

Council...from page 1A

out Waffles' occupational tax application.

Likewise, Windham's sign application for Core Capital Financial Services was approved.

The city also approved the occupational tax certificate application for Willis Oil, Inc. No. 6, Kimsey B. Willis and Judith Cecil, corporate officers.

Local residents might recognize that business as the BP Station adjacent to Kentucky Fried Chicken.

The BP Station's previous management had to surrender their alcohol license in March following a third complaint against the business for violation of the city's alcohol ordinance. The store also was fined \$10,000 by the council.

Willis Oil, which owns the store, has resumed opera-

tion of the convenience store, Mayor Conley said.

However, the store must do without alcohol sales for the next 10 months, or the remainder of the penalty incurred by Costcutter BP, LLC, Mayor Conley said.

"We're glad to see them opening the store back up," Mayor Conley said. "It's a sales tax generator and it's not good to let a convenience store sit unattended for a year. I'm sure they'll find another tenant to lease that store, but in the meantime, they've got it up and running."

The Council went into executive session last week to discuss pending litigation. Though one could not speculate what that litigation might be, it might be easy to assume that the council was discussing the remnants of Allison

Outdoor Advertising's suit over the city's sign ordinance.

Mayor Conley declined comment about the closed session, saying that the city took no action and that the discussion was in regard to pending litigation.

Meanwhile, Mayor Conley and the council objected to the North Georgia News' headline in its May 2nd edition that the city's sign ordinance was ruled unconstitutional.

Senior Judge Robert Struble ruled that the city's sign ordinance was procedurally invalid, meaning "there were no city sign restrictions in place" at the time that Allison Outdoor Advertising submitted its six sign applications, Union County Superior Court documents show.

By law, Allison Outdoor

Advertising was entitled to proceed with the proposed signs, Judge Struble ruled, though, the wording "unconstitutional" was not used.

In summary, Judge Struble ruled in favor of Allison Outdoor Advertising's motion for partial summary judgment, denied the city's motion for summary judgment, and ruled that the city must let Allison Outdoor Advertising post and operate the signs for which it brought the legal action against the city and that the city must complete any paperwork necessary to obtain state permits for Allison Outdoor Advertising's signs.

Judge Struble also reopened discovery regarding the remaining claims in the case for a period of 90 days. Allison Outdoor Advertising also sought damages against the city.

Essay...continued from page 1A

would come from her class.

"I read Madison's essay and when I turned the papers in, I told everyone, I think I've got the winner in this stack," she said. "I knew it was good and to have been declared the winner among 773 entries, that was quite an accomplishment."

Madison's overall goal for the city of Blairsville was to become a "prettier, cleaner, more modernized and in my opinion, the best town to live in."

Mayor Jim Conley was ecstatic about Madison's award. He presented her with a framed copy of her essay, a

gift bag, and a check for \$250.

"I was very impressed with Madison's essay, she's a very sharp young lady," Mayor Conley said. "She brought out some excellent points in the essay. Those points allow us to draw good conclusions from that which we need to put into practice."

"For a sixth grader to come up with these ideas, to me, that indicates a very sharp mind," he said. "She's very observant and it's obvious that she knows her town."

Mayor Conley said that the essay shows that Madison knows Blairsville very well. "You can tell when you

read the essay that she has observed what she has written in the essay," Mayor Conley said.

If Madison were mayor, she would limit the smoking areas in Downtown and make sure that they are far enough away from the entrances and exits at local businesses. She also would create legislation that would call for fines that would serve as a deterrent to littering. Madison also would pursue state and federal grant dollars to redevelop Downtown buildings in need of renovation. She also would encourage Downtown business own-

ers to restore their businesses to historic beauty.

Finally, Madison would beautify Downtown with more attractive trees, shrubs and flowers.

"I think Madison's victory is very encouraging to other local students when it comes to participating in essay contests about their community," Mayor Conley said. "The Georgia Municipal Association does this contest each year for all sixth graders in the 12 GMA districts throughout the state."

"To be selected as having the winning essay has to be a very rewarding feeling," Mayor Conley said.

Badge 221...continued from page 1A

marker now stands at the entrance to the Sheriff's Office headquarters, the names Whittle and King are inscribed on the marker's face.

Whittle's father, mother, widow and children left behind still mourn his loss.

Deputy Whittle was the only child of Jim and Sharon Whittle.

Sheriff Stephens retired Badge 221, the one worn by the 38-year-old deputy. He also retired his service revolver, and presented it to the Whittle family. He also presented the Whittle family with the fallen deputy's uniform.

"From this day forward, no one in the Union County Sheriff's Office will ever wear Badge 221 again," Sheriff Stephens said. "It is forever retired in honor of Deputy Derrick Whittle's selfless actions in the line of duty."

Deputy Whittle succumbed to injuries sustained Sept. 18, 2011 while responding to a domestic dispute with weapons involved. He died

three days later at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Deputy Whittle was responding to a domestic disturbance involving weapons when his patrol car left the roadway and struck a tree near the intersection of Mt. Pleasant Church Road and Bowers Circle.

He was transported to Union General Hospital before being flown to Erlanger Hospital. Deputy Whittle had served with the Union County Sheriff's Office for less than one year.

Chief Deputy King died in 2005 after an extended illness.

During his career, he served as a revenue agent with the Georgia Department of Revenue Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit for 15 years, and with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for more than a decade.

After retiring from the GBI, he was employed by the White County Sheriff's Office as Chief Deputy for more than 10 years. Chief Deputy King

also supervised the Tri-County Drug Task Force before coming back to Union County where served as Chief Deputy with the Union County Sheriff's Office until his death.

Union County Public Safety Chaplain Jeff Deaver told the crowd that being a public servant was more than just wearing a badge and putting on a uniform.

"When you see a man or woman in uniform, stop and thank them for what they are doing," Chaplain Deaver said. "These brave men and woman have a job to perform. It takes a special person to do that each and every day so you and I can have peace to lay our heads down at night."

"We go to bed at ease knowing that someone is trying to protect our neighborhood from danger," he said.

"We sleep with ease because we know we are protected. Always remember the souls that afford us that comfort."

Art show...continued from page 1A

and enjoy the treasure that exists in Union County - The Appalachian Trail.

High School art teacher Molly March says, "We have more auction pieces in the silent auction this year with 100% participation. Some students donated more than one piece - this generation of young people has learned to give back."

Many different art mediums were included in the 2012 Student Art Show. There were large interactive exhibits, paint-

ings, pottery, metal sculptures, small sculptures, drawings, and composite pieces.

Student quilt paintings were a highlight of the show. A study in color theory, students learned to mix paints and apply a clean edge. The practice of quilting served as inspiration. Students chose from existing quilt patterns or created their own. Paper squares were either pieced together or layered using an applique method.

Jordan Olmstead talks

about his artwork, "My piece is about when I broke wood in karate and when I learned to play guitar. The long maroon bend is for the Cherokee Indians because they hunt and do lots of art."



Bids are placed at Silent Auction



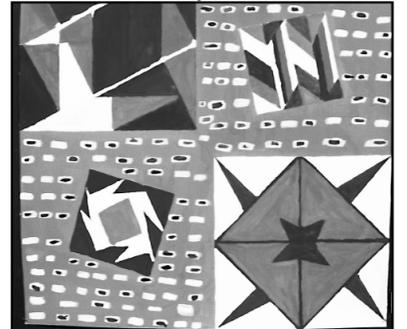
Jordan Olmstead with his artwork



Drawing by 11th grader Rheanna Dockery



Mask by 11th grader Rheanna Dockery



Quilt painting by Christopher Thompson



Painting by 2nd grader Jacey Lee