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of folks were very generous and gave beyond what the price of a ticket was (\$5).

"They bought two tickets and gave us an extra \$20 or so," he said. "They know all that money is staying right here in the community. We were really pleased with the turn out."

For \$5 locals got a heaping plate of scrambled eggs, sausage and plenty of pancakes, complete with lots and lots of pancake syrup. They watched it down with freshly squeezed orange juice or a cup of coffee, sometimes both.

Each year, patrons who purchase a breakfast plate at the annual Pancake benefit help provide monies that provide scholarships for local high school students to allow them to further their education. Last year, more than 400 persons attended the event and broke bread with the lodge members and their families. Lodge members know that the economy is tight. For that reason alone, they don't get many

donations.

So they come out on a cool, brisk March morning to roll up their sleeves and do what they can to raise money. The funds are wisely spent; locals know where it goes, Swett said.

Masonic endeavors benefit the community. The lodge not only uses its fundraising efforts on scholarships, the group also helps out with families at Christmas, they donate to families in dire straits, they give to the Masonic Orphanage Home and they give to the needy on a moment's notice.

They also play a huge role in helping the Towns County Food Pantry in its efforts to make sure no empty stomach in Towns County goes without nourishment.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and his wife Jean came out to support the lodge. Commissioner Kendall said there is no truth to the rumor that he came out to eat up all the pancakes after soaking them in pancake syrup.

"No, it's not just the syrup that keeps me coming back," said a smiling Commissioner Kendall, who really loves his pancakes and syrup. "The Masons do a lot of good things that people don't know about."

"I've been a member for many years," he said. "There are so many things that they do that you don't hear about on the street. They're not out for the publicity; they just want to help their communities."

Ina Kozeski, a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, said that helping families in need is the biggest reason for coming out on a brisk Saturday morning to cook pancakes, sausage and eggs to raise money for necessary community projects.

"We support a lot of causes," she said. "We help with the scholarships, we support the food pantry. You just name it, if there is a way to help people, we donate to it."

"We believe in giving back," she said. "We're all Christians too."

Hemlock Special on TV

Save Georgia's Hemlocks has prepared a 30-minute special on the hemlock problem and solutions for broadcast on "Common Cup," hosted by Jim Geer on Windstream Cable Channel 4 during the week of March 21. The program celebrates the vital role of the hemlocks as a keystone species, explains what's killing them and the disastrous results that may lie ahead, and provides information on what property owners can do to save their trees.

Broadcast times are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:30 a.m., 4 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.; also Thursday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. For viewers who miss the original broadcast or don't have access to Windstream Cable, a link to view the program can be found at www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org. For additional information, please call the Hemlock Help LineSM 706-429-8010. NT(Mar23,21)CA

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lead vocals on the No. 1 hit as a 20-year-old as the group launched one of the most successful runs in Rock 'N' Roll history.

From 1968 to 1975, the band was the hottest sound in America with a cache of hits that included *Easy To Be Hard*, *Eli's Coming*, *Celebrate*, *Mama Told Me Not To Come*, *Shambala*

and *Never Been To Spain*.

The only songs from this list not sang by Negrón on Saturday in Franklin were *Eli's Coming* and *Never Been To Spain*.

Mattie Evans of Asheville, NC, said her ticket to the event was a gift. It's a night she'll remember for quite some time. Negrón was pure vintage Three

Dog Night, she said.

"Wow, his music takes you back a few years doesn't it," she said. "This entire evening was a stroll down memory lane for me. Blood, Sweat and Tears was an added bonus."

"You can't help but enjoy and relive the moments of your youth around performers like these," she said.



Rob Paparozzi of Blood, Sweat and Tears gets the Franklin crowd revved up for Chuck Negrón's performance at the Smoky Mountain Center for Performing Arts. Photo/James Reese

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be formed during the May 3rd meeting, GDOT Communications Officer for District One, Teri Pope said.

A second hearing is scheduled in Young Harris

on May 5th from 4 p.m. to 7 pm. At the Old Gym at Young Harris College, Pope said.

Traffic studies and counts will be available at

the public information hearings, Pope said.

"We urge the public to attend these meetings," Pope said. "Public input is one third of the final equation."

Historical Society enjoys entertainment

A good turnout of folks were at the March 14, 2011 Towns County Historical Society and they were treated to the harmony of "Masters Peace." The trio was made up of Bill Blumreich, Erika Claypool, and Eberhard Boeckel, who sang a number of gospel songs. We thank you for your inspiring music.

In the business meeting, officers were elected and installed for the next two years: President-Lynne Marshall, V. President-Leeann Shook Wildman, Secretary-Joan Crothers, and Treasurer/Membership-Dan Simpson.

President Marshall attended the Georgia Dept. of Transportation (GDOT) Stake-



"Masters Peace," Bill Blumreich, Erika Claypool, and Eberhard Boeckel, provided gospel music for the Historical Society meeting.

holders meeting held at the Wilson Lecture Hall at Young Harris College last Thursday, March 16th, regarding the proposed change to Hwy. 76 through Young Harris. Sev-

eral other interested members were present in the audience. GDOT was getting input from stakeholders and will be holding a public meeting in Young Harris on Thursday, May 5, to get the public's input. Look for the time in the newspapers.

The Towns County Historical Society meets the second Monday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 5 p.m. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. T(Mar23,21)SH

Mountain Home Music Theater

Mountain Home Music Theater will open April 2 with Hiawassee Opry Ralph Nichols Band and Friends. April 9 Lisa Price and Band from Franklin, NC, will be here. April 16 The Floriday Boys will be in concert. Tickets will be \$10 each for reserved seating. April 23 The Berrongs with their crew will play. April 30 Cody and Carlee Savage will be here from Cleveland, GA.

Mountain Home Music Theater is located 2-1/2 miles west of Hiawassee on Hwy. 76. Look for the red building.