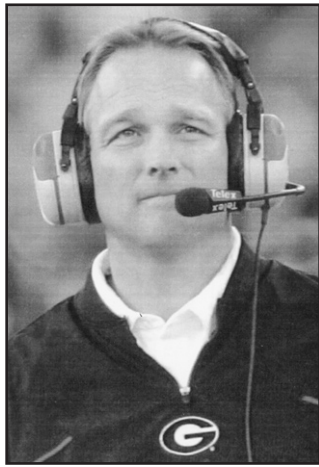


Inspirational speaker Coach Mark Richt to speak at First Baptist Church to benefit Glenda Gooch House

We would like to thank each and everyone that has purchased a ticket for this upcoming event. Proceeds from this event go to benefit The Glenda Gooch House. Mark Richt is a devoted husband and father to four children. His personal appearances are always very positive and uplifting. Coach Richt does three to four benefit events per year and The Glenda Gooch House was selected for the event on February 18, 2011.

Adult tickets are \$20 each and student tickets (5-18 yrs.) are \$10 each. A parent or responsible adult must escort any child (under 16) to and from the event. Parents of students with tickets will be allowed to check their child out of school at 11 a.m. No nursery provided. Tickets are available at United Community Bank. The doors will

open at 11 a.m. with the speaking event starting at 12:15. In compliance with UGA there will not be an opportunity for photo or autograph sessions. We also ask that there are no cell phones, cameras or electronic devices used in the church at that time. If you lose your ticket IT WILL NOT BE REPLACED and there cannot be a bad weather make up day. Your ticket purchase is a tax deductible donation, so write "donation" on your check. Your checks should be made out to The Glenda Gooch House. There will be no food allowed in the church. Some of our local restaurants will offer a 10% Bulldog Discount for lunch following the speech. Just show your ticket to receive the discount. The participating restaurants will have red/black balloons outside and an announcement on



Inspirational speaker and UGA coach Mark Richt

the door. A list of these restaurants will appear in the paper and be available online at the glendagoochhouse.org closer to the time of the event.

Surprise your Valentine with a ticket to this wonderful event.

Parking is limited so please carpool if possible. First United Methodist Church on Hwy. 515, will allow parking in their lot for this event with a shuttle bus to and from First Baptist Church. NTJan19,Z6/CA

Support...continued from page 1

The commissioner said that over the past year, extensive planning and discussions have taken place with local residents and civic groups, many of which have called a SPLOST sooner than March 15.

"I declined those requests due to the fact that a vote earlier than March 15, 2011 would have temporarily set the total sales tax for Towns County at 8 percent," Commissioner Kendall said. "There was no need for an 8 percent sales tax."

Commissioner Kendall studied the numbers and made a conservative revenue estimate of the amount of revenue the proposed sales tax extension could produce.

"In order that voters will know exactly what they are voting on and that any extra funds could not be used for projects not listed, I required language be added to the referendum that requires all additional rev-

enues, after listed projects are completed, to be used for property tax roll back for residents in the county, and the cities of Young Harris and Hiawassee," he said.

The county has a high number of part-time residents while also serving as a tourist magnet. Much of the estimated \$12.7 million expected to be generated over the next six years will come from those pockets, the commissioner said.

"This will require them to help pay for infrastructure needs of the County, and its municipalities," Commissioner Kendall said. "And should the referendum not be approved by voters, many of these necessary local projects will have to be eliminated and several will have to be paid for with Towns County residents' property tax."

Projects that mostly would come from local coffers if the proposed referendum failed would likely

include ambulances, road repairs, \$175,000 in local dollars to match \$1,750,000 State grants to expand and update Hiawassee and Young Harris libraries, the commissioner said.

"Therefore, my decision was to call for the vote allowing Towns County residents to make this decision," he said. "If approved, the total sales tax for Towns County will remain at 7 percent which is the same as all adjoining Georgia counties. When Towns County citizens make purchases in adjoining Clay and Cherokee, N. C. they pay 8.75 percent to support their government."

"After a year of planning and negotiating, I feel we have come up with a plan that I can put before the voters and support that it be adopted," he said. "Just as all laws created in a democracy by man, it is not perfect. The only perfect law was the one Moses brought down from the mountain."

Fire claims two homes

A couple's vacation getaway caught fire on Sunday, January 9th on Hwy. 288 near Hiawassee.

The call went out for a travel trailer on fire at 1:30 pm. Fire fighters from all stations responded to find the structure fully engulfed in fire. After extinguishing the blaze, some clothing and medications were retrieved. The possible cause was a heater in the trailer.

Four days later on the 13th at 12:20 pm, a second structure fire was paged out as an all call to fire fighters. On arriving at 1502 Smithfield Lane, off Hwy 66 in Young Harris, a garage fire was found progressing into the attic. Fire fighters entered the residence of Justin Eller, battling the blaze back into the garage area. Unstable conditions of the attic area forced fire fighters to pull back with ceiling panels and

burning debris falling into the main floor of the home. An exterior attack was begun in an attempt to suppress the fully engulfed attic fire. Multiple hose lines were directed on the burning structure and eventually suppressed the fire. The home was a total loss. Cause of the fire was a heater in the garage.

In this unusually cold January, residents are using any means to keep areas of their home warm. Be careful in placement of portable heaters and make sure that no flammable materials are close to heat sources.

With many homes using wood heat, extra precautions need to be taken to prevent chimney fires by cleaning the flue and closing dampers before leaving home. Please be careful with all ignition sources this winter.

Capt. David Sellers

Resolution...from page 1

issue general obligation bonds in anticipation of the SPLOST proceeds to pay for capital projects.

However, the referendum must pass in both respective cities in order to sell GO bonds. If the measure passes in the county, it is automatically guaranteed to sell GO bonds.

The county would seek general obligation bonds for \$6.2 million or 59 percent of the total anticipated county collection; the city of Hiawassee would seek general obligation bonds for \$685,000 as would the city of Young Harris to fund capital outlay projects.

If the SPLOST fails, the county would purchase 25,000 gallons per day of sewer capacity from the city of Hiawassee for \$125,000. The two entities would split sewer connection fees 50-50 on the 25,000 gallons. The \$125,000 would be paid as the city of Hiawassee needs it to be paid, but no later than July 1, 2013.

If the SPLOST passes, the county would pay \$150,000 for the 25,000 gallons per day sewer capacity from the city of Hiawassee with a 50-50 split, to be paid whenever the cities desires it, but no later than July 1, 2013.

If the SPLOST passes and the city of Hiawassee is able to secure a 1.45 million federal grant for water and sewer expansion from 300,000 gallons per day to 500,000 gallons a day, the county would pay \$150,000 for the construction of a nitrogen and phosphorus removal facility for Lake Chatuge and \$300,000 for sewer capacity expansion for both the city and the county.

A 50-50 split of the connection fees between Hiawassee and Towns County would apply. The city would also receive 50,000 gallons per day of additional sewer capacity.

New officers installed for Northeast Georgia Board of Realtors



Left to right: 2004 GAR President Buddy Weston, GAR CEO Deb Junkin, 2011 GAR President Anne Gault, 2010 NEGBOR President Andrea S. Bowman and 2011 NEGBOR President Faron W. King.

2011 Georgia Association of REALTORS® (GAR) President Anne Gault performed the installation of the Northeast Georgia Board of REALTORS® (NEGBOR) Directors and officers for 2011.

NEGBOR's President for 2011 is Faron W. King.

Faron has been a very active member of the board and has served in various capacities since joining the board in 1999. Faron will be joined on the leadership team by President-Elect Carol Hayes, First Vice President Sonja Silvers and board CEO Susan Phillips along with newly installed and returning board members from across the board's six county service delivery area.

Faron is also the Vice President of Coldwell Banker High Country Realty. The company has four regional offices and 76 agents. Faron serves as Managing Broker of

the Hiawassee and Murphy regional offices.

Faron and the leadership team are very optimistic for what 2011 holds for the real estate industry. The team has wasted no time in digging in to value added projects to benefit the board membership with an announcement forthcoming on the first of those projects.

TJan19,K1/SH



FASHION TIP of the week

By Sarah Bavero

Chunky, over-sized sweaters in bright colors are a great way to feel warm in this gray, winter weather.

Please send your fashion inquiries to: sarahbavero@gmail.com. NJan19,A3/SH

Faculty artists recital at YHC

Young Harris College's Division of Fine Arts will present a Music Department Faculty Artists Recital on Monday, Jan. 24. The free concert is open to the public and begins at 7 p.m. in Glenn Auditorium of the Clegg Fine Arts Building on the Young Harris College campus.

lightful evening of music will feature vocal and instrumental performances by the College's renowned music faculty. The program will include both classical and contemporary pieces.

For more information, contact the Division of Fine Arts at (706) 379-5182. TJan19,H3/SH

This inspiring and de-