

The Erwin Record

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TOWN OF ERWIN

Property tax increase on table

By Kendal Groner
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Erwin BMA hears from bond consultant, considers 3.49-cent hike

During a budget workshop held on Monday, July 2, Town of Erwin officials discussed the town's current debt service, a three-percent salary increase for employees and property owned by CSX that is currently for sale.

Steve Queener with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) attended the workshop to provide assistance to the town officials in their discussions on their current debt service and new needs they might have. The TMBF provides a capital outlay program, a fixed in-

terest rate program and a variable interest rate program for cities in Tennessee.

"What we try to do is see if a city has a need and if their need fits one of those programs," Queener said. "You guys have been loyal supporters of the bond fund for several years."

Queener said the town currently has the original \$2.68 million from November of 1995 and currently owes \$793,000 at the current

2.39 percent interest rate. There was also another \$1.3 million from 2009, with an outstanding debt of \$1,021,00 and a current interest rate of 2.36 percent. The most recent was the \$3.5 million borrowed in 2014 for renovations to downtown.

There is currently \$3,098,000 in debt still owed on that loan, with a current interest rate of 2.71 percent.

"Those rates change each

Wednesday," Queener said. "With the fixed rate program, interest rates have gone up. The variable rate has went up some, but not as rapidly."

Queener said many cities are starting to look toward the variable interest rates and on the \$2.68 million loan, the town has paid a little over \$1 million in interest, compared to the approximately \$2 million they would have paid with the fixed rate program. For

the \$1.3 million loan, the town has paid \$141,800 in interest, opposed to the \$417,000 they would have paid with a fixed rate, for savings of \$275,000. Finally, for the \$3.5 million loan, the town has paid \$154,134 in interest, as opposed to the \$430,527 with the fixed rate program, a savings of \$276,000.

"You're probably looking at 3.25 to four percent today," Queener said about the fixed rate program. "That's just a guess ... much more than the three figures I just gave you."

Rosenoff asked if the town were to refinance, if they would be obligated to pay the principal pay-
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LAW ENFORCEMENT

SAVING LIVES



Erwin Record Staff Photo by Kendal Groner

Kellie Abbott, founder of the non-profit organization Blue Forever, is pictured with Unicoi County Sheriff Mike Hensley as she donates belt trauma kits to the department. Each kit contains emergency medical supplies such as QuickClot Combat Gauze, SWAT-T tourniquets, a face shield and latex gloves

Blue Forever donates trauma kits

By Kendal Groner
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The Unicoi County Sheriff's Department is now one of the more than 66 law enforcement agencies that have received life-saving Belt Trauma Kits from the

non-profit organization, Blue Forever.

Blue Forever was the brainchild of Kellie Abbott, who founded the organization as her high school senior project following the tragic death of her friend Sergeant Tim Prunty with the Shreveport Police De-

partment in 2010.

"This guy was essentially just trying to kill a police officer and he saw Tim's car outside while he was talking with this girl," Abbott said. "He shot at Tim, and (Tim) shielded the girl and pushed her out of the way ... he was shot many times, but one of

them was in the femoral artery and he bled out."

Abbott, a Louisiana native and Mississippi State graduate, who is currently in her second year of pharmacy school at East Tennessee State University, said she will be forever impacted

Please see KITS, Page 8-A

"It will be put to good use and undoubtedly it can make the difference between life and death."

— Sheriff Mike Hensley

on his department receiving a donation of Belt Trauma Kits

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Local Relay announces new Festival of Hope

From Staff Reports

In August, Unicoi County residents will join together in the inaugural Festival of Hope. It all starts on Aug. 25 at the traditional Relay For Life of Unicoi County to help the American Cancer Society attack cancer from every angle. This year's Relay For Life event will feature traditional elements, as well as new which will lead to a week full of events that everyone in the community can participate in.

"We are so excited about this year and our new Festival of Hope in Unicoi County," said Jessica Poff, community development manager for the American Cancer Society. "We are all looking forward to bringing the entire county together through different events throughout the week that will have something for everyone. We are thankful for the support of our community and volunteers to make this possible and we can't wait to see it come to fruition."

The American Cancer Society is the cause fighting cancer on every front; standing shoulder to shoulder with cancer patients and those supporting them. Funds raised help the American Cancer Society attack cancer in dozens of ways, each of them critical to achieving a world without cancer - from developing breakthrough therapies to building supportive communities, from providing empowering resources to deploying activists to raise awareness.

The Festival of Hope will feature community-wide awareness activities in addition to the track event. The Sunday focus will be faith-based and feature a community church service and a huge benefit concert with award winning Christian artist, Building 429. Tickets for the concert may be purchased at itickets.com and feature general admission as well as reserved seating. During the week, events such as a Unicoi County High School volleyball game, Caregiver Café and children's activities, "Passport To Hope" celebrity waiter event at The Bramble, a barbecue and cornhole tournament night, and more before the week ends at the UCHS football game on Friday night.

The annual Survivor Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, July 8, at 1 p.m. at Unicoi United Methodist Church. Anyone who has ever heard the words "you have cancer" and a guest are invited to attend. An R.S.V.P. is requested by calling Tina at 743-9136.

In addition to the support of the community, the Festival of Hope is also supported by many local businesses and organizations. To find out how you can get involved, please contact Poff at jessica.poff@caner.org or visit www.RelayForLife.org/UnicoiTN. Together, we can beat our biggest rival.

"We are all looking forward to bringing the entire county together ..."

— Jessica Poff

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This Week's Weather

Thursday 87° 67°	Friday 85° 68°	Saturday 81° 66°	Sunday 83° 65°
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