



Photo by Michael Andrews

Employees of the Amerigas supplier in Talking Rock hoist propane tanks out of floodwaters onto a loading dock Wednesday, Aug. 7

Flooding

from 1A

the Leeches community.

“There were numerous properties that may have had some kind of effect from the water, whether it pushed against the house or affected their well or driveway,” he reported. “We rescued between five and seven people, a couple out of vehicles, and a few folks needed assistance out of their homes. No injuries reported this time either — we’re very fortunate for that. Basically, the flooding occurred because the saturation of the ground over the last few months (means) there’s no absorption, so that quick rainfall went off very quickly.

Gilmer County Board of Commissioners Chairman JC Sanford said all county roads damaged by the storms are now open, but “there’s a lot of work left to do.”

Sanford said 12 culvert bridges were damaged to some degree.

Asked about Gilmer and Pickens fire and rescue units working together since both instances of flooding have been along their shared border, Pritchett replied, “We’ve pretty much had our hands full with our own stuff. Some of the resources we had here staging (for potential action) we did send to Pickens County to help with their rescues, though. I’m very proud of our guys. Everybody stepped up to the plate without any issue.”

What about a fore-

cast?

“The only thing I’m getting from the weather service right now is that it’s going to continue to be wet with some pockets of dry,” he said last Monday. “From what I gather, pretty much expect anything — there are no absolutes.”

He was asked if his department was presently at full force.

“We are for what we’re funded,” he answered.

Meteorologist weighs in

Patrick Core, chief meteorologist for WDEF News 12 in Chattanooga, said the phenomena that are causing storm systems to stall over an area and dump copious amounts of rain are twofold: a lot of rainfall earlier this year and wet weather patterns that are not moving.

“If you remember last year, it was so hot we couldn’t buy a rain shower,” he recalled. “This year, we have the total opposite weather pattern where what folks experienced out west — with a good bit of rain and we had all the heat — now they’re experiencing all the heat and we’re experiencing all the rain. One thing that is typical in the summertime is that weather patterns slow down, so when you have one slowing down or not moving much, what you have is what you get.

“So that has pretty much been what you have seen this summer, pretty wet and not that hot. It’s stayed that way through August and I don’t see a whole lot of

Driver with ‘no lights on’ allegedly caused wreck with multiple injuries

From Staff Reports

A Cherry Log man who allegedly caused a wreck with multiple injuries by not having his headlights on Friday night, Aug. 9, has charges “pending” against him, according to the Georgia State Patrol.

Gregory J. Brown, 45, was traveling north on Highway 515 in a 2000 Mitsubishi Montero Sport with a female passenger from Ellijay near the Highland Crossing shopping area and “had no lights on after dark,” witnesses stated in a crash report. An Ellijay man and his wife in a 2000 Ford Explorer were traveling south on 515 and attempting to turn left onto Highland Cross-

ing when the Montero hit them, according to the report.

A third vehicle, a 2011 Kia Sorento, was being driven by a Mineral Bluff man who was attempting to turn off Highland Crossing onto 515 North when he was struck by the Montero after the initial collision.

The wreck occurred just after 9 p.m., the report stated.

The woman with

Brown was life-flighted to Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga. Brown was taken to Erlanger by ambulance by Gilmer EMS personnel. On Tuesday, an Erlanger spokeswoman said neither Brown nor the woman were patients.

The Ellijay couple in the Explorer were each taken to North Georgia Medical Center, and the Mineral Bluff man and his female passenger

from Ellijay were taken by Gilmer EMS to Piedmont Mountanside hospital in Jasper.

All the injuries were described as “non-fatal.”

Brown was suspected of being under the influence of medications, drugs and/or alcohol, according to the report. A state patrol officer said Tuesday charges against Brown are pending while the accident is being investigated.



W. Gilbert



H. Gilbert



Pantoja

Pot

from 1A

and drug task force agents, went to the residence and located approximately four large marijuana plants in a garden. Further investigation led to the discovery of additional well-maintained marijuana plants at a nearby residence.”

Nicholson added Gilmer detectives assisted in the operation by executing a search warrant at Alpine Court. Another suspect is being sought.

Later in the day, the air unit located another marijuana grow off Ravencliff Road, the release said.

“The ground team went to the location and seized approximately 50 smaller

marijuana plants,” Nicholson said. “The investigation of that location led officers to a residence located off Waters Road in the Walnut Mountain area, where the officers ultimately located a large marijuana grow inside the residence.”

Investigators confirmed the Gilberts were connected to the Ravencliff location as well as the indoor grow, he explained. Officers seized more than 120 “very well-maintained” marijuana plants and 42 firearms at the residence, most of which were loaded.

A sheriff’s office spokeswoman said the Gilberts were arrested without incident.

“This was a very productive day for law

enforcement in Gilmer County,” Nicholson said. “Only a few years ago it was very rare to find someone growing marijuana, but in the last two to three years it seems to have come back in full force, and the manner in which it’s being grown in these indoor environments makes it a very lucrative illegal drug operation.”

He noted deputies and task force officers have made “substantial” arrests in indoor growing operations in the last two years.

“I am very appreciative of the efforts of the Governor’s Task Force, which has provided incredible support to Georgia’s local law enforcement agencies in the last couple of years,” Nicholson said.

New Office Hours

8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday



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Notice of Public Hearing For Capital Improvement Element/STWP Annual Update

Gilmer County, the City of Ellijay, and the City of East Ellijay will hold a joint public hearing to inform the public of the intent to update the Short Term Work Program (STWP) within their Joint Comprehensive Plan and to receive suggestions and comments on the proposed update that is pending. The Ellijay-Gilmer County Water and Sewerage Authority has prepared their annual impact fee Financial Report for 2011-2012, as well as their Capital Improvements Schedule of Improvements for 2012-2017. This public hearing is required annually as part of the State process for updating the Short Term Work Program and the Capital Improvements Element, and both are required for consideration due to the Development Impact Fee Ordinance administered by the Ellijay-Gilmer County Water and Sewerage Authority. The public hearing is part of the process that is necessary to allow all participating governments to maintain their Qualified Local Government (QLG) status.

Materials related to this public hearing are available for review at the East Ellijay City Hall, 107 Oak Street, East Ellijay, Georgia during regular business hours, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The public hearing will be held in the East Ellijay City Hall, 107 Oak Street, East Ellijay, Georgia, on **Thursday, August 29, 2013, 10:00 a.m.**

Mack Wood
Projects Manager