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opportunity to be of service to this school system and community," Williams communicated in a written statement offered by the BOE. "I look forward to building on the strong legacy established by this system - a legacy that has been enhanced and strengthened by the work of Dr. Behrens.

"I am excited to become a part of this community and I look forward to working with the school board to see good things happen in our schools," she said.

Williams and her husband Stevie Williams, have one son, Tyler, a recent graduate of Georgia Southwestern University.

Williams, the superintendent at Jenkins County Schools since 2008, comes from a school system about the same size as Towns County. She began her teaching career in 1984 as a reading and math teacher at Reidsville High School. Later, she taught business education and served as Vocational Director at Metter High School.

Her educational experience also includes her tenure in the Candler County School System from 2002 to 2006 as director of technology, career technical and agricultural education director and personal director.

In 2006, Williams became the director of Curriculum, Professional Development, and Federal Programs director at Jenkins County Schools. In 2008, she was named Jenkins County Schools Superintendent.

"She came from a small school system, about 1,500 kids," said BOE member Donna Hedden. "She just had that small-town feel about her to me."

BOE member Larry Kimsey said Williams was sharp and intelligent.

"Extremely knowledgeable, and very talented," Kimsey said in describing Williams. "She was the right fit for this school system."

BOE Chair Emily Phillips pointed out another strong suit for Williams.

"The Board was pleased to employ a superintendent with a strong background in the area of vocational education," Phillips said.

Phillips said the BOE anticipates that Williams will come aboard July 1 in a deputy capacity to work alongside retiring Superintendent Behrens.

"She will formally assume the responsibilities of superintendent on Aug. 1," Phillips said. "During this time of transition, the Board plans for the new superintendent to be in close contact with Dr. Behrens, the central office staff, with the principals, and with teachers and school staff members."

Phillips and the board wished Dr. Behrens the best that life has to offer.

"He's been so easy to work with and get along with," Phillips said. "He's worked hard to keep our taxes low, making sure we stretched dollars to the maximum and keeping us informed about the school system in general."

"Richard will be missed," Phillips said.

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three to four times in boosting the economy."

Kendall also announced that the Towns County Beach and Playground will be reserved exclusively for the Shriners on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Closing the beach and playground to the public for a day for the Shriners' use was the only exception that he had made to his policy adopted five years ago to renovate and re-open the beach for local residents as a place they can enjoy with the entire family, at no cost.

"The beach has been extensively used and residents, in most instances, have respected and taken good care of their property," Commissioner Kendall said.

Mayor Mathis wanted to remind locals that the 2011 Shriners' Parade will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in Downtown Hiawassee.

"Don't be surprised if you see many of the funny Shrine cars in town ALL weekend," she said.

Mayor Mathis said the weekend would be a memorable one.

"We are looking forward to welcoming the Georgia Shriners to Hiawassee and Towns County as a part of their Annual State Meeting," Mayor Mathis said. "This organization takes on many charitable causes and is especially concerned about the health of our children."

"We commend them for their work and welcome them to Hiawassee and Towns County," she said. "Let's hope everyone helps make their stay in Towns County a memorable one."

Kendall agreed.

"Thank you, Shriners, for choosing Towns County for your convention," Commissioner Kendall said. "We look forward to being a great host. Come out and support the Shriners at their parade at 2 p.m. this Saturday June 18 The parade route will be the same as that of the Georgia Moun-

tain Fair. It should be a lot of fun for everyone."

Benevolence is what the Shriners are most noted for throughout the world.

Shriners International is a fraternity based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth. There are approximately 325,000 members from 193 temples (chapters) in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto Rico and the Republic of Panama.

Shriners International supports Shriners Hospitals for Children, a healthcare system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research, and teaching programs for medical professionals. Children up to age 18 with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the patients' ability to pay.

# Local students at North Georgia College & State University Spring honorees and graduates

North Georgia College & State University in Dahlonega, GA, conferred both undergraduate and graduate degrees on 718 total graduates in four spring semester graduation ceremonies held April 29-May 1 on the campus.

Towns County graduates include Lindsey Rose Allison, of Young Harris, BS- Special Ed and Edward Montgomery Wilson, Hiawassee, BS- Phys Ed/Leadership Minor (Svc).

Students achieving a 4.0 grade point average and carrying 12 or more credit hours in one semester are placed on the President's List.

Towns County President's List honorees are Kayla

Brittany Osborn of Hiawassee and Janice Irene Partin of Young Harris.

Students achieving a 3.5 grade point average and carrying 12 or more credit hours in one semester are placed on the Dean's List. Students also must have no grade lower than B.

Towns County Dean's List honorees are Kerri Lynne Abernathy, Jessica Deanne Hunt, Andrea Rose Barnum of Hiawassee and Lindsey Rose Allison, Ian Christopher Servis, Kyla Marie Walker of Young Harris.

Founded in 1873, North Georgia is the second-oldest public university in the state and is designated the Military

College of Georgia. The university has some 6,000 students and its Corp of Cadets numbers nearly 800.

As of 2010, North Georgia's incoming freshmen have the third-highest average high school GPA of all 35 institutions in the University System of Georgia.

In America's Best Colleges 2010, U.S. News & World Report ranks North Georgia College & State University as No. 26 in the South among public universities offering undergraduate and master's programs. It is the seventh consecutive year the university has been included in the rankings. TJun15,M2,CA

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"This is all about helping the Shriners Hospitals at the end of the day," Ridges' General Manager Chad Hooper said. "I can't think of a better cause than helping under privileged children. The Shriners' Hospitals are a very worthy cause and it's a chance to help make a difference in the life of a child."

The way to play the Poker Run is simple. There will be seven locations on the lake from which to choose a card from. The entry fee is \$25. You draw a different card at each location. You'll have the opportunity to draw an eighth card for a \$50 fee.

"We're playing seven-card stud; after going to all seven locations, we'll end up at the Boat House for the final look at the cards," Hooper said. "That's where the cards will be judged at the end of the day."

On Saturday, the First Shriners' Parade is scheduled for 2 p.m. in Downtown Hiawassee, Tourism Association Chair Hilda

Thomason said.

"That will start in Downtown Hiawassee at the Bank of Hiawassee," she said. "The parade will travel through Hiawassee and end at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds."

On Saturday night at Anderson Music Hall, Ronnie Milsap is in concert, Thomason said.

"Tickets are still available, \$30 per person, plus a \$2 handling fee," she said. "A percentage of the profits go to the Shriners' Children Hospitals. It's open to the public and we want the Shriners to come out and support that in addition to the public."

When the Shriners pack up and head for home on Sunday, the Christian Motorcycle Association will fill up the Fairgrounds again, Thomason said.

"They'll be here for the entire week," she said. "It's their Eastern National Rally. They've got the run of the Fairgrounds for the entire week. They'll also

have a parade. There will be 350 motorcycles on Saturday, June 25 at 1:30 p.m."

The CMA Parade starts at City Hall in Hiawassee and ends at the Fairgrounds. The Parade is a benefit for the Towns County Food Pantry, said Randal Tebeau, CMA National Evangelist, Southeast Region.

Local residents are invited to the Bike Games being held after the parade at the Fairgrounds. These game include fun tests of skills by drivers and riders and might include water balloons, hoops, Frisbees, or other interesting props, said Missy Parmenter, National Events coordinator for CMA.

According to the CMA, everyone is invited. Registration opens daily at 11 a.m. and is free to non-members. The events include a week of seminars, praise and worship, self-guided rides and vendors are on hand from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily in the Pioneer Village.

# Citizens South...continued from page 1A

the recent expansion of our footprint into East Ellijay and Gilmer County markets," Stancil said. "We respect the rich tradition that our offices hold in each of their markets in North Georgia. Having one common name for all of our offices will reduce con-

fusion and let's customers know we have five convenient locations to serve the North Georgia market."

Citizens South is a community bank based in Gastonia that has been in business for more than 100 years and operates 16

branches in and around Charlotte, N.C.

Citizens South Bank has received a 5-Star Rating for 34 consecutive months from BauerFinancial, the nation's leading independent bank rating and research firm.

# You can rely on electronic payments

By Alicia Saile  
Georgia Area Director's Office, Social Security

You probably don't need a reminder that natural disasters lurk around the corner when we least expect it.

Many natural disasters force people to leave their homes. The last thing a person who falls victim to this kind of devastation needs to worry about is how they're going to get their next Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment.

Here's a solution. Make sure that you're receiving your benefit payments electronically. Electronic payments are the best way to receive your benefit payments. Here's why.

Electronic payments are safe. Your money is deposited directly into your account each month. Because it's transferred electronically, there's never a risk of your check being lost or stolen.

Electronic payments are quick. You'll get your payment faster when it's made electronically. Your money is immediately available to you once it's deposited; no waiting by the mailbox for the check to arrive.

Electronic payments are convenient. No more need to stand in line at the bank to cash your check or to leave your house when the weather is bad. It's also nice to know your payment is in your account instead of your mailbox when you're on vacation or away from home.

Perhaps we also should mention that electronic payments are now mandatory. People who apply for Social Security benefits on or after May 1, 2011, must receive payments electronically. Nearly everyone currently receiving benefits who has not signed up for electronic payments must switch to electronic payments by March 1, 2013. Electronic payments may be made by direct deposit, the Direct Express card program, or an Electronic Transfer Account. You can learn more about all three at [www.godirect.org](http://www.godirect.org).

If you're ever faced with a devastating event, there will be no question about where you'll find your money when you receive electronic payments. The same cannot be

said for paper checks being sent to mailboxes that may no longer exist.

Learn more by reading our online fact sheet, Get Your Payments Electronically

at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10073.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10073.html). Or go directly to the source, where you can learn more and sign up for electronic payments: [www.godirect.org](http://www.godirect.org). NTJun15,A2,CA

# Judge Miller swears in local law school student Jenna Thomas



L to R: Jeff Langley, Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney; Will Fawcett; Jenna Thomas; Hon. Murphy Miller, Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge

Judge Murphy Miller swore in two law school students under the third year practice act for prosecutors.

Jenna Thomas is a rising third year law student at Florida Coastal College in Jacksonville, FL and she is a native of Blairsville, GA. Her parents are Johnny and Jan Thomas, also of Blairsville.

Will Fawcett, is a rising third year law student at Cum-

berland Law School, Birmingham, AL and a native of Ma-bleton, GA. Will is married to Carter Chambliss Fawcett also of Birmingham.

These students are performing valuable work at the District Attorney's Office and they are receiving course credit at their respective law schools for their service. These services are being provided at no expense to our taxpayers. NTJun15,B4,CA

# Guys and Dolls sure to be "A Bushel and a Peck" of fun!

The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts' own resident theatre troupe, The Overlook Players, will present the Tony award-winning musical Guys and Dolls June 23, 24, and 25 at 7:30 p.m. and a Sunday, June 26 matinee at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10-\$13.

When you take your seat for this production of Guys and Dolls, you'll be in for a hilarious ride full of some of the most colorful characters ever written for the stage. Guys and Dolls is a musical take on gamblers, night club singers, and missionaries in 1940s New York and features rollicking favorites like "Luck Be a Lady" and "A Bushel and a Peck."

Guys and Dolls is directed by Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts Artistic Director, Scotty Corbin and stars Franklin favorites Heather Lenox as missionary Sarah Brown; Chase Byrd as the imitably cool gambler Sky Masterson; Kathi Graham and Fred Berger as showgirl, Miss Adelaide and her hilarious beau, Nathan Detroit; and father-and-son Steven and Samuel Crabtree as pals Nicely-Nicely Johnson and Benny Southstreet.

The Overlook Players are known for presenting large-scale, quality produc-



The Overlook Players features local actors with big-time talent. Recent performances include Disney's stunning Beauty and the Beast and the classic crowd-pleaser The Sound of Music. Whether you're a long-time fan of the theater or just passing through the area, The Overlook Players' latest offering, Guys and Dolls, is sure to delight!

This production is sponsored by Teen Challenge of the Smokies, a Christian organization whose mission it is to provide a faith-based solution to addiction.

The Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, located in Franklin,

North Carolina, is a modern 1,500 seat facility featuring a state-of-the-art, concert-grade sound system. The Center showcases artists from Western North Carolina and the surrounding areas and seeks to nurture the development, understanding, and appreciation of the arts throughout the community and the region. To purchase tickets to any performance at the Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, to get more information, or to see a schedule of coming events, go to GreatMountainMusic.com or call 866-273-4615. TJun15,M5,CA

# Children's author at Union County Public Library

As part of this year's Summer Reading program, children's author Patsy M. Henry will be at Union County Public Library on Thursday, June 16th at 2 p.m. in the library's newly renovated community room.

Ms. Henry will be reading her "My Hare Line" books and will be having a book signing afterward. There will also be a chance for children to sign up for this year's summer reading program before the event.

Learn more about Ms. Henry at (<http://patsymhenrytatepublishing.net/>). NTJun15,E1,CA