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the membership.

The EMC came to fruition after a group of community leaders from Union, Towns, and Fannin County in Georgia, and leaders from Cherokee and Clay counties in North Carolina gathered on the campus of Young Harris College, Akins said.

"On Aug. 8th, 1938, a cooperative was formed to help provide a safe, reliable source of electricity for these communities," Akins said.

Over the years, the cooperative grew. As late as 1966, BRMEMC had less than 50 employees.

Today, it boasts more than 200 employees serving five counties in rural Northeast Georgia and North Carolina.

The membership has more than 43,600 members that use 608 million kilowatt-hours annually.

In addition, BRMEMC



Blairsville's Christian Ryder Band was large and in charge at the 75th Annual EMC Meeting at Anderson Music Hall. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

now has 4,800 subscribers to the high-speed, fiber optic broadband services provided through the North Georgia Network.

It also provides digital television and telephone services through partnerships with other providers, Akins said.

Akins also told the

membership that even with the modest rate increase, power rates will be less in October than they have been in five years.

Following the Manager's report, cooperative members were allowed to ask questions or express concerns about the cooperative.

The questions ranged

from why members don't receive profit sharing checks to when the \$14.89 customer service charge will be removed from members' bills.

The answer to the first question was fielded by BRMEMC General Counsel Larry Sorgen.

Sorgen told the membership that the EMC has never took part in a profit sharing program because they are a cooperative. Private companies like Georgia Power take part in profit sharing programs among its customer base.

The answer to the customer charge question was simple.

It's the cost of doing business, Sorgen said.

"If you've got a meter and don't run one kilowatt hour through your power lines, you'll still pay that customer charge," Sorgen said. "It's the cost of doing business."

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a felony dog fighting or animal cruelty charge will not be allowed to own a vicious dog under the new ordinance, Commissioner Paris said.

"Also, a person convicted of a felony involving trafficking of cocaine, methamphetamine or ecstasy," Paris said. "Many definitions have been revised to conform with the new state law."

In other business during the September County Commission meeting, Commissioner Paris awarded the Alcohol Grants to three nonprofit groups that help combat drug and alcohol addition.

Paris was keeping a commitment that he made in 2010, when the alcohol referendum was passed. Paris

promised to set aside \$50,000 each year from alcohol license fees and tax receipts to return to the community to tackle the issues of drug and alcohol abuse.

The 2013 grants went to Family Connection, New Hope Counseling and the Mountain Education Center.

Other agenda items that were resolved included an intergovernmental agreement with Fannin County to secure assistance of the Fannin County coroner should there be an occasion when Union County is in need of that county's Coroner.

Commissioner Paris also awarded the county's propane contract to Freeman Gas.

The Blairsville propane

provider was the low bidder for the county's propane contract, Commissioner Paris said.

"The total fixed cost per gallon will be \$1.28," Paris said. "The terms of the contract begin on Sept. 1, 2013 and conclude Aug. 31, 2014."

Commissioner Paris also approved a resolution to open a new bank account with United Community Bank for the Benefit Support Claims Account.

The commissioner also declared Sept. 22 as Let's Move! Day, in accordance with First Lady Michelle Obama's initiative to battle childhood obesity.

He also declared Sept. 7 as Second Wind Dreams Day.

The Dream Team weaves dreams for Union County

Nursing Home residents from the simple to the sublime.

Their mission is simple: change the perception of aging by proving that life doesn't end once you become a nursing home resident.

Commissioner Paris also amended the county's Alcohol Ordinance.

The changes to the ordinance include creating provisions that comply with state law to allow for the construction and development of a distillery for distilled spirits, Commissioner Paris said.

"There will be two new types of licenses for distilleries. We're just getting on the same page with the new Georgia law that is designed to promote agritourism."

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est public school in the state, said Woody Gap Sports Club member Jim Miner.

A new twist this year is that the good folks in Woody Gap are now more focused than ever in helping their high school graduates get through college.

Prior to this year, scholarships awarded to Woody Gap graduates were for one year only.

"We want to help them through the entire college experience," Miner said. "That takes money. We sure could use more sponsors and more runners."

The 10K race is run over a challenging but beautiful course through the North Georgia Mountains. The event also includes an accompanying 1 mile Fun Run, which covers basically a flat course. That race starts at 9:10 a.m.

"Everyone who competes in the 10K gets a high quality long-sleeve T-shirt," Miner said. "Everyone who competes in the 1-mile Fun Run gets a high quality, short-sleeve T-shirt."

The Run, unlike the Peachtree Road Race, does not draw tens of thousands of runners with other tens of thousands of spectators and attendant media presence.

Only a few dozen runners take on this challenging course and save for runners'



Thrill Hill is an interesting climb at the Run Above the Clouds.

families, few spectators attend the event.

The strangest happening at the Run, a spectator reported a bear seemed to have been a somewhat bemused observer as the runners raced through a wooded area of the course.

That happened three years ago.

The prize for most is minimal, a T-shirt with the Run Above the Clouds logo on it.

It's available for both races. However, with that T-shirt comes the satisfaction of

competing on one of the most grueling road courses in the Southeast.

For those fortunate enough to earn award recognition in the 10K race, their will be recognition in six age categories; two deep, male and female.

For more details about the race, including a printable race application, visit the Suches community Web site; www.suches.com.

Early registration is encouraged but there is no penalty for race day registration, Miner said.

Former Blairsville priest guilty of sex charges

By Charles Duncan
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A Catholic priest formerly associated with the local Catholic church, has been convicted in federal court in Cincinnati, Ohio of molesting a 10-year-old boy 22 years ago in West Virginia.

Father Robert Poandl, now 72, oversaw Catholic churches in Blairsville, Cleveland and Dahlonoga in the late 1970s and early 1980s, according to the Glenmary Home Missionaries' Website.

Poandl was indicted Nov. 15th, 2012 by a federal grand jury for transporting a

minor child across state lines with intent to engage in sexual activity. The incident allegedly occurred in 1991 in Spencer, WV, according to a release by Glenmary.

A former Union County resident accused Poandl of molesting him in the early 1980s. No charges were sought because of the expiration of the statute of limitations, according to Georgia law.

Poandl faces up to 10 years in prison at sentencing in November.

"This victim and his family are very brave," said Judy Jones of SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. "They are to be commended for their courage and determination to seek justice and to keep this child predator far away from kids for a long time."

Jones urges anyone who may have seen, suspected or suffered from Father Poandl's crimes to call prosecutors.

"We believe there are more victims of Poandl and it's never too late to share what you know or suspect with law enforcement officials," she said.