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that would have with content regulation.

In regards to the pouring permits, much debate was had on whether the city should require establishments, such as Ingles, to acquire a pouring permit for their employees. This discussion led into whether or not the ability to get a temporary permit, a new addition to the county ordinance, would be an appropriate asset to the city.

"The county has started

offering temporary permits for 45 days," said Akins. "So, if an employer hires a new employee, then there's a 45-day window that the employer can require the employee to submit to a background check.

"Essentially, an employer can have an employee who has been working for them for a period of time without completing the background check. But they would have to work under

someone who has a permit at all times."

This temporary permit would cost employees an additional charge that does not include the cost of the final permit, however, it could have negative effects for employees who cannot afford the cost of the permit at all.

It could also have an effect on when an employee can begin working. If the city adheres to the county's ordinance, the temporary permit would cost \$10, plus an additional \$10 for the final permit.

The council will continue to discuss these points before approving the finalized alcohol ordinance in the coming months.

At the end of the meeting, Akins proposed David Barrett to replace her as City Attorney.

"I think he would make us an excellent attorney," said Mayor Conley.

The council approved this proposal, and after Barrett has gotten the necessary certifications, he will begin working at the beginning of 2017 at the latest.

## Gas...from Page 1A

week, and the governors in nearby states have followed suit.

The shortage is due to a break in a major fuel line that delivers gas from Gulf Coast refineries in Texas all the way to the East Coast in North Carolina, where it continues on up to New Jersey.

Colonial Pipeline operates the line in question, which was shut down on Friday, Sept. 9, following the

discovery of a massive leak of somewhere between 250,000 and 340,000 gallons of fuel in Shelby County, Alabama.

It's been nearly two weeks since the leak was discovered, and repairs to the pipeline have reportedly been stalled due to bad weather and fumes, though the company did announce Saturday that it had begun construction on a bypass line to allow its main line to "return to service as quickly as possible."

No timeline has been established for when the bypass

will be completed, but experts believe that the supply will only be effected for another week or so.

Tom Kloza, who heads up Energy Analysis for Oil Price Information Service, told AAA that the Colonial Pipeline could be shipping a normal volume of gas as early as this week.

"I do not anticipate areas where motorists won't be able to find gasoline," Kloza said.

Until Colonial Pipeline gets a steady supply of gasoline running again – hopefully this week – the *North Georgia News* and the *Towns County Herald* recommend that residents call ahead to gas stations before heading out to fill up, especially for residents who are already low on gas.

Fuel prices will likely continue to fluctuate until a normal supply of fuel has been reestablished.

The last time the southeast experienced a major interruption in gas supply was when Hurricanes Gustav and Ike shut down most of the Gulf Coast oil refineries back in 2008.



This has been a familiar sight at pumps around the area

## Proclamations, contracts and more in county meeting

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
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September is a good month for proclamations – just ask Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris.

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The first of the proclamations celebrated the 100th birthday of county resident Elizabeth Hauck, granting Hauck her very own day of Aug. 22, 2016.

"Elizabeth Hauck was born Aug. 22, 1916, in Great Neck, Long Island, New York, and is celebrating her 100th birthday," read the proclamation. "(She) completed cosmetology school right out of high school and went straight to work. (She) worked as a cosmetologist for over 50 years in and around Long Island.

"(She) retired in 1996 and moved to North Carolina to be closer to her niece, and recently moved to Blairsville and currently resides at Stonehenge Senior Living Facility."

Next, the commissioner recognized September 2016 as Union County Recovery Month, and declared Sept. 1, 2016, as Micajah Clark Dyer Day.

"Micajah Clark Dyer was born on July 13, 1822, and lived and farmed in Union County until his death on Jan. 26, 1891," read the proclamation. "Mr. Dyer's only formal education was at a one-room school in Choestoe community.

"(He) is recognized as a true genius because of his many inventions. Some of (his) inventions were running water in his home, an efficient water-powered gristmill, and a 'perpetual motion' machine that could power devices.

"Mr. Dyer's most famous invention was an 'apparatus for navigating the air,' which he flew over a meadow on his farm in the Choestoe community south of Blairsville. (He) received a patent on Sept. 1, 1874, for his flying machine that embodied aeronautical principles theretofore not employed in air navigation."

Commissioner Paris then honored the U.S. Constitution by proclaiming Constitution Week as running from Sept. 17 through Sept. 23, with Saturday, Sept. 17, being designated as Constitution Day in Union County.

Finally, the commissioner proclaimed Sunday, Sept. 18, as "Let's Move! Day."

"Nearly one in three children in America are overweight or obese, increasing their risk for asthma, Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, sleep problems, depression and bullying," read the proclamation.

Continued the commissioner: "Some of the contributing factors are



Lamar Paris

decreased exercise, large portion sizes, too much refined foods, not enough whole grains, fruits and vegetables, and the inability for low-income families to access healthy foods."

According to the proclamation, First Lady Michelle Obama started the "Let's Move!" campaign back in 2010 in order to fight childhood obesity, and the proclamation highlighted the local Blairsville Seventh-day Adventist Church's efforts toward that fight.

Also in the meeting, the commissioner approved a rental agreement between Union County and the state to allow the Department of Juvenile Justice the use of 76B Hunt Martin Street as office space for the amount of \$1 annually through June 30, 2017.

A contract between the county and Freeman Gas was approved in the meeting, guaranteeing the county propane services of \$0.89 per gallon from Sept. 1, 2016, through Aug. 31, 2017.

Commissioner Paris also approved a contract between

the county and the Georgia Department of Transportation in the amount of \$32,591, for the period of July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017.

"This is for our transit system," said Commissioner Paris in the meeting. "As you may know, the county has two buses that were purchased with federal grant administered by the state of Georgia. This transportation is provided to the general public, but is also available for those who have no transportation at all or no way to pay for any.

"For many people, this is the only way they can get to and from the grocery store, the doctor's office or the drug store. The total cost of the operation is \$65,183 a year, with GDOT paying half of that at \$32,591, and Union County's portion being \$32,592."

William Mercer was appointed as Assistant County Attorney in the meeting, to serve as an adviser for the Union County Alcohol Board, and Commissioner Paris also appointed Tammy Collins to the Union County Department of Family and Children Services Board.

During the Commissioner's Comments portion of the meeting, Commissioner Paris let people know how excited he was about the county's current financial position.

"After enduring so many years of recession, it is finally nice to see our county and cities spring to life," said Commissioner Paris. "It seems that most of our business community are having really a successful year. And likewise, the county is experiencing an increase in revenues from sales tax and building permits."



The September County Commission meeting drew a small but warm crowd on Tuesday, Sept. 13.