

Fines...from Page 1A

Dehler and Circle K management threw themselves on the mercy of the Council.

"What we're asking of the Council is let us pay a fine, and a time served," Dehler said. "We've been shutdown for 12 days, and we feel we're a good corporate citizen, we follow directions, and we admit our mistake."

Blairsville Assistant Police Chief Michael Baxter vouched for the Circle K stores.

"They're on top of things, they follow the rules, and, all I can say is, this was out of the ordinary," Baxter said.

Dehler added that after examining videotape of the incident, it was clear that there was a violation.

"Prior to the (confidential informant) coming in to the store, the clerk was on the phone with the person who was on the next shift, asking them if they could come in early because of the problem with his tooth," Dehler said. "It's clear that he wasn't himself at the time of the incident."

Blairsville Mayor Jim

Conley told the Council that Circle K has been an exemplary corporate citizen.

"To my knowledge, nothing like this has ever happened before at a Circle K store in Blairsville," Mayor Conley said.

City Attorney Jana Akins told the Council that she had been in discussions with Dehler about the situation.

"We've entered into a stipulation," she said. "A stipulation is not an admission that something has happened."

"Circle K stipulates that their employee sold a six-pack of beer to a confidential informant who was under the age of 21 years," Akins said.

The sale was part of a sting operation conducted by the Union County Sheriff's Office and the City of Blairsville Police Department on Sept. 19th at approximately 7:21 p.m., Akins told the Council.

"They're stipulating that there was a violation and Mr. Dehler will talk to the Council about what kind of penalty will be set," she said.

"The minimum is the



Council member Betty Easter checks the paperwork submitted by Circle K Stores. Photo/Charles Duncan

suspension of one day and a maximum of 45 days for a first offense," Akins told the Council. "A \$1,000 fine is the minimum fine."

Dehler said that Circle K takes the violation of the City's Alcohol Ordinance very seriously.

"We felt like it was particularly appropriate as I like to say, 'man-up, we did this,'" Dehler said. "We sold alcohol to a confidential informant and the young lady was two days shy of her 21st birthday."

"The clerk actually did look at the license," he said.

"It's very clear that happened. At point of sale, they have a computer screen where they have to punch in the date of that person's birth date."

"This was an inadvertent mistake," Dehler said. "The clerk was in pain, he was distracted, he made a mistake."

The Council heard Circle K's side of the story and took action.

The Council fined Circle K \$1,000 and time served, or basically a suspension of their license from Sept. 19th to Oct. 1st, or the time of the hearing during the Council meeting.

Shutdown...from Page 1A

would have so much impact so soon on a local level

"It is extremely unfortunate that our early learners in Union County are not able to participate in the Pre-K or Head Start Program beginning on Monday," Dr. Williams said prior to learning of the change of events. "The Union County School System does not operate the programs, rather Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. is responsible for their implementation."

"We provide the facilities and services for payroll and Special Education," Dr. Williams said. "Special Education personnel paid through Union County Schools will transition to the Primary School until

Pre-K reopens.

"All other functions are covered by Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.," he said. "A total of 84 students and 12 employees are being affected by the government shutdown."

All that happened for only one day thanks to the Arnolds.

The Pre-K program isn't the only victim of the shutdown. Tourism has been greatly impacted.

U.S. Forest Service campgrounds, the legendary attractions at Brasstown Bald, TVA and Army Corps of Engineer campgrounds and boat ramps not leased to county or state governments are closed.

The Georgia 180 Spur

that leads to Brasstown Bald will remain closed until the U.S. Forest Service requests its opening.

Georgia 180 Spur in Towns County leads to the Brasstown Bald Visitor Information Center and Day Use Parking, said Georgia Department Transportation spokesperson Teri Pope.

"The Forest Service requested closure due to the federal government shutdown," Pope said.

The next big fear is the closure of the federal free and reduced school lunch program.

Scott Austensen, chief financial officer for the Georgia Department of Education, said news about funding

for free and reduced lunches will come as they become available.

"In the event that the shutdown continues for a protracted period, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will continue to communicate the availability of funds," Austensen said. "Unless you hear differently from the GaDOE, please continue serving free and reduced meals."

U.S. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner refuses to reopen the vote to allow for government funding to continue.

Speaker Boehner insists that President Obama must negotiate with Republicans if he wants to end the federal government shutdown.

Fugitive...from Page 1A

came back out on the porch and threatened to call her lawyer, the sheriff said.

"Eventually, Mr. Huffman came out on the porch, threatened the deputies," he said. "Eventually, the deputies handcuffed him. They got him down to the patrol car, so we can deal with the two females that were hiding him, and the guy starts kicking the insides out of the patrol car."

"We secured him, removed him and called the transport van to come pick him up," the sheriff said. "We did keep him in custody."

In addition to his Ohio charges, Huffman now faces charges of interference with government property for the

damages to the patrol car, and three counts felony obstruction for not cooperating with law enforcement, the sheriff said.

"We found where he had some firearms in the house, and that led to a charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon," the sheriff said. "And it turns out he was a convicted sex offender in Ohio."

"He wasn't registered here so, we also charged him with failure to register as a convicted sex offender in Union County," the sheriff said.

As for the two females, they face charges as well, the sheriff said.

"The two females were arrested and charged with obstruction," the sheriff said.

Michelle Lynne Myers, 42, was charged with hindering the apprehension of a criminal, and obstruction of a law enforcement officer, the sheriff said.

Jessica Myers, 22, was charged with hindering the apprehension of a criminal and obstruction of a law enforcement officer, the sheriff said.

In an unrelated incident, deputies arrested and charged 30-year-old Krisstoffor Alfred Bouchard with simple battery in violation of Georgia's Family Violence Act following a domestic dispute with his father, that left his mother injured, Sheriff Mason said.

"A call came in from Boy Scout Road in Union

County about a domestic dispute," the sheriff said. "It happened Oct. 3rd. After the investigation, Bouchard was arrested on family violence or domestic charges."



This 400-plus pound black bear was struck by a vehicle on U.S. 129 near Booger Hollow Store on Oct. 1st. It was one of four black bears that died from being struck by vehicles last week. Hunters are reporting that the mast count (food supply) is way down this year, prompting bear, squirrels, deer and other wildlife to scrounge for food where ever they can find it. In the stretch of roadway where this bear died, there was an abundant supply of corn. Obviously, that supply is dwindling as the summer has given way to fall. Motorists should be watchful while driving in rural or non-rural roadways.



A yard sale will be held to benefit the American Red Cross Towns County Disaster Action Team. This is our major fundraiser! We have a wonderful variety of items including tools, furniture, household items, clothes, kitchen items and much more! It will be held on October 12 at the Red Cross office at 1298 Jack Dayton Circle, Hiwassee from 8 until ?

Please help us make this event a success with your donations and purchases. Call Barbara Dardick at 706-896-5558 for a donation pick up.