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Dog days of summer

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Linemen get down and dirty

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Girls go 'crazy' for knitting

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Business robbed at gunpoint, fugitive still at large

by AI Summers
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A Gilmer County business owner was robbed at gunpoint last Wednesday, June 18, and over \$3,000 in cash was taken. No one was injured in the incident, and the fugitive is still at large.

According to Det. Lane Bennett of the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office's Criminal Investigation Division (CID), a white male entered the Source

One Brokers store at the intersection of Hwy. 52 East and Owl Town Road in the late morning hours and demanded money while holding a gun on the store owner. The store owner gave the perpetrator \$3,200 in cash before the gunman walked to the parking lot and drove away.

An all points bulletin was issued for a later model brown Ford Taurus with a possible Florida tag.

The suspect is described as a

heavy-set white male, about 6'4" in height with brown hair and a brown mustache.

Anyone with any information about the robbery or who might have seen anything suspicious around the time of the crime in the area of the crime is asked to call detectives at CID at (706) 635-4646.

Detectives closed a case involving theft and drugs the next day, Thursday, June 19,

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Facing the citizens

Candidates for chairman of the Gilmer County Board of Commissioners listen to the next question during a political forum held last Thursday evening, June 19, at the Ellijay Elementary School Auditorium. The forum was sponsored by the Better Home Town committee of the city of Ellijay, and featured all candidates for the board of commissioners. CTC 3 will rebroadcast the forum Friday evening, June 27, at 8:30 p.m., Monday evening, June 30, at 9 p.m., and Saturday afternoon, July 12, at 4 p.m. Shown, left to right, are commission chairman Jerry Farist, candidate Tony Whitaker, and current commissioner and chairman candidate Mark Chastain. Commission chairman candidate Rayburn Smith was unable to attend the forum due to a prior commitment. Photo by AI Summers

Resendez takes helm at Gilmer County Library



New Gilmer County librarian Brandi Resendez settles into her office at the Gilmer County Library, ready to make her mark at the facility. The new branch manager comes to Ellijay from Albany, Ga., after studying in Savannah and Tallahassee. Photo by Carolyn Lawrence

Carolyn Lawrence
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Brandi Resendez has been named branch manager at the Gilmer County Library. Resendez accepted the position of library manager, filling the position once held by Anita Summers.

Hailing from Savannah, Ga., Resendez attended Armstrong Atlantic State University, receiving both a bachelor's and a masters in history. She went on to Florida State University

to receive a second masters in library science. "You can't beat it," says Resendez.

Resendez spent her time at Armstrong studying topics that she felt explained and explored the "others," as in the minorities and the forgotten throughout history. Her studies led her to research the plantation owned by Pierce Butler and Fanny Kimball on Butler Island, where some of the historical data collected was written from the perspective of women.

"It was fascinating to me.

Fanny Kimball, who was an abolitionist, published a diary about the women on the plantation. The diary gives you a sense of life about people you don't get to hear about."

Her research on Butler Island afforded Resendez a viewing at the St. Simons Island Lighthouse museum.

From there, Resendez went on to work at Carnegie Library in Savannah, which served to promote black history. With her

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Assessors meet, but not a single property owner present

Michael Andrews
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The Gilmer County Board of Assessors met Thursday, June 19. This was the board's first regular meeting since mailing out 34,000 value assessment notices in May. To the surprise of board members, not a single property owner was present at the meeting to offer public comment.

As of 5 p.m., Thursday, the assessors office had 3,258

active appeals on file. As of Friday, June 13, the number of active appeals was 1,983. Both numbers represent a number of appeals past the five percent (or 1,700) mark needed to delay submission of the 2008 property digest.

As of June 19, there were also 281 appeals that had been resolved and 891 21-day notices, which inform a taxpayer of value changes made since filing an appeal, that had been mailed. Those who receive such a notice have 21

days to dispute any changes in value.

Chief Appraiser Dawn Pruett said at the meeting that the assessors office, "fully expected to receive five percent or more appeals" and that submission of the digest would be possible after the number of active appeals falls below the five percent mark.

Pruett added that the assessors office has been accepting e-mailed and faxed appeals, as

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Ellijay Council members handle routine matters

by AI Summers
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Members of the Ellijay City Council spent most of their time taking care of routine matters at their monthly meeting held Monday evening, June 16, at Ellijay City Hall.

As has been the case in the past few meetings, land and zoning issues took up most of the agenda. Council members approved a zoning change for Hilda and Johnny Mayfield for a piece of property on North Main Street. The property was

changed from single family residential to commercial on the recommendation of the city planning commission.

Members of the council also granted a zoning variance for Madison Painter for a piece of property on North Avenue that would in essence relocate a property line, and they also approved a zoning variance for Steve and Jolie Pavent relieving them from having to pave a driveway because ingress and egress to the driveway is off of a dirt road, an unpaved section of Legion Road.

In other matters, Gary Vandiver was appointed to the city's historic preservation committee, Argonaut Great Central Insurance Company received the bid to handle the city's insurance needs, a potential lease for Memorial Park was tabled until next month, and Townley Construction Company of Dawson County received the contract for sewer improvements in the Corbin Hill area at a bid of just over \$317,000. The improvement

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Thursday June 26	Friday June 27	Saturday June 28	Sunday June 29	Monday June 30	Tuesday July 1	Wednesday July 2
Partly Cloudy Hi 89° / Lo 67° Precip. 20%	Isolated T-Storms Hi 87° / Lo 67° Precip. 30%	Scattered T-Storms Hi 86° / Lo 67° Precip. 50%	Isolated T-Storms Hi 85° / Lo 67° Precip. 30%	Partly Cloudy Hi 88° / Lo 66° Precip. 20%	Mostly Sunny Hi 89° / Lo 68° Precip. 20%	Sunny Hi 88° / Lo 68° Precip. 20%

Theft ————— **from 1A**

with the arrest of James Tony Davis of Ellijay. Davis had a number of warrants for his arrest from theft cases dating back to earlier in the year. After receiving a tip on Davis' whereabouts, law enforcement officers arrested him without incident. During the arrest, a quantity of methamphetamine, marijuana, and LSD was also discovered. In addition to being charged with theft by receiving stolen property, theft of a

motor vehicle, and theft by receiving a motor vehicle, Davis was charged with possession of all three drugs. Also arrested with Davis were Thomas Roger Self Jr., and Crystal Weaver, who were also charged with possession of the drugs. Bennett also told the *Times-Courier* that detectives had been conducting an investigation into the theft of pieces of heavy equipment. The thieves have been posing as contrac-

tors or landscapers and renting equipment and then selling it instead of returning it. A Gilmer County undercover operation recovered a piece of equipment belonging to a local tool rental company. Bennett said law enforcement officials are looking for Shannon Young of Pickens County and Michael Ray Fisk from out of state in connection with this case. Anyone familiar with this type of activity or these two individuals is asked to call Gilmer County detectives at CID at (706) 635-4646.

Assessors ————— **from 1A**

well as written ones, from taxpayers wishing to dispute their values. "We are going beyond the call accepting anything other than (an appeal filled out and filed here at the office)," said Pruett at the meeting. Many of the additional appeals filed since June 13 were filed in bulk by subdivision owners, added Pruett. Property owners have until July 7 to file appeals. In other new business, the board approved 59 new, renewed or continued conservation use value assessment

covenants and denied eight new or continued covenant applications. The board awarded exempt property status to parcel 3137-036A, The Jesus Church, and approved a common area application for parcel 3046-E-009, credited to the Mountaintown Property Owners Association. Board chairman Jeff Holloway reiterated the need for additional assessors board members during the meeting. The assessors board is intended to be a five-man board, but

has been functioning as a three-or-four-man board for almost two years. Former board member Ken Kissinger stepped down in 2006, while former member Hubert Parker stepped down in early 2008. The last time the board was fully staffed was in early 2006 with chairman Holloway and members Bill Masters, Emanuel Sanford, Kissinger and Parker. Masters and Don Ellis are the two current remaining board members. "If I were to get hit by a bus tomorrow, we'd be in real trouble," joked Holloway about the board member shortage during the meeting.

Ellijay ————— **from 1A**

project is being funded in part by a grant from the state of Georgia. During the public comments portion of the meeting, Dedicated Ellijay Merchants and Associates (DEMA) member Larry Robinson asked council members to consider allowing beer and wine in cups during DEMA events. The open containers would only be allowed during designated times and places if council members approve the matter. Ellijay Mayor Al Hoyle asked city attorney David Lindsey to look into the legality of the

matter. The second reading of the city's disorderly conduct ordinance amendment was read and adopted. The new wording allows Ellijay police officers more leeway in dealing with disorderly conduct and thus keeping cases in the municipal court. In related public safety news, Ellijay Police Chief Larry Callahan reported officers in his department answered 440 calls in May which resulted in 47 arrests and 167 warnings. Ellijay Fire Chief Sam West reported city firefighters responded to eight mutual aid

calls, 13 motor vehicle accidents, six service calls, two false alarms, three EMS assist situations, and six landing zones for the month of May. Mayor Hoyle presided over the meeting which was attended by mayor pro tem David Westmoreland, council members Katie Lancey, Ruth Caudell, and Al Fuller, and city clerk Gay Crescenti. Council member Charles Barclay was absent. The Ellijay City Council meets on the third Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the council chamber of Ellijay City Hall. Their next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 21.

Resendez ————— **from 1A**

background in women's and minority history, Resendez was well-versed in the black history surrounding Southern Georgia, particularly the history surrounding the African culture in the Southern plantations. From there, Resendez moved onto Albany, working as the head librarian. When the time for a change of scenery called, Resendez knew exactly where she wanted to go. "I love the area," she said, adding that she was looking to get out of the heat of Albany and into much nicer surroundings. When asked about what she plans to contribute to the Gilmer County Library, Resendez is hesitant to answer. "They've got a good system here. Anita built a strong staff and the system is outstanding," Resendez goes on to state that she is ready to maintain that structure, as well as perpetuate the growth brought on by Summers and the staff she built. Resendez plans on continuing traditions, such as the festival of trees, while offering new services for library

patrons. Her background in history and genealogy offers a strong ally for the historical special collections at the library. Resendez plans to help expand the special collections area by "installing particular programs in the collections room." The Genealogical Society has already mentioned the introduction of a program which assists researchers in building their family tree. She has also considered reinstalling the genealogical classes that were offered by the library in the past, as a means of assisting those who are not as computer savvy. "They've got quite a collection," Resendez states, "A key part of the library is the history room," adding that there is such a plethora of information available that she hasn't had the time to fully explore all the collections. "The Friends of the Library, Board of Trustees, the Chamber, and other organizations have been very supportive and extremely friendly," Resendez states. The welcome she has received in the past

few weeks reassures her that she made the right decision moving to Gilmer County. "It's a fantastic opportunity. I'm looking forward to digging in. It's an excellent learning opportunity." Resendez also expressed excitement about future projects the library has scheduled. She states that in October the library will be hosting a Smithsonian exhibit, focusing on local food histories. The exhibit will be held during the annual Apple Festival, highlighting local Southern flavors and recipes, with some known only to Gilmer County. The exhibit will explore the local traditions of food preparation, as well as antiquated equipment, recipes and other domestic necessities. While Resendez is intent on remaining in Ellijay for quite some time, she does hope to travel cross-country, either by recreational vehicle or by train, to see the many wonderful sites the country has to offer. "Maybe one day, I'll get a R.V. and travel." Until then, Resendez is content to travel through the shelves of the Gilmer County Library, helping others discover the world waiting for them between the bindings of a book.

ELECT MARK CHASTAIN
Commission Chairman

After reviewing situations brought to my attention and researching the entire 2008 property revaluation, I now am calling for the Board of Assessors to pull the current property re-assessment project until it can be corrected on a county wide basis. I have delayed making this my position because it is not a "knee-jerk" reaction, nor am I pandering for votes. I was hopeful that the initial parcels that were brought to my attention were isolated and would be quickly resolved. However, I am now convinced that the inconsistencies and errors are much more widespread than initially thought. While people seem to be treated fairly at the Assessor's Office when they go in to discuss or appeal their values, in reality this may only represent a small part of the property owners with errors in their assessments. I believe that the work was submitted with a looming deadline and simply needs to be completed. This will remove the "burden of proof" from those pursuing appeals and will treat fairly those who will not or cannot appeal their values.

"More bang for **OUR** buck!"

For more detailed information about my campaign, plans and platforms, please visit:
www.electmarkchastain.com or call **706-889-2718**
PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT MARK CHASTAIN, P.O. BOX 2087, ELLIJAY, GA 30540

Jimmy Sellers
for
Probate Judge

Vote for Education - Experience - Ability

I would like to drop the charge for certified copies of a death certificate. If one of your loved ones passes away I feel the county can afford to give you, as a taxpayer and citizen, a sheet of paper with a signature to help you out when you need a little help.

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