

SFB... continued from page 1A

Clayton and Toccoa and online. "We appreciate the customers we have served in Towns County, and are prepared to continue to serve them at our offices in Clayton and Toccoa, and on the world wide web at www.stephenfederalbank.com," Ash said. "We thank those members of the Hiawassee community who have been our customers over the

years, and we particularly recognize the employees who have given their time and talents to insure that those customers have received exceptional service during our years in Hiawassee." Stephens Federal Bank customers will receive additional details about the Hiawassee branch closure by mail, according to a release re-

ceived by the Towns County Herald. The local closures of Stephens Federal Bank and CB&T bring the number of banks in Towns County down to two—United Community Bank and Citizens South Bank (formerly Bank of Hiawassee). The surviving banks will now compete for SFB and CB&T customer accounts.

CMA Rally...continued from page 1A

One thing about the Rally is certain: our visitors came; they spent and left loving the Northeast Georgia Mountains.

"It was really big for Towns County," said Hilda Thomason, General Manager of the Fairgrounds. "We did well at the Campgrounds, the Fairgrounds and our hotels really benefited."

"They were here for a whole week, so of course, the financial impact of that visit was felt locally," she said. "Our restaurants and businesses were filled with people."

"I've already asked them about coming back again in 2013; they're taking bids now," she said. "They said they would certainly take a close look at coming back to Towns County. They're a wonderful group to work with. They were so nice and so pleasant and they really enjoyed our facilities."

Following a full week

of fellowship, spiritual services and tour rides the motorcyclists congregated at Hiawassee City Hall on Saturday afternoon.

Led by Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton, the group lined up and paraded through town, their final destination—back at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

Leading the group in prayer before the parade and leading the pack was CMA CEO John Ogden and Georgia Chapter President Mike Cook. The latter finished organizing the short trip from City Hall to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Spreading the word along with Ogden and Cook were Tom and Kathie Palazzolo from Logan, Utah.

Tom Palazzolo expressed a great sense of pride when describing his official custom made CMA bike.

"The bike depicts the ministry," he said. "Team

departments are custom painted. It's a one of a kind motorcycle."

Arriving later in the week, Nick Gardner of the Savannah Chapter said his late arrival meant staying at the Seasons Inn in Blairsville.

"We really enjoyed this event," he said. "We've had a good number of people, good services with great praise and worship. It's been a pleasant, moving experience."

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said the event was huge for the community.

"They are a fine organization and we're proud that they chose to stay and have their Rally in Towns County," Commissioner Kendall said.

Here's hoping the CMA members return to Towns County in 2013 for yet another pleasant and moving experience.

Fatal Crash...continued from page 1A

injury, death or damage; and failure to maintain lane, patrol crash reports show.

No other persons were injured as a result of the fatal crash, Wright said.

"It appears there were no passengers in either vehicle according to the crash reports," he said.

According to a spokesman with the White County Coroner's Office,

Craig was returning home from a shift at Freudenberg-NOK in Cleveland at the time of the crash.

Funeral arrangements for Craig were incomplete at press time as Banister Funeral Home in Hiawassee awaited the arrival of his remains from the Georgia State Crime Lab, where an autopsy was being performed.

Banister Funeral Home representatives say that Craig's family members had yet to make arrangements on Monday afternoon. No details were available at press time regarding funeral services.

For details regarding funeral arrangements for Mr. Craig, contact Banister Funeral Home in Hiawassee at (706) 896-2218.

Fireworks...continued from page 1A

around during the Fourth.

This year's Fireworks event is sponsored by United Community Bank, the Towns County Herald, the Ramada Inn and Towns County Tourism Association.

"The Fireworks is costing us \$5,100 and we've raised \$2,500," Thomason said. "The Towns County Lions Club is going to be helping me collect donations during the event to help offset the expenses. We'll get some donations, we always do. Every little bit helps. We're doing this for Towns County; we're not making any money off the Fireworks."

The event attracts tourists to Towns County like bees to a freshly bloomed

flower.

And of late, tourism has been a shot in the arm to the local economy. The first Green EggFest was a huge success, brining almost 1,000 people to Towns County; Ronnie Milsap pulled in almost 2,000; the recent State Shriners Convention and the Christian Motorcycle Association Eastern National Rally attracted more than 4,000 fresh faces to Hiawassee and Towns County.

In the weeks ahead, the Georgia Mountain Fair is scheduled from July 20-30; the Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruiz-In is scheduled in mid-August; the Harley Owners of Georgia will hold the Georgia State Harley Rally at the

Fairgrounds in September and the fall festival is on tap in early October.

On July 14, during the Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours, the Anderson-Paris Park will be dedicated.

And, believe or not, there's an offer on the table for a Trace Adkins concert at the Fairgrounds for Aug. 27.

"Towns County is the happening place right now," Thomason said. "There is so much going on, it's enough to make you smile. If it wasn't for tourism right now, we'd be having some really tough times in Towns County."

"The Good Lord has been smiling on us," she said.



The Christian Motorcycle Association's Eastern National Rally at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds was a week of fun and spiritual fulfillment for event goers from all across the nation. Photo/James Reese



Last year's first place entry may be a hard act to follow in 2011. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

2011 Battle of the Bands at The Lodge At Copperhead

The competition is keen as bands audition for a spot to perform during the 2011 Battle of the Bands contest July 2nd, Noon-6 p.m. at The Lodge at Copperhead, Blairsville, GA. Top bands are vying for the coveted 1st Place Award - 3 Gigs at North Georgia's Premier Vacation Destination and Special Event Venue, The Lodge at Copperhead, Blairsville, Georgia.

The battle will begin with each band playing one cover song before a live audience and music industry professionals. The judges will select the top five bands to compete playing their original music. Prizes will be awarded to the top three bands. First Place - 3 Gigs at The Lodge at Copperhead, 2nd Place - CASH, 3rd Place - Gift Certificates from event sponsors, North Georgia's new riding-driving attraction, The Gauntlet www.gauntletga.com, Biker Barn, and Garage 71.

Michelle Evans, Spokesperson for The Lodge at Copperhead said, "We are excited about the bands who have been selected to compete in this annual event." Adding, "Bands interested in competing should audition prior to the June 30th deadline." Bands competing now are all professional: Big Pappy Hinds, Steering for Starlight, Neighborhood Watch & The Bac Trac Band. Two more bands are auditioning now.

The 2011 Battle of the Bands kicks-off the July 4th Weekend Celebration that includes live music, pool party, fireworks display, comfort food with attitude and your favorite beverages. The holiday package - 2 or 3 night stay starting at just \$275 (Hotel) with complimentary breakfast and weekend entertainment.

The 2011 Battle of the Bands is open to the general public with FREE Admission. Admission to other musical events during the weekend is \$5 per person or FREE when dining in the restaurant. For more information, call 706-835-7433.

ABOUT THE RESORT: The Lodge at Copperhead, 171 Copperhead Parkway, Blairsville, GA is a destination resort offering lodging, casual fine dining, full service bar, special events, cabins and other amenities on the forty acre re-

sort. Lodging reservations are available at website: www.thelodgeatcopperhead.com or by calling 706-835-7433. NT(Jun29,F3)SH

Towns County Recreation Department Activity Day

The Towns County Recreation Department's annual July 4th Activity Day will be on Monday, July 4, 2011, at the Recreation Department Ball Fields. The Recreation Department invites everyone to come out and have fun in the sun! All following events take place at the ballfield. The schedule of the events during the day are as follows:

- Youth Singles Horse-shoes 16 & Under boys & girls 9:30 AM.
- Men's Singles Horse-shoes 17 & Older 10 AM.
- Women's Singles Horse-shoes 16 & Older 10:30 AM.
- Men's Partner Horse-shoes 17 & Older 11 AM.
- Men's Homerun Derby 15 & Older 10:30 AM.
- Youth Home Run Derby 14 & Under Boys & Girls 10:45 AM.
- Youth Home Run Derby 11 & Under Boys & Girls 11 AM.
- Women's Home Run Derby 15 & Older 11:15 AM.
- Team Cornhole tournament (10 & under Open Division) 2 person team 11:30 AM.
- Team Cornhole tournament (16 & Under Open Division) 2 person team 12 PM.

NF Support Group meeting

A Neurofibromatosis Support Group meeting will be held Saturday, July 23, 2011, 10 a.m. at Cook's Country Kitchen.

People affected by neurofibromatosis and their loved ones are invited to attend. The meeting will give an opportunity to meet others with NF and determine future activities for NF families in the area.

For reservations or for more information, please contact Michael Loyd at 706-994-8561. NT(Jun29,Z3)CA

Team Cornhole tournament (Adult 17 & Over Open Division) 2 person team 12 PM.

In each of the Recreation Department events, plaques and trophies will be given to all winners in each event. There is no charge for any of the activities. All events will begin at the times listed. To pre-register just be on time for the events you wish to participate. See all of you on July 4.

For more information call the Recreation Department at 706-896-2600.

Mountain Home Music Theater

Back by great demand. July 2 The Berrongs will be back. July 9 The Wilson Family from Andrews, NC. Mountain Home Music Theater is located 2-1/2 miles west of Hiawassee on Hwy. 76. Look for the red building. For info call 706-896-3624. NT(Jun29,F3)SH

HELP WANTED

The Towns County Board of Education is now accepting applications for a full time special education paraprofessional. Job duties will include working with children who are developmentally disabled/severe and profound. The position is a full time position with benefits. Applicants must hold a valid paraprofessional license or an associate's degree. Applications are available at the Towns County Board of Education and on our website, www.towns.k12.ga.us. Should you have any questions, please contact the TCBOE at 706-896-2279. Towns County Board of Education is an equal opportunity employer.

From the Desk of:

Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

This week I would like to revisit the role of government in the United States and talk a bit about how it relates to the Office of Sheriff in Georgia. In Georgia, the Office of Sheriff is a constitutional office, which was in place prior to the original Georgia Constitution. The Office of Sheriff, in the words of the higher courts, was said to have "sprang from the will of the people." The Office of Sheriff was transplanted to the United States from England in 1634. By 1651, the idea of electing sheriffs first began. Georgia, being one of the original 13 colonies, had her part in the forming of our nation.

The sheriff's role has remained mostly unchanged for nearly the last 800 years in the United States and before that in England. It is the sheriff's duty and privilege to "preserve the peace, and protect the lives, persons, and property, of the citizens of the county." Often, you may hear people say that it is the sheriff's or a deputy's job "to enforce the law." The truth is, sheriffs and their deputies are empowered to enforce the

law, but that power is delegated by the citizens for the purpose of preserving the peace, and protecting lives, persons, and property. In our form of government there is no power that the government has, which was not delegated to it by the citizens.

This was the concept I had in mind when I gave deputies a three part test to ensure that our office is dealing faithfully with the public. I tell each deputy to ask themselves three questions:

- 1) Is life or well-being in jeopardy?
- 2) Is property in danger of theft or damage?
- 3) Is there going to be a breach of the peace?

If one of these three areas is being affected, then a deputy has a duty to take measures to resolve the issue. We don't, however, enforce the law for any other purpose than to satisfy these objectives. The Office of Sheriff is in place for the purpose of being peace keepers and protectors.

The Office of Sheriff belongs to the citizens that it serves. It is important to me to hear from all citizens so that I am aware of how we are doing. I cannot assume that things are going well without verifying this to be so, nor can we as citizens assume that our elected servants can be aware of our needs and values unless we inform them of these. This is true of all branches of government in our United States. If we as citizens remain separated from our government, then we allow our government to go astray. The government belongs to all of us and not only to those whom we choose to represent us. I will always value your input and will seek to do my part as an elected servant to keep you informed of what should be expected from the Office of Sheriff. T025C

National Register workshop

If your buildings are over 50 years old the Towns County Historical Society encourages your family to list your property with the National Register of Historic Places. Each family will need to get historical information together such as old deeds, family histories, drawings of the property and the like. Bring this information to the meetings.

Workshops will be held at the Senior Center in Hiawassee beginning June 30 on Thursday at 5:30 pm. A \$5-\$10 dollar donation will be appreciated for materials. The application form contains a number of pages. There are loan and tax advantages if your property is on the National Register. Other meeting dates include: July 5th, 7th, 11th and 12th. For more info call 706-896-1060.

Sponsored by the Towns County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA 30546. T(Jun29,F2)SH

Qi Gong for your health

The Towns County Recreation Department, in association with Pat Tomczyk will be offering Qi Gong classes to the public. Pat is a certified medical Qi Gong practitioner. She is also presently instructor of our Yoga and Tai Chi classes. Qi Gong is an ancient healing exercise developed in China. It improves flexibility, balance, strength, relaxation and focus. Classes will be held on Thursdays at 10:45 AM at the Towns County Recreation Center. Cost will be \$10 per class or \$30 for 4 classes in a calendar month.

For more information call the Towns County Recreation Department at 706-896-2600. T(Jun29,H1)SH

LEGAL ADS

NOTICE TO DEBTORS & CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF TOWNS
RE: ESTATE OF JOHN MILTON COOPER
 All Creditors of the Estate of JOHN MILTON COOPER, deceased, late of Towns County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 23rd day of June, 2011
 Reliance Trust Company
 Attn: Sherry Owenby, VP
 108 Blue Ridge Highway
 Blairsville, Ga. 30512
 706-835-2499
 T(Jun29,Jul6,13,20)P

FREE WOOD PALLET!!
 Call Kenneth at the
North Georgia News
 (706) 745-6343