

# Smoky Mtn. Sentinel

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 44

Clay County, NC

FOUR SECTIONS • November 9, 2005 • 50¢

www.smokymountainsentinel.com  
You can now visit us online!



Hayesville High School Men's and Women's Cross Country teams win the State Championship race. HHS women's team enjoys their 3rd consecutive state title.  
See page 1C



The original Cheaper by the Dozen opens at the Peacock Playhouse this Friday.  
See page 1B

## Commissioners: "I've learned more, I'm not for (Interstate 3)."

By Carla Owens  
Sentinel writer

Although County Commission Chairman Stephen "Doc" Sellers said it is highly unlikely that Interstate-3 will ever become a reality, County Commissioners did all but make an official statement against the Interstate which would connect Knoxville, TN with Savannah, GA via the Blue Ridge and Smokey Mountains.

"I'm against it," Commissioner Paul Jordan stated. "I don't think the solution to solving Atlanta's traffic

problem is shifting it up here," he added.

Commissioner Dwight Penland, who had previously said he was for growth if it would bring jobs, said he had looked into the I-3 issue further. He did not mince words at Thursday's County Commission meeting, emphatically stating: "I've learned more, and I'm not for it."

Chairman Sellers was not as emphatic, simply saying, "I'm not for interstates." Sellers added that he does not foresee an I-3 being constructed through Clay County or any part of

Western North Carolina.

"Even if they did a study, it would be 20 years before a road would be built," he added.

There was some question Thursday night as to whether the money appropriated by Congress for an I-3 study had even been approved.

Members of the Clay-Cherokee Chapter of the Stop I-3 Coalition were on hand for Thursday's Commission meeting, and said that \$1.3 million had been earmarked for the study. Led by John Clarke, the group was asking the Clay County Commission to pass a res-

olution formally stating their opposition to I-3, or at least formally ask that public participation be a requirement for the I-3 study to be conducted by the Federal Highway Administration.

According to the Coalition, a feasibility study for Interstate-3 was ordered by Congress in a transportation bill signed into law on Aug. 10. Such an Interstate, according to the coalition, would be constructed from Savannah by way of Augusta through the North Georgia Mountains up Hwy. 69 to Hwy. 64, eventually connecting North

See COMMISSIONERS, Page 3A

## Rec survey reflects interest

By Carla Owens  
Sentinel photo

According to Teresa Waldroup with Clay County Community In Schools, the response to the recent park and recreation public survey was very good.

The survey was distributed by the county to help gain the community's input into a proposed indoor recreation facility. The county is in the process of seeking grant monies to fund the construction of a county recreation building.

Of the 1,600 surveys sent out 600 had been returned, Waldroup told Clay County Commissioners at Thursday's commission meeting. The survey results showed the first priority of those polled was a

See REC SURVEY, Page 3A

## Politics, Manteo to Murphy

By Frank Bradley  
Sentinel writer

Senator John Snow brought Marc Basnight, a fellow senator from Manteo, to Murphy last week to get acquainted with the area and do a little politicking.

During a luncheon held at the Ballroom with about a hundred prominent Democrats in attendance, Basnight stressed the historical significance of the event; it being the first time that both Murphy and Manteo had residents serving in the state senate at the same time.

Basnight, a senator for 22 years and president of the senate since 1994, had high praise for Snow's performance as a freshman senator. Snow was elected to the office last year.

"He is honest and stubborn," Basnight said, telling how Snow responded when it appeared the special supplement for small schools was in jeopardy. Basnight said Snow sought him out with a well-reasoned argument on why it was vital for it to continue.

Basnight said the \$750,000 small schools supplement will continue at least for this year and next year.

Snow thanked his supporters and



Frank Bradley/Sentinel photo

Senator John Snow (right) and Marc Basnight visited Murphy last week.

Basnight for giving him an opportunity to participate in the state government as much as he had. He told of a couple instances where he felt he made a difference.

"It looked like we were going to lose

all those third-grade teachers aides with a \$58 million cut in the budget," he said. Snow said he checked with the schools back in Cherokee County and found out just how important it was to have teacher's

See POLITICS, Page 7A

### WEATHER



Wednesday

Partly cloudy; High 79°

Thursday

AM Showers; High 61°

Friday

Sunny; High 64°

Saturday

Sunny; High 68°

Sunday

Partly cloudy; High 70°

Monday

Scattered T-storms; High 68°

Tuesday

Partly cloudy; High 71°

## Water/sewer extension 'a go'

By Carla Owens  
Sentinel writer

Members of the Clay County Water and Sewer District, Paul Jordan and Stephen "Doc" Sellers, gave final approval to County Manager Paul Leek to enter into contract with McGill Associates for the engineering study of the Highway 64 East water extension project.

The contract was signed during Thursday evening's Water and Sewer meeting. The feasibility study is for the extension of water and sewer service east along Highway 64 from the Hiwassee River a length of 23,000 feet to State Road 1330 at the Mountain Harbor entrance.

The engineering feasibility study for the Hwy 64 extension is the first phase, which Sellers stated could take 6 to 12 months to complete. Once complete, then the issue of how much it will cost must be considered. Sellers added that they hope this line is in the future but that it is at least a couple of years away.

A group of developers brought their plans for a small subdivision located on the McGlamery property to the Water and Sewer Board Thursday. This development would tie into the existing water and sewer lines near Rivers Edge development. The Board asked that the developers include a 6-inch water line in the development instead of a 4-inch, explaining that the county would reimburse the developers for the upgrade. The subdivision will tie into the county's water system and nothing smaller than a 6-inch line is ever used by the county. After the first year it is standard practice for the county to take over the maintenance of water and sewer lines. Therefore, the county will reimburse the developers for the added cost of the line upgrade.

See WATER/SEWER, Page 7A

## YouthBuild: Taking students to new heights

By Shawna Rosendale-Watkins  
Sentinel writer



Submitted photo

YouthBuild is a federally funded program that assists underprivileged youth gain skills to make a better life for themselves. YouthBuild students return to the classroom after having dropped out of school for many different reasons: lack of parental support, peer pressure, drug abuse, etc.

Local youth applied to be a part of Youthbuild, a program that many students thought was "too good to be true". Through this program they earn their GED, receive student stipends while attending classes, receive guidance for budgeting, construct a house from the ground up through teamwork and learn many lifelong skills.

YouthBuild teaches these students to be leaders in their classroom, on the worksite and in their community. YouthBuild helps students achieve their goals through education and financial support. If a student saves \$800 in a six month period, YouthBuild matches it with \$4,000 to be used as a home loan, a small business loan, or towards a college education.

Many of the students learned about Youthbuild through their friends or their church. Youthbuild is a choice. Students choose to be here and want it desperately; otherwise, there would be no students at YouthBuild.

YouthBuild ensures that students are learning in and out of the classroom. Critical thinking and life skills are prominent in every part of the GED. Having the mathematical skills and knowing how to use them are equally important. Applying these skills in all that we do in life should be integrated into our learn-

See YOUTHBUILD, Page 7A

Smoky Mountain Sentinel  
PO Box 870  
Hayesville, NC 28904  
The Sentinel News Group  
(828) 389-8338

