented, and it’s a favorite of our long-term members. All four counties are represented tonight.”

Ticket sales for the dinner were down a little over

past years, though HRWC Executive Director Callie Moore said there’s a perfectly good explanation for that.

“One of our founding board members, the late Jim Dobson, was a well-loved Union County resident and a notorious ticket seller,” said Moore. “Back when he was still with us, it was not uncommon for him to sell 75 advance tickets to this event by himself. This year the whole 13-member board only sold around 60 advance tickets. It will be hard for us to match those crowds of nearly 200 without another Jim Dobson.”

Regardless, Moore is already looking forward to the next Trout Dinner, and she’s proud that this year’s dinner brought in many of the 88 HRWC volunteers to help with the cooking and serving of the guests who paid \$15 for trout and fixings.

“I was very pleased with the event and especially having so many people there from all four counties that make up the upper Hiwassee River watershed,” said Moore. “We

hope everyone enjoyed a good meal, and we look forward to using the proceeds from the event for sustaining good water quality in our rivers, lakes and streams.”

Noel Turner of Towns County attended the dinner, and was just one of many HRWC volunteers wearing a blue shirt in support of the organization that evening.

“I’ve been a member of the Watershed Coalition for over four years, and I’m a volunteer tester – I test the Hiwassee River for dissolved oxygen, phosphate levels, pH level, water temperature, clarity,” said Turner, who is president of the Towns County Homeowners Association. “I like to ensure that we have clean water. That’s our drinking water, and I like to fish.”

Residents interested in volunteering with HRWC can visit the website at www.hrwc.net, where they will find a page under “Make a Difference” that provides a long list of ways to get involved with the organization.

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cost of \$27,951. INCubator is a concept that allows students to explore the world of business entrepreneurship.

One of the core philosophies of INCubator is a close-knit relationship between students and community stakeholders, who will work to advise students in the ways of smart business and the successful execution of ideas.

The classroom will house work tables with the

technology students will need, plus a design aesthetic reminiscent of cutting-edge engineering firms and forward-thinking business environments.

Also on the docket, the contract of incoming Superintendent Dr. Fred Rayfield was revised in the meeting.

Dr. Rayfield’s current contract as superintendent of Decatur County Schools runs out at the end of the school year on June 30, and as such

he would not be able to start a new contract until July 1.

However, his contract with Union County Schools previously had him starting on June 1 to allow for a transition period before the start of the new school year.

Under the revised terms approved in the Saturday called meeting, Dr. Rayfield will receive a \$400 per diem for the month of June to allow him to begin that month, plus travel reimbursement. Built up time off with Decatur County Schools will enable him to start his job here in Union County early.

In the April monthly board meeting, the board approved existing personnel for next year, and also approved the enrollment of a sixth pre-K classroom due to high demand, which will necessitate the hiring of another pre-K teacher.

More Spring Car Shows hosted by Blairsville Cruisers



Thanks to all of the folks who took time to attend the Blairsville Cruisers’ first car shows of the season last month, and guess what? They are about to do it again as they host the latest “must attend” event of the spring, the “Park It At the Market” car show this coming Friday, May 6th, at the Union County Farmers Market! The fun begins at 4 p.m. with covered parking spaces for 87 classic cars and trucks. This event will feature a trophy being given for “Best Truck”, as well as scrumptious food, 50/50 drawing, door prizes, music and sweet rides for all to see. And if that isn’t enough, for a donation of \$5 per ticket (or 5 tickets for \$20) the Blairsville Cruisers will provide you with an awesome opportunity to take home a fabulous 2002 Silver Mustang GT Convertible (or \$3,000 cash; winner’s choice), for which all proceeds benefit local children’s charities! Whether you are participating by bringing your classic car or truck (there is no registration fee) or simply attending as a spectator, the Blairsville Cruisers and their many valued car club sponsors look forward to seeing you at the Blairsville Farmers Market this Friday for a terrific night of fun!

Oh, and let us not for-

S.A.F.E. Board meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of S.A.F.E. (Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc.) will be held on May 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. Call 706-379-1901 for location.

get to mention that the original “Cruise-In-On-The-Square” car show will be held on Saturday, May 21st, at which time a “Best Chevy” trophy will be presented. Mark your calendar and look for a reminder in the *North Georgia News* a few days before this event!