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INSIDE DEALS THIS WEEK: SmartSource, CVS, Lowe's, Childre Nissan, Ingles, Sears and P&G Brandsaver

Celebrating Monroe County's Women in Business

Section Inside



the Monroe County

Report



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James Thomas Bearden
Mr. Howard J. Blessitt
Hattie Davis
John Larry Henderson
Dorothy Wrye Land
Dr. Betty Ann Hogan Metts
Rodney Dozier Whitehead

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**WELCOME
to the family!**
**New Subscribers
This Week:**

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MaryJane Leggett
Bill Shaw
Rhonda Hutcheson
Steve McArthur
Hunter Giles
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Reporter



All smiles for 8-0 Bulldogs

Receiver Justin Stroud, left, and linebacker Brett Brewer are all smiles during Friday's 24-10 win over Veterans, which put the Bulldogs (8-0, 4-0 region) in sole possession of first place in Region 2-AAAA. The Dogs, ranked No. 4 in the state, host Baldwin this Friday before yet another de facto region title game against West Laurens in Dexter on Nov. 6. (Photo/Kim Holderfield)

Against protests, zoning board OKs business on Lee King Rd.

BY RICHARD DUMAS
news@mymcr.net

The Monroe County Planning & Zoning Board approved Monday night rezoning an 8-acre tract on Lee King Road for a new commercial business to relocate from Byron.

The P & Z board voted 4-1 in favor of rezoning eight acres of a 49.2-acre property owned by Chris

Willingham from agricultural to commercial at a meeting held at the Monroe County Library. Willingham had requested in July that the property be rezoned industrial, but the P & Z board had rejected that request. Willingham then rescinded his request before Monroe County

see LEE KING page 7A



Chris Willingham of Portable Air won initial approval Monday to move his business from Byron to Lee King Road.

County: Do not pay your property tax bill

New ones to be mailed after error leaves bills too low

BY WILL DAVIS
publisher@mymcr.net

Monroe County officials are imploring county property owners not to pay tax bills sent out last week after learning they under-billed by more than \$3 million.

The Monroe County tax commissioners' office discovered the error last Wednesday when a taxpayer called the office trying to figure her tax bill. Tax commissioner Lori Andrews said they hope to send out corrected bills by the end of the week. Andrews sent out a press release saying the bills show the county M&O (maintenance and operations) millage rate at 10.831 with a sales tax rollback of 2.261. In fact, it should say the county M&O rate is 13.816 mills and the rollback rate is 2.985, which would result in the actual 10.831 rate. Like most Georgia counties, Monroe County dedicates 1-percent in sales tax revenues to rolling back property taxes.

Despite several attempts to reach Andrews by phone, she would only communicate by email and refused to say what exactly caused the errors on about 17,000 bills sent out for the county by the company Manatron.

"We apologize for any inconvenience this error may have caused the citizens of our county," Andrews said in her press release. "My office is dedicated to sending an accurate bill as soon as possible."

Commissioner John Ambrose said he's been told that Andrews proofread the bills and let them go out. "That's what upsets me," said Ambrose.

Ambrose said it'll cost the county about \$10,000 to do a second mailing.

County administrator Anita Cauthen said she's organizing a meeting with Andrews, the tax assessors, city and school board officials to find out how the mistake occurred.

"We'll walk through the process and see what the heck happened," said Cauthen. "Sometimes mistakes are made. We just need to fix it and make sure it doesn't happen again."

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'Head' to the Square on Sat.

Forsyth Main Street will present a Fall Festival on the Square from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31. The public is invited as some businesses on the square will be giving out candy. (File photo/Kim Holderfield)

