

Times - Courier

Your Hometown Newspaper Devoted To The Progress Of Gilmer County

VOL. 133 • NO. 33 • U.S.P.S. NO. 630-280

August 14, 2008

EST. 1875 • CONSOLIDATED 1916 • 50 CENTS



Jazz band to play

See Gilmer Living 1B



Smith named All-state

See Sports 1C



Movie under stars returns

See Around Town 1D

www.timescourier.com



School starts

Gilmer County students returned to school August 7. Many were thrilled to return to their desks and eager to get started with their studies. Photo by Carolyn Lawrence

'Suspicious device' investigated by U.S. Army's bomb squad

Military-type ammunition box contained explosive components

by Al Summers
alsummers@timescourier.com

In an event that brought the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's (GBI) bomb squad and the explosive ordnance division (EOD) from the U.S. Army's Fort Gillem in Atlanta, law enforcement officials were investigating a suspicious device that was located off Conasauga Road

in northwestern Gilmer County Tuesday evening, Aug. 12.

Gilmer County deputies responded to the call in the early afternoon and determined that some of the articles visible in the military-type ammunition storage box looked like explosives.

The sheriff's department asked for assistance from the GBI's bomb disposal unit. Upon their arrival, more "explosive-related materials" were discovered and the Army's EOD unit was called to investigate. Members of that unit arrived with police escort by nightfall.

At press deadline Tuesday evening, units were still on the scene determining the best way to empty the contents of the box and dispose of its contents.

Law enforcement officers were hoping to retain as much of the metal box and non-dangerous material as possible to test for fingerprints and other evidence.

Gilmer County Sheriff Stacy Nicholson told the *Times-Courier* he was glad no one was injured in the event.

A follow-up story will appear in next week's edition of the *Times-Courier*.

BOE workshop focuses on budget, revenue

Carolyn Lawrence
clawrence@timescourier.com

Under the helm of new superintendent Randy Parson, the Gilmer County Board of Education (BOE) held their first work session of the school year. Much discussion was made about the impending approval for the 2008 - 2009 school budget. The tentative budget, advertised in the *Times-Courier*, will be discussed and decided upon August 12 during the regular called meeting.

The budget includes an increase of just over \$2 million from last year, due to the state regulated salary and benefits increases for teach-

ers. The rest of the increase comes from increase expenditure in fuel, food and utilities for the individual schools to run effectively.

The \$2 million increase will need to be made up somewhere, and with the tax digest future still unsure, it is unclear just where the money will be coming from. The BOE currently is in the predicament of being unsure of what their millage rate is, due to the numerous tax appeals.

The board cannot set its millage rate until the tax appeals are met. Should there be no resolution and the tax commissioner receives the extension he is asking for, the BOE will not know the mill-

age rate to which they can base their budget until mid-September. It will be at this time the BOE will know if they will base their millage rate on 2007 or if they will be able to use 2008 numbers.

The discussion also brought up the November voting of House Bill 1383 and the effect the passing of the bill will have on the school system. Should the bill pass, it will not affect the 2008 -2009 school budget, but the following year's budget. It would mean a \$1 million decrease in revenue received from taxpayers, which the school system would have to make up. It would also mean that with each passing year that

decrease in revenue would drop, as more individual homeowners turn 65.

The BOE also discussed the appointment of three individuals to head up the Kids Kottage commission. Per the state's commission appointment request, the BOE selected Tom Porter, Sherry Kirk, district attorney, Victim's Assistance Program, and Sandra Davenport, Ellijay Primary School principal, to the commission, with Parson and board member, Kathy Jones, as the BOE representatives.

The renovation of the show barn was brought before the BOE to request approval to refurbish the aging building.

The show barn would be used three or four times a year by the FFA programs of Gilmer County, to host livestock shows with neighboring communities. The renovation plans purposed include roof repair, removal and replacement of dirt, and upgrading systems to bring the building up-to-code, including fire extinguishers, emergency doors with panic bars, exit lights and general upgrading to lighting, plumbing and concrete. The BOE will address the needs of the show barn August 12.

Wes Tankersley addressed the BOE, introducing them to the GHS football program he is implementing. He took

questions on the football team and the football program. Tankersley announced that this season was about commitment and character building within his football players. He is excited about the prospects of the upcoming season.

The BOE meets August 12 to discuss these issues in full. The Gilmer County Board of Education meets each month at 6 p.m. at the BOE office. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. The public is invited to attend. Work sessions are held at 5:30 p.m. on

Thursday before the second Tuesday of each month at the BOE office.

More on hospital case

The law suit currently pending in Superior Court over the purchase of property for a new hospital in Gilmer came before Judge Bradley for a status conference hearing August 8. The transcript from the hearing is not yet available.

The law suit was filed December 7, 2007, by Southern Health Inc., the business name of North Georgia Medical Center in Ellijay. Southern Health has alleged the defendants,

James P. Garrett of Gilmer County and Roberta Mundy of Cherokee County, both individually and as the Fiduciary of the estate of Randy Mundy, did not appear for a closing on the property, 25 acres of land located on Highway 515, December 7, 2007.

The defendants have said they attempted to close on the property on December 3 and December 7, 2007, and in early March and again in May of 2008.

Fradly announces for board of education Post 2



Sandi Frady

Sandi Frady has announced that she will run for Post 2 of the Gilmer County Board of Education. She is a lifelong resident of Gilmer County, and of the post in which she is running.

Fradly attended Oakland Elementary School and graduated from Gilmer High School in 1980. She then went on to graduate Alabama Christian College (now Faulkner University) in Montgomery, AL, where she received a bachelor of science degree with a

double major in business administration and psychology.

The candidate and her husband, Max, are the owners of Clark's Towing. They have a son, Jamie; a daughter, Courtney, who is a student at Brenau University; and a daughter, Cheyenne, who is an eighth grader at Clear Creek Middle School.

Clark believes the main goal of the board should be to give students the best education possible while saving the tax-

payer money. She states, "I love this county and strongly believe in our public education system. I believe that our teachers, administrators and everyone who works at our schools work hard to give our kids the best education possible. I would love to put my experience to work for our kids and this county."

"I hope you have faith in me to be your representative for Post 2, and I would appreciate your vote in November," she concluded.

In this issue...

Editorial.....3A	Focus on Education.....3-4C
Dixie Divas.....5A	Arrests.....6C
Religion.....6-7A	Obits.....7C
Gilmer Living.....1B	Around Town.....1D
Health & Fitness.....2-8B	Community Calendar.....2D
Fair Time.....11B	Movies.....2D
Legals.....12-13B	People.....3D
Sports.....1-2C	Classifieds.....6-14D

Thursday
August 14



Sunny
Hi 86° / Lo 63°
Precip. 20%

Friday
August 15



Partly Cloudy
Hi 86° / Lo 64°
Precip. 20%

Saturday
August 16



Partly Cloudy
Hi 85° / Lo 64°
Precip. 20%

Sunday
August 17



Isolated T-storms
Hi 85° / Lo 65°
Precip. 30%

Monday
August 18



Isolated T-storms
Hi 84° / Lo 65°
Precip. 40%

Tuesday
August 19



Scattered T-storms
Hi 86° / Lo 63°
Precip. 40%

Wednesday
August 20



Scattered T-storms
Hi 85° / Lo 65°
Precip. 60%