

Travis Tritt was incredible

By Jessica Keaton
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
jessica.thermal@brmeme.net

It was "a great day to be alive" at Anderson Music Hall on Friday night, as Georgia native Travis Tritt took the stage to sing hits such as "I'm Gonna Be Somebody," "Country Club," "Anymore," and "Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde."

Before Travis started some "T-R-O-U-B-L-E" on the Anderson Music Hall stage, Clay Leverett and Friends kept their "hands to themselves" with just an acoustic/electric and steel guitar. Performing covers from the Georgia Satellites and Hank Williams Jr., the Toccoa natives set the mood for the rest of the night.

Just before Travis hit the stage, the Towns County Lions Club held a raffle with proceeds going to underprivileged Georgians. Prizes for the raffle included two T-shirts and two sets of front row tickets. Winners of the raffle were Lindsey F. for the Clay Leverett T-shirt, Kendal Todd with the Travis Tritt black T-shirt and Becky Buffington with the Travis Tritt green T-shirt. Front row seat winners were Terry Shelton and Nancy Strait.

After the raffles were complete, Travis took the stage. With an introduction by none other than Larry the Cable Guy, whose voice came over the speaker system pleading



Travis Tritt put on a spectacular show Friday night at Anderson Music Hall. The Georgia natives sent folks home smiling. Photo/Jessica Keaton

with audience members to not "throw any quarters or other hard objects on the stage during the performance." Travis began the show with the hit "I'm Gonna Be Somebody."

Travis encouraged the crowd, "anytime you want to clap your hands, stomp your feet, holler, scream, yell, sing along at the top of your lungs, throw small babies in the air, I'm doing all of that. There's only one rule: if you do sing along, and, if by some chance, you don't know all of the words to a song, please limit yourselves to the chorus only...I'm just kidding, sing along with all the wrong words you want to."

Travis continued the show, singing a song he hasn't sung in a show in more than a decade.

"When we released this

song, it was the number one song in the country, not just for one week, but multiple weeks in a row...I wrote it". The song he was referring to was a familiar one, formally known as "Foolish Pride."

Other songs on the set list included "Here's a Quarter," "Drift off to Dream," and "Sometimes She Forgets." After the first set list, Travis came out for an encore, beginning the set list filled with both country and blues tunes that included "Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde."

At the end of the encore, fans flocked to the front of The Hall to get a chance to shake Travis's hand. For those lucky fans, along with those watching in the back seats, the night was one full of good music and good times spent with a fellow Georgian.

Chophouse...from page 1A

wich list is extraordinary; prices range from \$6.95-\$9.95.

The Chophouse dinner menu also offers a variety of steaks and chops, but it also includes a solid seafood selection that incorporate salmon, grouper, crab cakes, and a seafood platter, fish and chips, and trout.

And last but far from least, the dessert menu is a delight to the sweet tooth. From ice creams and sherbets for \$3.50 to such delights as crème brûlée, hot chocolate volcano cake, Key Lime cheesecake, and fresh summer strawberry parfait, all ranging from \$4.95 to \$6.95.

The Chophouse is the brainstorm of Chef/Owner

James Reaux. He is friendly and apt to stop by your table to introduce himself to eager patrons. The Chophouse of Hiawassee is the community's newest dining experience and Reaux makes sure that everything is to his patrons' satisfaction.

The friendliness of the wait staff, the delicious food and the elegant decor make The Chophouse a truly wonderful dining experience.

The eatery, formerly Honey's of Hiawassee, is located at 625 Hwy. 76 down the hill from Ramada Inn and across from the Towns County Beach. For more details, call (706) 896-3200.

Arrowood claims top prize in speech contest

By Jessica Keaton
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
jessica.thermal@brmeme.net

Austin Arrowood carefully debated an issue that has been on the minds of a nation for going on 234 years.

Arrowood, a senior at Towns County High School, touched on a subject that sparks controversy in almost every venue where it's discussed.

He dared to debate how the religious beliefs of our Founding Fathers impacted the foundation of our country. He did so professionally, with a stage presence beyond his years.

Arrowood told the crowd that our Founding Fathers sought religious freedoms for all, rather than having a government entity making the choice for them.

Rather than tie a religious theme around his speech, Arrowood used the facts about our Founding Fathers in a laid back style that swayed the judges.

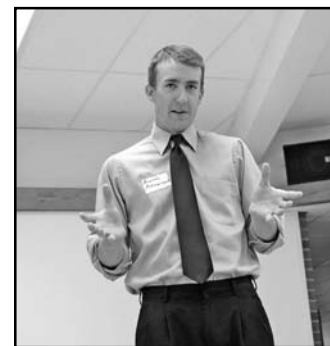
Arrowood made the distinction that Thomas Jefferson was a deist, rather than a Christian.

When the dust settled at TCHS on Saturday, Arrowood was declared the winner of a \$500 scholarship in the First Youth Leadership Development Scholarship Speech Contest, sponsored by the Towns County Republican Party.

The ultimate objective of the contest was to involve local youth in the government and political process of America by encouraging them to think about and appreciate what makes the United States of America the greatest country in the world.

Despite the political party sponsorship, the event was non-partisan, and encouraged the development and improvement of the contestants' public speaking skills.

The event was judged by a panel of two Democrats and three Republicans: Cathy Cox, the current president of Young Harris College and former Georgia Secretary of State, Jim Davis, the current chairman of the Clay County,



Austin Arrowood

NC Republican Party, Jon Fullerton, the co-owner and general manager of Jacky Jones GM Superstore in Murphy, NC, Bonny Herman, who administered non-profit organizations in Los Angeles for more than 35 years, and Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, a former coach, educator and superintendent of Towns County Schools.

In the Junior Division, there was only one participant: Levi Sherman, a home-schooled ninth grader. He automatically won \$100 for his speech on "What are the limits of our country and how have they been abrogated."

First to speak in the Senior Division was Arrowood, followed by Heather Poole, another senior at TCHS, who explained "Why has America become the greatest nation in history."

Becca Sheffield, a junior at TCHS, spoke about whether or not "America is a Christian Nation." Majorie Hatfield, also a junior at TCHS, elaborated on whether or not she "believed Americans today are aware of what goes on in our government."

Jeff Stewart, a senior at TCHS broached the subject of comparing the merits of capitalism versus socialism and Morgan Ricketson, a junior at TCHS, concluded the day's speaking by discussing the greatest threat America faces today.

Following Arrowood's first place performance, the judges selected Stewart for the second place prize of \$300, and Poole for the \$200 prize for finishing third.

The students concluded the day with the distinction of being among Towns County's best youth speakers.

Local Flotilla now chartered

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
charlesduncan@brmeme.net

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 23 is officially chartered.

The Flotilla, which will assist in the promotion of recreation events and event safety on Lake Chatuge, became a reality Saturday during a ceremony at The Ridges Resort.

The Flotilla will aid and assist TVA security and Department of Natural Resources rangers in Georgia and North Carolina to help ensure boaters are well educated on boating safety on Lake Chatuge. The Flotilla will perform vessel safety checks, a well-known free examination available to any recreational boater, which helps boaters ensure that their watercrafts comply with Federal boating regulations.

The Flotilla also educates and teaches boating safety to recreational boaters of all ages.

The Auxiliary operates safety and regatta patrols and is an integral part of the Coast Guard Search and Rescue team. Auxiliary members also stand communication watches,



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 23 is now in service. The group was sworn in Saturday at The Ridges Resort. Photo/Charles Duncan

assist during mobilization exercises, perform harbor and pollution patrols, provide platforms for unarmed boarding parties and recruit new people for the Service.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. on both April 27th and May 4th, Flotilla 2-3 will provide a free Safe Boating Course at The Ridges Resort. To receive course credit, boating enthusiasts must attend both sessions.

This no-cost course meets the new North Carolina law requiring anyone younger than 26 years old to have completed a Boating Safety Course in order to operate a vessel over 9 horsepower. An optional

course book titled "It's All About Boating Safely" will be available for purchase for \$12.

The course content includes an introduction to boating; a complete background in boating laws; operation of personal safety equipment; instruction on safe boat handling and navigation.

The course also covers dealing with boating problems; trailering, storing and protecting your boat as well as discussions about hunting and fishing activities, waterskiing and other water sports.

For more details, contact James Nolin, USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 2-3 at (706) 897-2911.

Chambers' after hours a hit

By Charles Duncan
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
charlesduncan@brmeme.net

Tax Day was historic for the Towns County Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber hosted its first nontraditional Business After Hours event, which featured door prizes, food, drink and the establishment of a lasting tradition.

Adrianna's Wine Cottage, Pro Therapy, Heavenly Bake Shop, Simply Wireless and Mary's Southern Grill located in the Tower Place Shopping Plaza hosted the affair for the chamber's membership.

Chamber President Angel Long said the event moves away from the traditional Business After Hours event and focuses on giving businesses a chance to allow others to sample their fares.

"It was really great to come out and see so many chamber members taking part in this exciting event," Chamber President Long said. "I'm proud that this was a well-attended occasion."

Adrianna's Wine Cottage was a popular spot for chamber members as they not only got to sample cheese, sweets and meats; they also got a taste of the Cottage's wine selections.

Mary Ann's Southern



The lovely ladies at Mary Ann's Southern Grill located in Towns Place Shopping Plaza were just one of the hosts for Business After Hours. Photo/Charles Duncan

Grill also was a hot spot among chamber members, who feasted on samples of chicken wings, chicken salad and tuna salad as well as the drink of their choice.

Pro Therapy catered to chamber members with Buffalo wings and a choice of cold drinks. They also shared what their business is about and the virtues of doctor prescribed physical therapy.

Simply Wireless also broke bread with chamber members and let them in on some special deals from Verizon and displayed their various assortments of Verizon products.

However, the most frequented business aside from the Wine Cottage was Heavenly Bake Shop where chamber members gave into the cravings of their sweet tooth.

"It was a great day," Chamber President Long said. "The weather cooperated and even if it hadn't, we were in the dry. We look forward to many more events like this in the future."

The Chamber's Business After Hours events will be held quarterly. Stay tuned to Chamber Chronicles, published each week in the Towns County Herald, for the next Business After Hours update.