



## Dance troupe closes B.E.S.T. Series March 15

See Gilmer Living 1B



## Spring sports begin

See Sports 1C



## GHS drama performs 'Millie'

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# Times-Courier

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## Complaint against BOE filed with accrediting agency

by Whitney Crouch

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A complaint has been filed with a school accrediting agency concerning the Gilmer County school system's potential violation of the organization's accreditation stan-

dards.

"The complaint alleges violations in the area of governance and leadership. The complaint alleges inappropriate behavior of a board member," reads a letter dated Feb. 3 from the AdvancED school accrediting agency to

the local school system. "Specifically, the allegations include violations of board policy by interfering in the district's day-to-day operations, state open meeting laws regarding the dismissal of the former superintendent (Bryan Dorsey) and possible

violations relating to a breach of confidentiality regarding an employee's health records."

The possible infractions are against Accreditation Standard 2, which deals with governance and leadership. "They're just allegations at this point,"

emphasized Dr. Mike Bryans, state director for AdvancED Georgia during a *Times-Courier* interview.

He went on to explain that the previously referenced letter was sent to the school system as part of AdvancED's standard protocol for

responding to complaints.

As explained in the document, Supt. Jason Kouns had 30 days to respond to the allegations and from there AdvancED officials would determine "what

See BOE page 3A

## Personal property seminars today

by Michael Andrews

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Two seminars explaining how personal property is appraised and taxed will be presented by the Gilmer County Office of Assessors Thursday, March 6.

The free, public seminars will be held at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the main jury assembly room of the Gilmer County Courthouse.

The sessions are being conducted to answer questions and to explain personal property taxation procedures, said chief appraiser Richard Lamb.

Members of the office's staff who specialize in the

See Seminars page 3A

## New queen crowned



PHoto by Whitney Crouch

Winifred Scigliano, left, is crowned queen of Gilmer Nursing Home Thursday, Feb. 27, by the reigning 2013 queen, Ruth Stallings, who oversaw the coronation as part of the nursing home's 37th annual pageant. For more coverage, see story in the Gilmer Living section of this week's edition.

## Gilmer catalyst group unveils economic development plan

Gilmer County Catalyst Group

Travis Crouch, speaking on behalf of the

Gilmer County Chamber of Commerce Catalyst Group, recently unveiled a collaborative strategy to address economic development in the county to a gathering of public and private sector community leaders.

### How it started

The catalyst group was formed in March of 2013 as an initiative of the chamber. The group consists of 18 members of our community; nine from the private sector and nine from the public sector. The selection of the group members was intended to produce a microcosm of the community, with representatives from each of

its constituent segments. The stated purpose of the group was and is ensuring that the community continues to move forward toward reaching its fullest potential.

For the first eight weeks, the group's task was to candidly assess the present state of Gilmer County through a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). Once the SWOT analysis was completed, the focus of the group became the identification of a few actionable items which would significantly improve the communi-

See Group page 5A

## FDIC seeks to ban former Ellijay banker

by Mark Millican

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Citing "personal dishonesty" and "willful or continuing disregard" for the bank he worked for, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or FDIC, filed notice late last year to prohibit a former Ellijay banker accused of fraud from further participation in a fiduciary institution that involves federally insured deposits.

William R. "Rusty" Beamon Jr., 53, a former senior officer with Appalachian Community Bank based in Ellijay, also is charged with six federal counts of bank fraud by U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia for allegedly "defrauding the bank using a real estate

scheme," court records show.

ACB was shut down by federal regulators in March 2010. Beamon pleaded not guilty to the federal charges in March 2013 in federal court in Gainesville.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell Phillips said in April 2013 "a lot of procedural things will have to be done before (Beamon) goes to trial" on the bank fraud charges.

"Nothing (is) scheduled at this time, but I expect the case to go to trial in the next few months," Phillips said in an email update last week.

He noted that as the insurer for ACB deposits, FDIC was on the hook when the bank went under.

See Banker page 5A

## 4 candidates qualify for BOC seats so far

by Ryan R Rees

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Four candidates qualified for two open positions on the Gilmer County Board of Commission, but none for two available positions on the school board, as of last Tuesday.

Danny Hall and Charlie Paris both qualified for the BOC chairman's post, while Mayra Torres and Joe Waldrop qualified for the Post 2 position being vacated by Hall at the end of the year.

Official qualifying ends Friday at noon in the Probate Court office.

The qualifying fee for commission chairman is

\$1,957.86, and for Post 2 chairman the fee is \$195.79 (3 percent of respective salaries). The fee for school board is \$43.50.

Mark Simmons announced he was running for the chairman position but had not filed official qualifying papers by last Tuesday.

No one has qualified or announced their intention to run for the non-partisan Post 4 and Post 5 school board seats now held by Michael Bramlett and Gary Hyde. Neither has indicated they will seek re-election.

The primary election will be conducted May 20.

12:02

Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 9

See related story, 8D

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• Tractor Supply • Smart Source • Lowe's • Ruby Tuesday



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American Red Cross

Your Life Saving Gift is Needed!  
**Ellijay Community Blood Drive**  
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Kathy Aker  
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