

## SB 485...from page 1A

sion because of more filings in child support cases, foreclosures and a myriad of other cases.

Seabaugh, the lone sponsor of SB 485, determined the judgeships to be eliminated in the 16 circuits after evaluating the number of cases filed per judge.

"Those areas which only have two judges will not be reduced," Seabaugh said. "In many areas, the average workload of Superior Court judges is 3,200 cases. The judgeships to be eliminated averaged approximately 1,200 cases per judge. Those cases will be disbursed among the remaining judges in that circuit."

Seabaugh is suggesting eliminating an Enotah judgeship in a circuit that covers four counties — Towns, Union, White and Lumpkin. The circuit already has a critical backlog of cases yet to be heard between the three existing judges.

"In this budget atmosphere, nobody is exempt from

cuts," Seabaugh said. "If we can find significant savings in areas where we can consolidate, those are cuts we won't have to make to education. This is an initial proposal. I'm asking for input from the courts to ensure that the right judgeships are eliminated."

According to Seabaugh, the 2010 Fiscal Budget is more than 7 percent lower than the 2009 budget and it is 8.5 percent lower than Gov. Perdue's original 2010 budget estimate.

"Every department's budget has been affected by budget cuts, including Natural Resources, the Forestry Commission and the State Accounting Office and Administrative Services," Seabaugh said.

The number of Superior Court judges has increased each year for the past several budget cycles, according to Seabaugh.

"This legislation proposes to scale back in circuits where the number of cases has gone down," he said.

## Fields...continued from page 1A

"I got together with the Industrial Authority and they agreed to lease unused property for the use of temporary athletic fields."

Commissioner Kendall, Authority Chairman Morris Phillips, the entire Industrial Authority Board, as well as Wes Hooper, Towns County Recreation Director, met in February to discuss the potential of Park property as a temporary fix for the need of athletic fields for Towns County youth.

All expressed their full support for the temporary project based on the need for athletic fields to support local recreation athletic endeavors.

Commissioner Kendall said that since it is

essential for the Park property to be retained to bring much-needed industry and jobs to Towns County, the conversion from commercial real estate to ball fields will only be temporary.

Kendall and his predecessor, the late Towns County Sole Commissioner Jack Dayton, have tried unsuccessfully for years to acquire property from the TVA and the U.S. Forest Service to be used for athletic fields and recreational purposes.

Commissioner Kendall expressed his appreciation to the Industrial Authority Board of Directors for having the insight to be able to allow the property temporarily to be used for recreational purposes.

## Molestation...from page 1A

Struble set bail with the following conditions that include appearing in court when summoned and required, no contact with the alleged victim nor any member of the victim's immediate family. The bail restrictions also include no contact with any female child age 16 years or younger; surrender

of his passport; waiving extradition from any other state, territory or country while free on bail.

Enotah Circuit District Attorney Stan Gunter and Assistant Chief District Attorney Jeff Langley were in the courtroom on Monday and unavailable for comment on the case.

## Lodge...continued from page 1A

ity as meeting space. The county also agreed to improve the parking area and provide table and chairs, in addition to a public address system for the facility.

"Basically, it's a multi-purpose facility that includes uses by the good people in this community," Nichols said. "We're a service organization. We're here to help. We offer scholarships for our young people and help with other areas of need as they might arise."

The Masons mission as an organization is benevolence toward their fellow man.

"I really don't think enough folks know about the good works that the Masons do," he said. "It's one organization that works hard to make their community just a little more special every day."

The new facility will serve Young Harris pretty much like the Senior Center in Hiawassee, Commissioner Kendall said.

"It's been unreal how Stephens Lodge has come together over the past 44 years to help take care of this community. They've raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years to benefit the community and its people."

The meeting space comes with a token fee. Groups wishing to schedule

future events in the building should contact Stephens Lodge member Paul Shook to make reservations.

The story behind the story is that Stephens Lodge is building a new meeting place, a joint facility with Young Harris Pharmacy. The facility also has enough room to serve as a community gathering place, a quasi civic center, so to speak.

Over the past 44 years, Young Harris Elementary School has served as a site for public events, benefits and elections. Young Harris College recently purchased the elementary school, making it unavailable for future public use.

In turn, Lodge members offered to make available a portion of the new Lodge facility for wedding receptions, birthdays, reunions and family get togethers, as well as an election precinct, and a Town Hall meeting venue.

More than 100 people turned out in September for the emotional and ceremonial groundbreaking event for the new lodge, which will continue to be a partner with Young Harris Pharmacy. No one went home hungry.

"It's about giving back to the community in which we live," Shook said. "That's what being a Mason is all about. It most truly is a sense of community."

## Sara Evans...continued from page 1A

As good as Wayne was on stage, it was Evans that the crowd came to hear.

She didn't disappoint, belting out the songs that made her famous, including *Suds in the Bucket*, *Born to Fly* and *I Could Not Ask For More*.

The two-time Female Vocalist of the Year was just what Natalie Livingston of Jefferson came to see.

"She's incredible," Livingston said. "The entire evening's experience was getting to see Sara Evans live on stage. Jimmy Wayne was icing on the cake. He surprised me, he's an electrifying act."

It was a modest turnout for the concert, despite Evans' star power.

"I'm really surprised that more people didn't at-



Jimmy Wayne ignites the crowd at Anderson Music Hall on Saturday with his unique guitar playing as his band joins in. Many considered the evening a night with two headliner acts. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

tend," said Mary Richardson, of Alto. "Sara Evans is a big star and a wonderful singer. I really expected to see more people here. I was

thoroughly pleased with Jimmy Wayne's performance. I'd like to see him again. I think he's a headliner."