

**From the desk of
Commissioner Bill Kendall**



Budget meets county needs – no services eliminated

The 2011 Budget meets our needs, not our wants. It does not provide salary increases – it does assure all county employees that they will have a job next year and it assures citizens that no county services will be eliminated;

however because of hiring freeze and by attrition some of these services may have to be provided by employees wearing two hats. This is not necessarily bad, and can result in leaner and more efficient government. County governments our size should look to Department heads and

employees being cross trained and responsible for providing services in more than one area. When serving as School Superintendent years ago, I successfully used this philosophy by consolidating all schools into one complex and also drastically reduced the administrative staff, saving the taxpayers large sums of money and put more funds directly into the classroom to better benefit the children. County Government is and can benefit by using this same philosophy to save the taxpayers and enhance public

services. Because we are in the deepest recession since the Great Depression, in adopting this budget, I took into account the uncertainty of future revenues and protected much of the emergency operating reserve funds in order that future budgets could be adequately funded and adopted without increasing property taxes.

Flood plain ordinance adopted

The adoption of the Flood Plain Ordinance at the Nov. 18 County Meeting has been a long and frustrating ordeal which I began back in March, nine months ago. We discovered at this first public hearing that the Flood Maps presented by Federal Emergency Management Agency was riddled with huge errors by placing many homes and property in the flood zone erroneously. I refused to use the maps and FEMA agreed to give me until July 1 to fly over the county and acquire accurate LiDAR data for the maps. We made the July deadline by one day and produced correct maps that took hundreds of homes and properties out of the flood zone. This resulted in enhancing the property values and not having to buy flood insurance will result in savings of many millions of dollars over the coming years. This is one of very few instances where local government challenges then works with a Federal bureaucracy with the citizens coming out the winners. I am relieved that we are at the end of this very time consuming, and challenging process with a positive outcome for our county and citizens.

Questions concerning flood plain map and ordinance

Q: Does the adoption of the Flood Plain Ordinance require citizens with homes in a flood zone to purchase flood insurance?

A: NO – however; by the County having adopted the Flood Plain Ordinance, this will allow citizens to purchase flood insurance at a reduced rate.

Q: Can I purchase or sell a home that is located in a flood zone without having flood insurance?

A: YES – If you or the purchaser has the means, i.e., cash to pay for the home however, if the buyer of your home needs a loan from a Federally (FDIC) backed bank, which is almost all banking institutions, the County Government must have adopted the Flood Plain Ordinance.

Q: If the County has failed to adopt this Ordinance would it have helped or hurt the value of my home which is in the flood zone.

A: If I had failed to adopt the Flood Plain Ordinance it would have lowered the value of homes within the flood zone. Realtors and the real estate market would have been hurt because potential buyers of your property could not get a federally backed bank loan to make the purchase nor could they get the reduced price on flood insurance.

To aid anyone wishing to find out if your property is in the flood zone or to sell or obtain a loan on your property, my office, phone 706 896-2277, will provide, at no cost, a photo of your property with a computerized overlay of it being taken out of the flood zone and a letter with the County Seal certifying that your property is not in the official flood zone map adopted in the County Ordinance. T(Nov24,11)SH

Loretta Lynn...continued from page 1A

crystal clear as it has ever been. Her twin daughters, Peggy and Patsy also performed. The duo sounded like Loretta Lynn in stereo.

One-by-one, Loretta sang those golden hits from her youth, *Blue Kentucky Girl*, *Honky Tonk Girl*, *Don't come Home a Drinkin'* and sang a tribute to Patsy Cline, with one of her close friend's greatest hits, *She's Got You*.

Loretta has written more than 160 songs and released 70 albums. She has had 10 No. 1 albums and 16 No. 1 singles on the Country Music charts. She has won numerous awards including four Grammy

Awards, seven American Music Awards, eight Broadcast Music Incorporated Awards and 10 Academy of Country Music Awards.

Her latest work, *Loretta Lynn: A Tribute to a Coal Miner's Daughter*, an album celebrating Loretta's 50 years in Country Music, includes Cheryl Crow and Miranda Lambert.

True to form, Loretta couldn't leave the crowd hanging. She belted out the classic *Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven, but Nobody Wants To Die*.

Loretta brought the show to a close more than an hour after it began. She broke into her signature

classic hit, *Coal Miner's Daughter*.

As she exited Anderson Music Hall and on to her legendary *Loretta Lynn* tour bus parked out back, she waved to fans who knew to head for the back exit. The bus was already running.

Her son Ernest Ray told the fans that Loretta loved them all, "but right now, she's tired and ready to go."

The *Coal Miner's Daughter* waved to her fans and before she took her first step onto the tour bus exclaimed, "I love y'all."

For those who missed Loretta Lynn's Anderson Music Hall appearance, it was a one of a kind.



County Music icon Loretta Lynn sits back and watches her children perform Saturday night at Anderson Music Hall. Loretta was accompanied by her daughters Peggy and Patsy and son Ernest Ray Lynn. She performed many of her legendary hits dating back to 1960. Photo/James Reese

CB&T supports Middle School basketball



Community Bank & Trust staff is pictured with members of the Towns County Middle School Basketball team presenting them a sponsorship check for the season. T(Nov24,F)SH

Appalachian Duplicate Bridge Club news

On Monday, November 15, ten full tables played a Mitchell movement at All Saints Lutheran Church in Blairsville, GA. Taking top honors East-West were Ray Berry and Harry Reynolds; second, Martha Brewer and Gretchen Bryant; third, Fran Egan and Irene Schoetker; fourth, Myrna Ponkauskas and Kitty Tomkinson; fifth, Joyce Geiger and Pat Mosteller; and sixth, Karol Sulimirski and Barbara Mitchell.

First, North-South, Joe and Joan Lane; second, Jim Bell and Gwen Weaver; and third, Chris Tompson and Madelin Seiferman.

On Thursday, November 18, five full tables played a Howell movement at All Saints Lutheran Church. Coming in first were Joan and Joe Lane; second, Martha Brewer and Irene Schoetker; third Ned Cahill and George Seiferman; and fourth, Lynn Melick and Jim Shinholster.

The club meets every Monday and Thursday at All Saints beginning at 1:00. We would welcome any interested bridge players to join us for a fun-filled afternoon of bridge. If you need a partner or information about the games, please call Dorothy Smith at 706-745-1532. N(Nov24,Z)10/CA