



'Barrage' returns Saturday for B.E.S.T. date

See Gilmer Living 1B



Bobcats take first at Panther Invitational

See Sports 1C



Library in holiday spirit with Festival of Trees

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Times - Courier

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Man shot in East Ellijay

Listed in stable condition in Chattanooga, one arrested

by Al Summers

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A Pickens County man is in stable condition at

Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga after being shot in the parking lot outside The Pourhouse Bar and Grill establishment

just off Hefner Street in East Ellijay.

Police records show that Roger Allen Mulkey, 42, of Jasper, was shot once in the abdomen by Cameran Daniel Towery, 40, of Jasper. The incident occurred just after 1 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

Mulkey was driven to North Georgia Medical Center in a private vehicle to be treated for his wound. He was later transferred by ambulance to Chattanooga.

The police report went on to say that East Ellijay Don Bailey arrived at the scene to find a white male down and bleeding in the parking lot. Witnesses said he had been "pistol whipped" by two men who had fled the scene. The man at the scene was identified as Towery.

Witnesses also told Bailey that another man had been driven to the hospital because he had been shot.

A firearm believed to have been used in the shooting was recovered from a truck in the parking lot.

Witnesses also told law enforcement officers that Towery had been asked to leave the Pourhouse after repeatedly flashing a knife during the evening.

Towery was transported to North Georgia Medical Center where he was kept for observation.

Warrants were taken for his arrest on charges of aggravated assault with a gun and carrying a concealed weapon (firearm).

East Ellijay Police Chief Greg Arp said the investigation was still ongoing.

Gingrich Cushman speaks to Rotary



Author Jackie Gingrich Cushman, daughter of former U.S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, speaks to members of the Gilmer County Rotary Club Monday, Dec. 7. She spoke about the five principles of successful living.

COTY deadline Monday, Dec. 14

The time is drawing near for Gilmer's next Citizen of the Year (COTY) to be chosen, according to the Gilmer County Chamber of Commerce. The chamber needs your ballots for the 2009 COTY nod by Monday, December 14.

Almost anyone can be nominated to receive the award. The chamber asks that those voting name someone who has been for at least two years; who has

given freely of their time to support the community; who exemplifies what a leader should be and who has touched many lives through several different channels.

The award will be presented at the annual COTY Banquet, scheduled for January 15, 2010.

Ballots can be obtained at the Gilmer Chamber of Commerce office, located at 368 Craig Street in East Ellijay, or by calling 706-635-7400.

Gilmer public safety agencies to receive defibrillators, training

Devices to come from grant money

Special to the Times-Courier

www.nghd.org

Thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the North Georgia Health District, fire and police agencies in Gilmer County have received 58 automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) intended to improve defibrillation response to sudden cardiac arrests experienced by adults and children in the Gilmer County area. "Frequently, a police or fire vehicle will be closer than an ambulance, which already has the capability to defibrillate patients," explained

North Georgia Health District Director Dr. Harold W. Pitts, "and since chances of full recovery from sudden cardiac arrest decrease with each minute the patient goes without defibrillation, this is a potentially life-saving provision."

Defibrillation is the restoration of a normal heartbeat. A heart that is in fibrillation is not in synchronization with a person's pulse due to heart muscles acting independently of each other instead of as a team. It is a leading cause of heart attacks and strokes.

Gilmer EMS, under the direction of EMS director Leslie Hightower, has

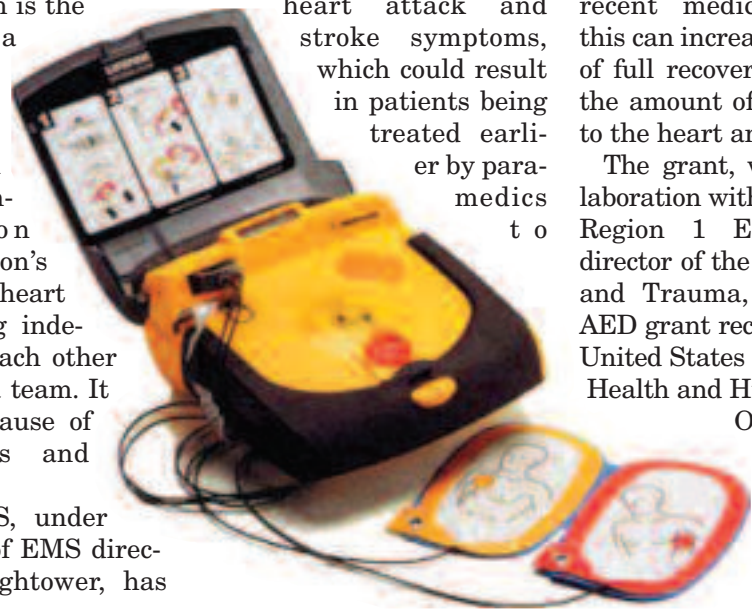
coordinated the training of firefighters and police officers in CPR and the use of the AEDs. The AED devices will be supplied to the fire and police agencies as soon as they receive training.

Educating the public in early recognition of heart attack and stroke symptoms, which could result in patients being treated earlier by paramedics to

prevent cardiac arrest, is another goal of the grant. Gilmer County EMS will be leading this effort over the next six months.

Hightower stated, "It's very important to recognize the early signs of heart attack and stroke. Due to recent medical advances, this can increase the chances of full recovery by reducing the amount of damage done to the heart and brain."

The grant, written in collaboration with David Loftin, Region 1 EMS program director of the Office of EMS and Trauma, is an urban AED grant received from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Rural Health and just one of five awarded nationally.



Budget, trash on BOC agenda

by Ryan R Rees

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The Gilmer County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the \$17,578,591 proposed general fund budget for 2010 Thursday, Dec. 10.

The meeting will be held in the jury assembly room of the county courthouse at 5:30 p.m.

The budget will be adopted Dec. 17 at a special meeting at 6 p.m.

The proposed budget projects revenue of \$17,168,728 from the general fund and \$409,863 from E-911 funds and another \$120,000 from the hotel/motel tax. That will

leave a \$525,000 surplus if approved.

More than half of the proposed budget, \$8,698,014, will go for public safety.

Also on the agenda will be discussion about a proposed change in solid waste disposal in the county. The county currently operates seven trash convenience sites in the county at a cost of nearly \$700,000 annually from the general fund. The board is considering having solid waste removal handled by a private contractor who would charge residents for trash disposal.

To compensate, a reduction in property taxes would be incorporated.

Times-Courier continues food drive

The publishers and staff of the Times-Courier are jumping into the giving season early by hosting a canned food and goods drive. Those who donate two or more canned food items or other necessary staples when they come in to the Times-Courier office will be given a free copy of the newspaper.

Collection baskets are located just inside the front door and donations will be accepted during business hours Monday through Friday.

The donated items will then be given to the Gilmer County Community Food Pantry.

The food pantry is in dire need of canned meats, canned vegetables and fruits and

soups. They also need canned pastas and other meals, as well as canned juices.

Boxed meals such as Hamburger Helper and instant potatoes are needed, as is dried milk, cocoa mix, coffee and tea. Cereals, dried beans, rice and cooking oil are also appreciated.

The food pantry also accepts toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap and shampoo. The pantry also takes cash donations to put toward buying goods in bulk and at reduced prices. A donation jar is also located at the Times-Courier.

We hope you join with us as we join with the rest of the community during this season by participating in this worthwhile project.

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Christmas story deadline is this Friday, Dec. 11

Christmas is quickly approaching – it is only two weeks away – which means it is time to compose a Christmas story for the annual Times-Courier Christmas Story contest.

The deadline for entering a story is this Friday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m.

The winning stories, and as many of the others as space allows, will be published in the Dec. 24 edition of the Times-Courier. The first place winner will receive \$35, second place \$25, and third place \$20.

Entries should be 500 words or less, and typewritten, if possible. Artwork may be submitted with stories, but it will not be judged as part of the contest.

Stories can be submitted via e-mail by sending them to the computer address editor@timescourier.com, or they can be mailed to the Times-Courier, P.O. Box 1076, Ellijay, GA 30540. You may also drop them by our office at 47 River Street. Label all correspondence, including e-mails, as "Christmas Story."

Please include name, address, and phone number.