



Gilmer Idol competition winners
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Bobcats' reign over 7-AAA continues
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"... but I play one on TV."
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Deputies make drug bust with traffic stop

by **Al Summers**
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Another traffic stop by Gilmer County deputies has again resulted in the arrests of two individuals on drug related charges and the seizure of illegal drugs and money.

Saturday, Jan. 30, Deputy Stephen Thompson conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle being driven by Michael Jones. Jones was stopped for his vehicle not displaying a tag.

During the stop, Thompson, assisted by Deputy Josh Chancey, conducted a search of the vehicle. During the search, 12 individual baggies

of marijuana and \$2,807 in currency were discovered.

Jones was taken into custody for possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute.

A passenger in the vehicle, Melissa Turner, was taken into custody as well.

A subsequent search of Turner at the Gilmer County Detention Center turned up a "residue quantity" of methamphetamine and a pipe.

Turner was charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of methamphetamine.

Both Jones, 24, and Turner, 25, listed Ellijay address-

es as their homes.

Gilmer County Sheriff Stacy Nicholson told the *Times-Courier*, "Due to the heavy call volume my deputies contend with, they don't have much time for proactive traffic stops, but they are making the most out of the opportunities they do have. This is a prime example. We intend to hit the drug dealers in this county and those coming through this county as hard as we can."



Gilmer deputies made a similar traffic stop earlier in January and ended up arresting a federal fugitive in connection with a stolen baby formula ring.



Contributed photo

Deputy Josh Chancey, left, and Deputy Stephen Thompson, right, pose with money and marijuana confiscated during a recent traffic stop.


happy valentine's day
Sunday, February 14


2010
"Parade of Sweethearts"
Pages 10-14A


News Briefs:
2009 Scenic Photo Contest
The *Times-Courier* presents our 2009 Scenic Photos of the Week on www.timescourier.com. For more information see the announcement in the Community Calendar on page 2D.

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Boardtown Road will be closed Monday, Feb. 15

by **Ryan R Rees**
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Boardtown Road north of downtown Ellijay will be closed Monday, Feb. 15, at Kell's Creek where a new bridge is being installed.

Traffic will be diverted from Boardtown while the lanes are moved from the existing road to the new section under construction.

Monday is a state and school holiday and county officials said the closure would have minimal impact on traffic that day.

The new section will probably not be paved but instead covered with gravel until the weather improves to allow paving.

Travelers are advised to use Whitepath Road to avoid the Kell's Creek area. Local residents north and south of Kell's Creek will be allowed to use the road.

Meanwhile, Roy Road will probably be closed for at least a month as a bridge is replaced just north of Holt Bridge Road. The abutment supporting the bridge gave



Photo by Al Summers

The new Kell's Creek bridge, left, is nearing completion. County workers hope to make the switch from the old bridge, right, to the new bridge, next Monday, Feb. 15.

way last week. Further inspection revealed further erosion of the hand-built abutment and deterioration of the existing bridge structure.

Estimated cost of the replacement is more than \$50,000. County Commission

Chairman Mark Chastain said the county is looking to see if the cost can be covered by insurance. No state funds are available because Roy Road is not a state-maintained road. However, Chastain said the Georgia Depart-

ment of Transportation has been helpful in assessing the damage and might assist with equipment during the replacement.

Alternate routes in the area include Big Creek Road and Rackley Road.

Sequoyah Regional Library Board votes to raise fines

Special to the Times-Courier
www.sequoyahregionallibrary.org

In the wake of local funding cuts and shortfalls, members of the Sequoyah Regional Library Board of Trustees voted at their January meeting to raise fines for overdue materials from 10 cents to 20 cents per day, per item. The increase will take effect Feb. 15, 2010, and will apply only to materials returned past

due on or after that date. All three counties in the Sequoyah Regional Library System (Cherokee, Gilmer and Pickens) are facing budget shortfalls of one kind or another due to declines in local government revenues. Cherokee County Commissioners recently cut public library funding by 5 percent. Gilmer County Commissioners did not cut but were unable to approve the

full amount needed to cover all anticipated costs in the coming budget year. The Pickens County Commissioner also has indicated that a cut in library funding is likely unavoidable this year.

With an already bare-bones budget, combined with increased operating costs, the only other alternative to increasing fines would have been to cut library hours.

However, this would make the libraries less available at a time when the public is using them more than ever. Last year, Sequoyah Regional libraries experienced a 10 percent increase in circulation, a 5 percent increase in attendance and an eight percent increase in computer use.

"People use public libraries

See Library page 4A