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Department budget is still in trouble, even though the employees are still on furlough days," Commissioner Kendall said. "We will continue to look for ways to preserve our Health Department."

Commissioner Kendall also said that he used a conservative portion of the county's operations reserves to offset potential budget issues.

Commissioner Kendall

will cast final approval of the new budget and set the millage rate on Thursday during the County's regularly scheduled meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Towns County Courthouse.

"I believe that the 2012 Budget will result in Towns County continuing to be in a strong financial position to continue coping with the worst economic condi-

tions since the Great Depression," Commissioner Kendall said.

The Towns County Board of Education and the cities of Hiawassee and Young Harris also avoided a millage rate increase for their 2012 respective budgets, keeping Towns County residents in line with being among the lowest tax rates in the state.

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Miller the winner because Georgia Election law calls for a majority. Miller clearly had the majority.

Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp agreed with the Elections Board's decision on Monday as Miller was declared the winner of the Post 3 Council Seat in Young Harris.

Mulkey, the incumbent who finished third, said she was good with the fi-

nal decision.

"I love this city; I've lived here all my life. Young Harris is all I know," said Mulkey, who has served on the City Council for almost 20 years. "I'm excited about the new things that are happening with Young Harris College. I truly believe that the city and the College can coexist in peaceful harmony, and that's the way it should be."

Mulkey said she

hopes Miller keeps the best interests of the City of Young Harris and its people at heart.

"It's in everyone's best interests to live in harmony," she said. "There's no place for bickering in the City of Young Harris. There's no sense in being at odds with each other. I think that no matter what the issue, there is always a peaceful compromise."

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"I just wanted to say thank you," he said. "We've got a big election coming up on Dec. 6th and it's going to be hard to get folks back out to vote. But, we need you to come back out to vote."

Austin thanked voters for their support that helped him collect 43.3 percent of the District 50 vote, the majority in the race of five candidates. Austin finished with 637 more votes than Wilkinson, a Toccoa Republican.

Austin reintroduced himself to locals, telling them that he's a Christian Republican, who worked his way

through school to accumulate three degrees. He teaches biology at Piedmont College in Demorest and has served in the Georgia House of Representatives as District 10 state representative.

"There wasn't a HOPE Scholarship back when I went to school," he said. "The only hope I had was getting enough hours bagging groceries at Big Star."

"I wanted to say thank you tonight, Towns County turned out big," he said. "I'll represent you over Atlanta all day, every day. I want you to help me have that oppor-

tunity to represent you."

Austin carried Towns, Habersham, Rabun and White counties. Wilkinson carried Banks, Franklin, Stephens and Hart counties. The other three candidates Mary Beth Focer, David Strickland and Curtis Burger carried a combined 17.6 percent of the vote.

"Towns County was huge for me, I wanted to say thank you," he said. "I've grown to love the people of Towns County very quickly. If I can ever do anything to support you, don't ever hesitate to ask me."

Homecoming...continued from page 1A

In the nightcap, Pete Herrmann's Mountain Lions raced to a 22-2 early lead and kicked Bryan College like a bad habit, finishing off the boys from Tennessee by a score of 76-61. Again, the score was closer than the overall game results.

The day began with a Homecoming Parade on U.S. 76 that concluded at YHC's immaculate Recreation Center and Arena, better known as the Valley of Doom.

Dr. Louisa Franklin, professor of English and director of the Academic Suc-

cess Center, served as the Parade's Grand Marshal, following her selection by the YHC student body.

School President Cathy Cox, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, led the parade in cars provided by Jacky Jones Ford of Hayesville.

And of course "Luke" the Mountain Lion road in the Parade, surrounded by the YHC Basketball Cheerleaders.

But overall, this day was about basketball and the second season revival of the

program that had been dormant for 40 years.

Bryce Robertson led the way for the Mountain Lions with 25 points en route to the victory over Bryan College. Ladondra Johnson led the way for the Lady Mountain Lions with 18 points in the win over Reinhardt.

And what Homecoming would be complete without a King and Queen?

Nathan Harris was chosen at King and Bekah Medford was selected as Queen.

It was a great day for a Homecoming.



Recognize anyone? If you're thinking that the person with the ball looks like Jordan Moss and the player standing behind Reinhardt's No. 12 is Missy Conrad, you would be correct. The former Lady Indians are now Lady Mountain Lions and playing for YHC. Photo/James Reese

Williams...continued from page 1A

application or practical basis, she said.

"With our new curriculum, we'll be showing real life applications for our students - the thought processes are not too abstract, they're more concrete for them," Williams said.

The four content areas in the new curriculum will also have a literacy strand that ties all of this together, Williams said.

"I am very excited that part of that literacy strand will include a public speaking component," she said. "I think our students need more of that. We've become such a social media society, we're texting everybody, e-mailing

everybody and we've forgotten how to speak to each other."

Williams said that the system has already begun a year of intense professional learning with its teachers to make plans to introduce this new curriculum next year.

"We also hope that the system leadership team will be a chance for us to grow our own leadership capacity and encourage existing employees to consider taking on some leadership roles," she said.

Williams also hopes to expand on some student programs.

"I do hope that we can expand some of our high school programs - I'm ex-

cited about expanding the agriculture program and I would love to see a Jr. ROTC program here," she said. "It would be a wonderful advancement for our school system and our community to have a Jr. ROTC program."

She also unveiled a vision for community involvement.

"I'm excited about it, I think that it will incorporate good community leaders like yourselves," she said. "We're going to ask that you give us a three-year commitment as we incorporate our new stakeholder involvement group into our system leadership."

Indians...continued from page 1A

during her stellar career.

Moss continues her basketball career at Young Harris College where she saw action earlier in the day on Saturday along with 2010 Lady Indian graduate Missy Conrad in a season-opening YHC Homecoming victory over Reinhardt University.

In spite of the considerable losses in personnel, the Lady Indians return a wealth of varsity experience with top flight seniors Gabby Arencibia, Ali Bleckley, and Lindsay Patton leading the way.

On the boys' team, the Indians lost five productive seniors from last year in Brett Bradshaw, Corbin Gilfilian, Devin Henderson, D.J. Rogers, and Bradley Swanson.

Nevertheless, the Indians return seniors Dakota Barrett and Brandon Henderson from last year along with Rylan Albach who has returned to the team as a senior after providing productive varsity play as a sophomore.

It should be an interesting season for both teams.



Dallas Manus (20) is one of the talented young Indians awaiting Baptism in Varsity action. He'll get that opportunity on Friday night in Tiger against Rabun County. Photo/James Reese

Veterans...continued from page 1A

of our nation and contributed to the greatness of our National Defense.

"We are indeed grateful for their service and sacrifice," Chaplain Max Flaig told the crowd. "If it were not for the men and women in the trenches, our victories would not have been sustained."

It is the selfless and unwavering devotion to service by our veterans that keeps America free.

Freedom was exactly what Enotah Circuit Superior Court Judge David Barrett wanted to talk about on this day of remembrance to Towns County's and America's veterans of foreign wars.

Judge Barrett, who delivered the day's Keynote Address, said that ultimately, "freedom is not free."

Judge Barrett said that Americans today are not exercising the liberties given to us by our veterans. The privilege to vote is believed to be overrated; serving on a jury is perceived as a waste of personal time, not a duty; standing up for injustice has been forgotten; and our economy is like an untended field choked with weeds.

"I'm honored to be here today among this group of individuals from this community who have given so much to us all," Judge Barrett said. "Freedom isn't just a word, it's a way of life that was given to us by our veterans."

"Here we are today to honor all of the veterans who have served this country since the date of the Revolutionary War all the way up through and including Iraq and Afghanistan," Judge Barrett said.

Our veterans have assured us freedom of our faith, of our religious beliefs, freedom to make choices and the right to exercise those beliefs, Judge Barrett said.

"We have the opportunity to fail or succeed as no other nation on Earth has," he said. "We have the freedom to vote. All of these rights and opportunities were given to us by you veterans."

Despite all the opportunities available to America, our country is falling behind, Judge Barrett said.

"It's time to think about changing that course," he said. "China is ahead of us."

Judge Barrett said that America today has seemingly lost the will to succeed.

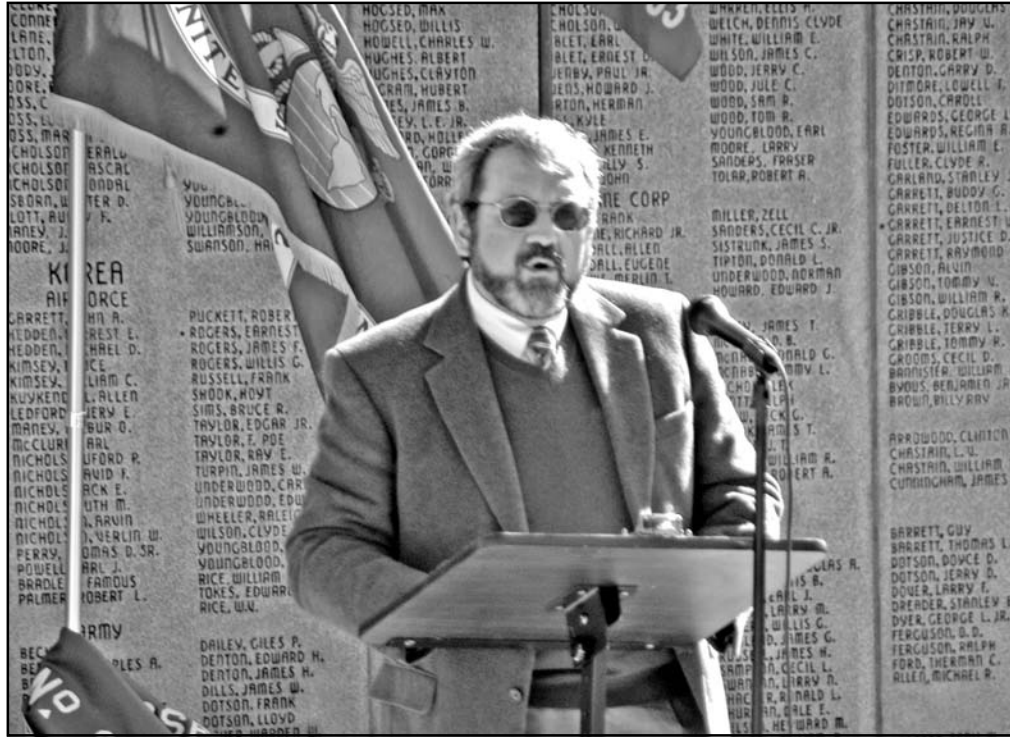
"Freedom is not free," he said. "We must remember that we owe to these individuals (veterans) the price of freedom. Stand up for what is right; you can make a difference."

"Our veterans believe that our way, the American Way, is so important that they gave up years of their lives in order to defend freedom," he said. "Veterans, we salute you, but let our salutes not be hollow."

"The beginning of the 21st Century is here, we need a new Paul Revere calling our people to act as Americans, actions that prove that we believe that the veterans did what they did for our children and our grandchildren."

"Also that we might appreciate that which was given to us," he said. "While not perfect, America will continue to be the shining light to the world of freedom as long as we allow it."

"We celebrate today the blood, sweat and tears of our veterans," he said. "We shall not forget, please don't ever forget."



Enotah Circuit Superior Court David Barrett challenged Americans to exercise the freedoms that our veterans have fought and died for in foreign lands. Photo/Charles Duncan



Tom Reed, left, and Alex Bacardi, center, were recognized as the oldest and young U.S. Marines present at Thursday celebration of the 236 Birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. Photo/Charles Duncan