



Summers awarded for reporting on mental health

See Gilmer Living 1B



Gilmer's Henson receives top honor

See Sports 1C



Len Foote Hike Inn offers peace and relaxation

See Around Town 1D

Times - Courier

Your Hometown Newspaper Devoted To The Progress Of Gilmer County

VOL. 135 • NO. 22 • U.S.P.S. NO. 630-280 **June 3, 2010** EST. 1875 • CONSOLIDATED 1916 • 50 CENTS

Detectives make burglary, theft arrests

by **AI Summers**
alsummers@timescourier.com

Gilmer County Sheriff Stacy Nicholson told the *Times-Courier* two arrests have been made in connection with burglaries and thefts in Gilmer County.

After an extended investigation conducted by detectives Dustin Dover, Coy Turner and Marc Phipps of the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division, two suspects have been arrested. Nicholson reported Eric Moses Ingle and Jordan Lee Grizzle, both 20 years of age and both of Ellijay addresses, have been taken into custody.

Ingle is charged with three counts of burglary and two counts of theft by taking of a motor vehicle. Ingle became of interest during a previous investigation where charges included terroristic threats and acts, interference with government property, stalking and conspiracy to commit a crime.

Grizzle is charged with two counts of burglary and two counts of theft by taking of a motor vehicle.

According to Nicholson, during the commission of the crimes a total of \$21,600 worth of property was taken of which detectives recovered \$21,100.

In other law enforcement news, the sheriff also reported for citizens to be aware of yet another "check cashing" scheme.

Information gathered to date shows that checks are being drawn on an Oklahoma bank. Enclosed with the check is a letter requesting that the citizen cash that check and send a portion to the United Kingdom address. The checks are for "processing fees" so that the recipient can receive thousands of dollars.

Nicholson warned, "This is an absolute scam and any citizen receiving such checks should contact the sheriff's office to make a report at 706-635-8911."

Saluting on Memorial Day



Photo by AI Summers

Members from the North Georgia Honor Guard fire their rifles in a 21-gun salute Monday, May 31, at the Memorial Day Ceremony and Veterans Memorial Bridge dedication held at Gilmer County's River Park. In addition to the salute, Taps was played by a lone bugler and speeches were delivered. The keynote address on the cost of war was delivered by an Army Special Forces officer. Other highlights included the explanation of armed forces branch flags and the firing of a cannon by Civil War reenactors. Nearly 200 people attended the event.

Political ad policy

All political advertisements in the *Times-Courier* must be submitted no later than noon on Monday, before the Wednesday publication. This allows for your ad and the normal influx of regular advertisers to be handled in a proper and timely manner.

No exceptions can be made unless it is the same copy that was submitted the week prior.

Also, payment must be made at the time of submission, by check, cash, or credit card.

Candidates who wish to have their announcements appear on the front page must have copy submitted by Friday, July 2, at 5 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your observance of these guidelines.



Board of assessors holds brief meeting

by **Michael Andrews**
andrews@timescourier.com

The Gilmer County Tax Assessors Board of Directors met briefly Thursday, May 20, to approve property changes and various exemptions.

Present board members Jeff Holloway, Billy Masters and Jeff Williams approved 45 real property changes, 60 manufactured home changes and 48 new or renewed Conservation Use Value Assessments (CUVAs), while denying nine, and tabling one, CUA application(s). One exempt property application, for New Beginnings Church was approved, as were two appeals for denied CUA renewals.

During the meeting, board members approved 72 personal property changes with fair market values of zero being placed on closed, uncollectible or bankrupt business accounts being cleaned up by the tax commissioner's office.

Several large parcels

under appeal for tax year 2009 were also forwarded to the Board of Equalization for review, while 2010 Homestead and Freepport exemptions were approved.

Thirteen Gilmer County manufacturing businesses were granted the Freepport Exemption, which grants exemption on certain goods in the process of being manufactured or that are stored for shipment to another state. Only one business, Pepsi Bottling LLC, was denied the exemption.

Chief Appraiser Dawn Pruett provided a copy of the recently-passed Georgia Senate Bill 346 for present board members to look over. The unanimously passed property tax bill declares that all taxpayers and property owners will receive an annual assessment notice for each tax year beginning in 2011.

In previous years, Gilmer and some other Georgia counties only sent out assessment notices to those who had seen a change in their assessed property value from the

previous year and to new owners. Previously, Georgia law only required a notice be sent out if an increase in value had occurred, said Pruett.

The bill also declares that property owners will

receive information with their assessment notice on how to properly file an appeal. Information on how to file an appeal is already included with assessment notices for Gilmer taxpayers, said

Pruett. The board of assessors will hold a called meeting Thursday, June 3, at 5 p.m. inside its Gilmer County Courthouse office, to approve 2010 value assessment notices.

Tony Whitaker is candidate for top commission spot

Special to the Times-Courier
alsummers@timescourier.com

Tony Whitaker has announced his candidacy for chairman of the Gilmer County Board of Commissioners. He is a native of Gilmer County, a graduate of Gilmer County High School and a graduate of Georgia Southern University in Statesboro.

He is an honorably discharged U.S. Army Veteran, having served in Vietnam. He has varied experience in

business management having been manager for Capitol Pipe and Steel Company in Birmingham, Ala., district manager for Plymouth Tube Company in Marietta and southeast regional manager for Handy and Harman Specialty Tubing Group based in Roswell, Ga.

For the past 15 years he has been self-employed as a residential building contractor in Gilmer County. He is the son of former sole Gilmer County Commissioner Ben Whitaker.



Tony Whitaker

In this issue...

National/State Roundup	2A	TV Guide	4B
Editorial	3A	Legals	7B
Chairman's Report	5A	By George	7B
Religion/People	6-7A	Sports	1-2C
Lynn's Zen	8A	Focus on Education	3-4C
College News	10A	Health & Fitness	5-9C
Arrests	11A	Car Couple	10C
Dixie Divas	12A	Obituaries	11C
Gilmer Living	1B	Around Town	1D
Movies/Calendar/Puzzle	2B	Classifieds	3-8D

Prescription drug abuse meeting set for Thursday, June 3

The Gilmer Against Drugs organization will hold a town hall meeting about the dangers of prescription drug abuse Thursday, June 3, at Ellijay First Baptist Church beginning at 7 p.m.

Featured speakers for the evening

include Dr. James Craig, M.D., a local physician who has suffered from prescription drug addiction; Debbie Neese, LPN, an emergency room nurse who will share her first-hand experiences of prescription drug overdoses and their effects on fami-

lies; and an agent from the local drug task force who will speak on how to spot prescription drug abuse and give statistics on the number of arrests made.

The meeting is free of charge and is open to the public.