

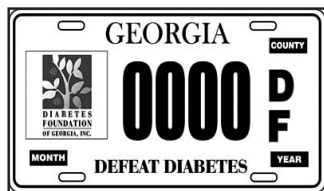
# Taste...continued from page 1A

International: Best Entree - Cafe Portofino (Filet Mignon), Hiawasse; International: Best Dessert - Cafe Portofino (Peaches Foster), Hiawasse; Most Unique - K & K Grill (Kool Aid Pie), Hiawasse; Best Use of Theme - Monte Alban, Hiawasse; Gourmet Best Entree - Copper Door (Crawfish Tortellini), Hayesville, NC;

Best Gourmet Dessert - Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa (Bread Pudding in Chocolate Sauce), Young Harris; Most Unique - Chevelle's, Hayesville, NC; Best Use of Theme - The Oaks, Hiawasse; Best Southern Entree - Braised Short Ribs, Brothers at Willow Ranch, Young Harris; Best Dessert - Brothers at Willow Ranch (Bread

Pudding), Young Harris; Most Unique - Doyle's Cedar Hill (Mountain Man Stew), Murphy, NC; Best Use of Theme - Young Harris College (Gumbo), Young Harris; Best Use of Theme - The Oaks, Hiawasse; Best Tabletop Presentation - Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris; Most Unique Tabletop - Young Harris College, Young Harris.

## Diabetes Foundation of Georgia, Inc. group



The Diabetes Foundation of Georgia Inc. has a support group in Blairsville. This group meets at the Old Nursing Home location on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. We would like to invite everyone who is involved with diabetes, or is interested in learning about diabetes, to attend the meetings.

We have different speakers each month. Come on out and get involved with Union County Diabetic Support Group. 706-781-1200. NTJul6,ZS)CA

# BBQ...continued from page 1A

Jeff Krokonko. "It's only last four hours but it takes quite a few days well in advance to prepare. It's getting wood cut and dried, cleaning out the smokers, burning them out, preparing the sauce. It's all a homemade recipe, it's not store bought."

The 2011 event, firefighters say, produced the best batch of barbecue they've seen in 10 years.

"It was a huge success this year," Krokonko said. "I turned down probably 50 or more if we would've had them. We just don't have the capability to smoke that many at one time."

The firefighters took in a lot of extra money as they passed the Boot around passersby on Georgia 515 and U.S. 76.

used to buy firefighting equipment.

"We're going to try and buy a (K12) saw this year and a set of rescue jacks for Station 2 here," Krokonko said.

The 2011 event featured several members of the community who came in and volunteered their time to help with the fundraiser.

"They helped us serving food and anything they could do just to help us out," Krokonko said. "We really appreciate that because we're a little shorthanded at times and it gets hectic. If we didn't have those extra hands we might've been in a jam here."

Overall, the firefighters pre-sold 82 out of 104 Boston Butt roasts.

"We had all but one not get picked up but we

were able to sell it to some one else," Krokonko said. "I turned down probably 50 or more if we would've had them. We just don't have the capability to smoke that many at one time."

The firefighters took in a lot of extra money as they passed the Boot around passersby on Georgia 515 and U.S. 76.

"We brought in a lot of money off the street," Krokonko said. "We usually do but, people were a little more generous this year seemingly than in the past years. The economy hasn't helped much at all. We really appreciate people like that whether they're tossing in a quarter, a \$20 or a \$100 bill. It all helps and it all adds up."

And, it's for the benefit of the entire community.



Firefighter BBQ has become a family tradition for Jeff Krokonko, left, and his son Ricky. Towns County Fire and Rescue hosted its annual Fourth of July Barbecue on Saturday. Photo/James Reese

# Fireworks... continued from page 1A

from near and far; some from Missouri, Indiana, North Carolina and Illinois; others hailed from Gainesville, Clayton, Cleveland and of course, Hiawasse.

For many the annual fireworks extravaganza was a family tradition of barbecue, football tosses and gazing at the fireworks rocketing through the air. Others brought high-tech lawn chairs and kicked back and relaxed before the fireworks began. Those individuals brought a book to keep them company until the main event of the evening.

"I've been coming up here for years," said John

Paul Owens, of Cornelia. "This just keeps getting bigger and better every year."

The fireworks and tailgating followed the annual Parade of Boats on beautiful Lake Chatuge. This year's Boat Parade offered a different twist: it was in the morning, rather than in the afternoon. Afterwards, entire families assembled under tent roofs or a tree canopy to take in the evening's fireworks event.

The Fairgrounds will soon be busy again. On July 14, during the Towns County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at the Fairgrounds, Anderson-Paris Park will be dedicated.

Also, the annual Georgia Mountain Fair is gearing up for the 61<sup>st</sup> time at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. The event, scheduled from July 20 to July 30, offers first class musical performances, carnival rides, unique attractions and exhibits and a glimpse into the region's rich history and culture.

This year's entertainment headliners include Mel Tillis, his daughter Pam Tillis, Roy Clark, Neal McCoy, Ronnie McDowell, the Atlanta Rhythm Section, Joe Diffie and Jim Wood and the Georgia Mountain Fair Band.

For more details about the 2011 Georgia Mountain Fair, call (706) 896-4191.

# DHS seeks public comment on state's plan for energy assistance

The Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Family and Child Services (DFCS) will hold a public hearing Thursday, July 14, 2011 to receive comments and feedback on the FY 2012 State Plan for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Pro-

gram Block Grant (LIHEAP). The LIHEAP block grant provides assistance with home heating costs, weatherization and other home energy needs for eligible elderly, homebound, and other low-income Georgians.

The public hearing will

be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, on the 19th floor, room 19-475. The 30-day public review of the plan began on Friday, June 17, 2011 and will continue through Monday, July 18, 2011.

Copies of the draft plan are available for review at county DFCS offices, Community Action Agencies, County Health Departments, home health agencies, Area Agencies on Aging, home energy suppliers and citizen organizations throughout the state.

Comments must be received by July 18, 2011. For those who are unable to attend the hearing but wish to make oral comments on the plan may call the Energy Assistance Program at 404-657-3426. Written comments on the plan can be mailed to the following address: Energy Assistance Program, Community Services Section, Division of Family and Children Services, 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 21-276, Atlanta, GA 30303.

For more information on the Energy Assistance Program, visit [www.dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov](http://www.dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov). NTJul6,ZS)CA