

## County Commission... continued from page 24

It was referred to the Finance Committee and during that meeting it was found that these particular four units are over 20 years old, no longer have warranties, and may not last much longer. While the juvenile center has only been open for five years, it is housed in the old jail building, which was going on 15 years old at the time it became the juvenile center.

Also discussed was the possibility of using a 0% interest loan to replace these units, replace older lighting, and tint windows to cut down on energy costs. Mayor Davis asked for everyone to think about this loan, because it may be 0% interest, but it will still add to the county's already large debt. Discussion will be brought up again, once there is more information gained about the loan.

Commissioner Stanbery proposed a resolution to request the Legislative Administrator develop a web page available from the County Commission page that includes a listing of all known federal, state, local and non-profit programs that are available to assist senior citizens. A few commissioners had questions about the cost that would be incurred to the county. Stanbery answered, "virtually none." The motion passed unanimously.

The January 25th County Commission meeting was kept rather short, until communication from the audience.

Erin Fuller from the Tasso community was present to

give a presentation on her findings regarding airport airspace zoning and possible compensation, herself and other residents believe they are entitled to. Fuller accused County Attorney Joe Byrd and County Planner Corey Divel



Judge Michael Sharp swears in Willodyne Smith as the new 6th District Commissioner.

of purposely displacing themselves from the meeting in order to avoid her questions.

Divel had told Fuller during a conversation that the laws for the zoning resolution for airspace were actually copied from a Federal Aviation Administration packet. Fuller stated that Divel lied, because wording in the law is actually 'hazard' and she is accusing Divel of changing the word to 'obstruction.'

Fuller soon passed her 5 minute mark allowed for audience communication. While she still had many topics to discuss and demanded more time, the commission specifically stated reasoning to deny Fuller extra time to speak.

Commissioner Jeff Yarber noted, "We are, of the four governing bodies, the only

governing body that allows communication from the audience without being placed on the agenda beforehand." Simply, time limits must be enforced to ensure a timely and orderly meeting.

Furthermore, as mentioned

throughout the entire airport ordeal, Divel has repeatedly asked anyone with questions regarding zoning, airspace zoning or any topics involving the airport to please come by his office and speak to him personally. Divel is located in the basement of the Courthouse Annex off of 1st Street. He can also be reached at 423-728-7141.

The Commission meetings and committee meetings are open to the public. Commission meetings are held in the Bradley County Courthouse. Their voting sessions are on the 1st Monday at 7pm and the 3rd Monday at 10am. Commission work sessions are on the 2nd Monday at 12pm and on the 4th Monday at 7pm. Committees meet as needed.

## City Council... continued from page 24

Vice Mayor Johnson said, "Some of the apartment complexes already have dumpsters, and now we have a resolution that charges the same garbage rate and fee to the individual residents of those apartment complexes. Plus, the owners already provide the dumpsters. It just seems like we are double taxing people. I'm just having a little problem with it because people are asking why they are being charged a fee when they were never charged before." City Manager Janice Casteel answered, "We are charging every person the same fee now. We're not double charging, we're charging the same across the board." Resolution 2010-16 failed 4-3. Councilman Banks said the council voted for a tax on residents without including them in the discussion. He then made a motion to reconsider Resolution

2010-16, and Ordinance 2009-76, which changes the rates, and hold a public hearing to hear concerns of residents. Banks' motion passed 5-1 with Councilman David May voting no. The public hearing will be held on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 4pm to hear comments concerning changes in billing the monthly sanitation fee to equitably fund the city's residential rental properties and a possible reduction of the monthly residential sanitation fee. The hearing is open to the public.

Road improvements were approved for resurfacing Freewill Road from Cumberland Hills Circle to North of Cottonwood Bend and resurfacing Raider Drive from Keith St. to Peerless Road. Public Works Director, Tommy Myers reported that his department was notified by TDOT of a resurfacing project scheduled for Ocoee

Street beginning at Broad Street and extending to North Lee Hwy. This area was not to be resurfaced by TDOT for three more years. However, it is being included in a proposed bid project for another county in order for TDOT to obtain better asphalt pricing.

Resolution No. 2010-21 approving engineering services for design of the Local Interstate Connector (LIC) at Stone Lake Road and APD-40 passed unanimously. The council selected Miller McCoy, Inc. to provide professional engineering services for this project and will be authorized by the mayor after the agreement receives final approval from TDOT.

The Cleveland City Council meetings are open to the public each month at the Municipal Building on Church Street on the 2nd and 4th Monday with the work session at 2pm and the voting session at 4pm.

## Reader has Questions and Issues Regarding County Trustee's Office ..continued from page 11.

Then, Mike Smith turned all the bookkeeping duties over to the County Executive's office of Gary Davis, while still retaining the two employees with salary of bookkeeper and full benefits on the county payroll, along with 4 other full time employees.

Smith: "[My] campaign included a promise that the trustee would no longer accept gratuities, which has been strictly adhered to. [My] campaign also included a promise to not allow any family members to be eligible for no-bid contracts with the trustee's office as had been the practice in the past. [I] did hire [my] sister, (Deborah Ledford) as an accountant with 20 years of accounting experience. This position was needed in the trustee's office as there were over \$1.2 million in financial adjustments made by State auditors in the two years prior to [me] taking office. These adjustments included "property tax, miscellaneous tax and sales tax errors, certificate of deposit interest prorated in error, commissions taken improperly, revenues posted to the wrong fund, health insurance draw coded in error and other error corrections" per the State auditor's adjustments and notes. The accountant position also

corrected the segregation of duties finding that State auditor's had reported on the trustee's office every year on record before [I] took office. This is a finding that noted "employees responsible for maintaining accounting records were also involved in receipting, depositing, and/or disbursing funds" per the auditor's annual report - creating a risk for Bradley County."

Deborah Ledford has also worked with the Investment Committee to establish a new investment strategy that has resulted in over \$1.9 million of additional interest to Bradley County over the past three years. In response to her salary, Smith said, "[She] was not hired at \$47,000 and still does not make that salary, but at \$42,500 and received a 3% cost of living raise the first two years of employment and \$0 raise last year, as all other county employees."

Smith also stated the only bookkeeping duties that have been turned over to the

County Executive's office of Gary Davis were the trustee payroll functions saying, "When [I] took office, the trustee's office owed the IRS several thousand dollars in penalty and interest for errors made in payroll reports and taxes owed to the U.S. government. It was decided this function would best be performed in the Human Resource department along with payroll for other county departments. The bookkeeping and accountant positions within the trustee's office perform separate duties and do not overlap whatsoever."

The audit findings and adjustments of the trustee's office in question are public record. Smith feels the letter from Mrs. Miller was a political vendetta, saying, "Those questions we were ready for in the election, we thought that we would be responding to political ads, not e-mails. It's nothing that we didn't expect, but we didn't expect anybody running it as a story or even as a letter."

## A Trillion Dollars Taxes the Mind and the Taxpayer

By Jim Abrams  
Associated Press

Thinking of counting to a trillion one second per number? Better get started. It will take 31,688 years.

And tack on a few more years if you want to go for 1.35 trillion, the dollar estimate for the federal deficit in the current budget year. The whole sum could be taken care of if every American, all 300 million of them, forked over \$4,500.

Back in 1981, President Ronald Reagan, characterizing the national debt as it approached \$1 trillion, commented that "a trillion dollars would be a stack of \$1,000 bills 67 miles high." The debt,

the accumulation of annual deficits, now stands at more than \$12 trillion. Put another way, the \$1.35 trillion could pay for 40,000 players like Alex Rodriguez, whose \$33 million salary in 2009 made him baseball's richest man.

Or think the \$6.25 billion paid out by Goldman Sachs in salaries and bonuses in 2009 was a lot of money? The federal deficit could support the payroll of 216 such financial firms.

A trip around the world at the equator is about 25,000 miles. So 1.35 trillion miles would be a dizzying 54 million circuits around the globe. A trillion is one followed by 12 zeros. The Washington Monument, overlooking the deficit

debate in the Capitol, stands about 555 feet tall. Stacked end to end, it would take more than 2.4 billion monuments to reach 1.35 trillion feet. That's well more than double the distance from the Earth to the sun.

Being sat on by a 10,000-pound bull elephant would not be pleasant. What about if 135 million pachyderms were piled up?

The Earth has been around for about 4.5 billion years. A long time until you consider that 1.35 trillion years equals 300 Earth lives. Looking at more modern history, 1.35 trillion seconds would take us back more than 40,000 years, when Neanderthals were using stones to make tools.

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