

Fourth of July ...continued from page 1A

and the day culminated with the selection of Kely Nicole Patterson as "Little Miss Recreation." Kaylee Rader was first runner up. They were accompanied on stage by last year's winner, Carley Grace Nicholson.

Also on Saturday, Enchanted Music on the Square attracted hundreds to hear local bands sing and play. Anderson Music Hall at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds attracted thousands to hear the legend of Ray Stevens in concert.

On Sunday, the annual Boat Parade attracted several interested boaters and their families to take part in Lake Chatuge's annual Fourth of July event.

This year's boaters were a lot more colorful than years past. They didn't spare the Red, White and Blue and some even had their own dressed versions of Uncle Sam, Lady Liberty and even Patriots and cam-

ouflaged soldiers holding up signs "Support Our Troops."

The Boat Parade concluded at The Ridges Resort where participants took part in yet another ritual, the annual Ridges Cookout. Platters of hot dogs and hamburgers awaited them upon their return to shore.

"A lot of people ate a lot of hot dogs and hamburgers today," said The Oaks Executive Chef Darrell Boles, who helped Hooper prepare The Ridges' holiday feast.

"I don't think you'll hear anyone complain about their Fourth of July holiday," he said. "I saw a lot of smiling faces today."

The holiday festivities concluded with the annual Fireworks Show at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. The sound of children playing and laughing; Blue Grass music echoing

throughout the countryside, accompanied by the enticing smells of Boston Butt roasts simmering on the grill.

It was holiday tailgating at its finest at the Fairgrounds as a record crowd turned out to wish America a very Happy 234th Birthday.

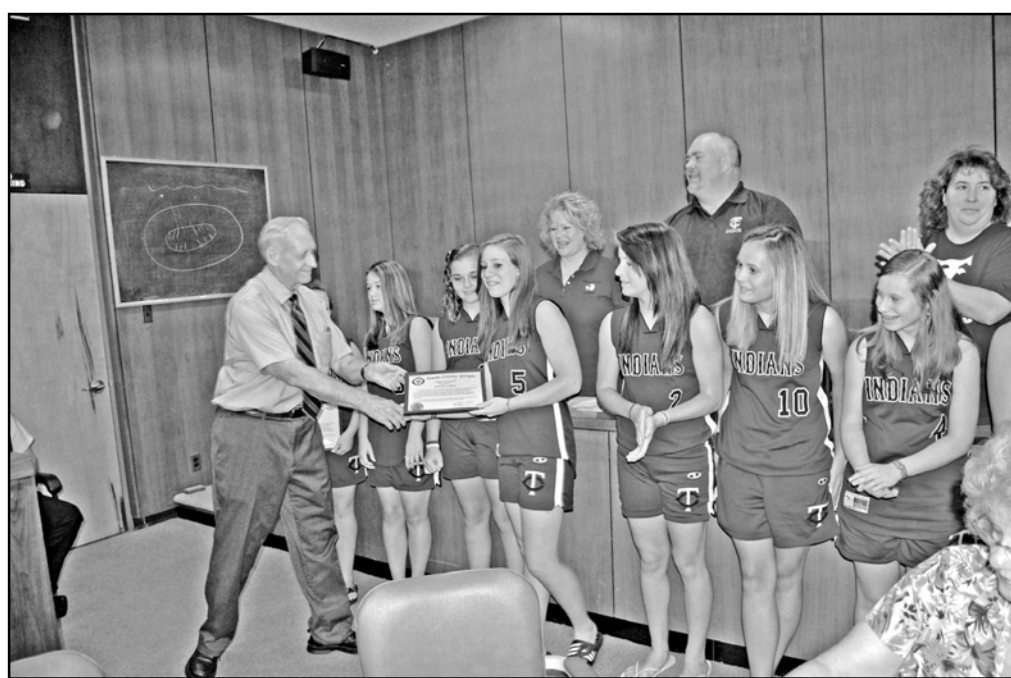
The masses came from near and far; some from Missouri, Indiana, North Carolina and Illinois; others hailed from Gainesville, Clayton, Cleveland and of course, Hayesville and Hiwassee.

For many, the annual fireworks extravaganza was a family tradition of barbecue, Frisbee 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. Some brought a book to keep them company until the main event of the evening.

Bottom line: a good time was had by all.

Busy week in Towns County



Commissioner Kendall recognizes the 14 and under Lady Indians Fast Pitch softball team.



A horseshoe tournament on Recreation Day in Towns County.



Towns County Chamber of Commerce President Angel Long said the number of entries in this year's Boat Parade was impressive. She also was impressed with the attention to detail and the number of historic figures and legends featured in each boat. "I can't say enough about the hard work that went into this year's effort," Long said. Photos/Lowell Nicholson



Community Bank & Trust President Marty Godfrey has retired. He promises to walk three miles a day to get into golf-playing shape. He took a break from the intended exercise routine to partake in some cake, cookies and a few other goodies at his surprise retirement party last week.



Nothing wrong with a little Firehouse Barbecue. The Young Harris Volunteer Fire Department worked long and hard on Saturday selling Boston Butt roasts slow cooked on a barbecue. They also had BBQ sandwiches and BBQ plates available for hungry and interested customers.



Mike Denton takes the home run derby seriously on Recreation Day. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

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