

Shooting...from page 1

will be responsible for where this case goes from here," Ayers said.

Gunter opined that he didn't see anything criminal to put before a Towns County Grand Jury concerning criminal charges of obstruction against 52-year-old Larry Shook and 25-year-old Terrence Shook. The two were arrested on obstruction charges after seeking medical assistance for a wounded and bleeding Trevor Shook.

"I don't think they (Shooks) handled the situation properly, but neither did law enforcement," Gunter said. "No, I don't think the Shooks committed a crime."

Beavers and Simmons, who were placed on administrative leave immediately following the incident because of their involvement in the shooting, have not been accused of criminal wrongdoing, according to Gunter.

Debt...from page 1

"When we inherited the property, we said that we would pay the debts of record, and gentlemen, that's what we need to do," Phillips said.

Rob Kiker, attorney for Towns County, opined that according to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Georgia law calls for no more than 7 percent interest against the state or any of its political subdivisions.

Also, Kiker pointed out that also according to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, that no judgment shall draw interest except on the principal amount due on the original debt.

With that in mind, Kiker told Development Authority members that an additional \$18,132.52 would be needed to satisfy the debt with Colditz Trucking. The group voted to do just that.

Phillips and the board felt confident that the matter was headed to a successful resolve.

"We've said all along that we'll pay our bills and do our best to bring jobs to Towns County," Phillips said.

"However, I haven't made a final decision in this case," Gunter said.

The shooting incident, which also involved two Young Harris College Campus Police, happened after the two Towns deputies responded to a 911 call regarding a gunshot wound suffered by Trevor Shook.

Trevor Shook was wounded prior to law enforcement's arrival, according to a call to 911, Sheriff Clinton said.

Multiple gunshots were fired after Simmons and Beavers arrived at the scene resulting in a police vehicle being struck, as well as the pickup truck driven by Terrence Shook as he attempted to seek medical attention for his brother. A campus officer for YHC was sent to a local emergency room for medical treatment of a minor injury and was later released.

Fourth...from page 1

Canada, of Gainesville. "This just keeps getting bigger and better every year. It's something that I look forward to when summer rolls around."

Bill Abbott agreed. He couldn't get over the incredible and personable atmosphere that surrounded the event.

"This is incredible," he said. "I mean to tell you, this is great. It's an incredible feeling to see the whole community come out, witness this event and then take in the fireworks. Well, it's just been great. I'm loving it."

The fireworks and tailgating followed the annual Parade of Boats on beautiful Lake Chatuge. Afterwards, entire families assembled under tent roofs or a tree canopy to take in the evening's fireworks event.

For Stan Wood, founder of Camp Hosanna, the Fourth of July was yet another opportunity to cook up some pork

on the grill.

"We got here about 5 p.m. and there was already a pretty good crowd here," Wood said. "There was a whole lot of tailgating going on and here it is getting dark and folks are still coming in. We thought we'd come out, check it out and enjoy ourselves. It's been a great time."

The Fairgrounds will soon be busy again as the annual Georgia Mountain Fair gears up for the 59th time at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. The event, scheduled from July 15 to July 25, 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 John Conlee, The Bellamy Brothers, The Gatlin Brothers, T.G. Sheppard and Janie Fricke.

For more details about this year's Georgia Mountain Fair, call (706) 896-4191.

Bank...from page 1

mended the bank for its perseverance and performance standing apart as a Georgia state-chartered bank that has triumphed World War I, World War II, the Great Depression, and today is considered a loyal and worthy friend of the Georgia banking community.

"The City of Hiawassee congratulates the Bank of Hiawassee on its 100 years of service," Mayor Mathis proclaimed.

The bank, which holds total assets of approximately \$435 million have long reflected strong performance and capable management, Mayor Mathis said.

Over the years, Bank of Hiawassee and its sister banks have left customers feeling im-

mediately comfortable with a sense of being at home.

Dating back to 1909, the Bank of Hiawassee is easily the oldest financial institution in the area. And with more than a century of service and private ownership, the bank is one of the most stable and best loved too, playing an integral part in the legacy of the traditional relaxing, mountain lifestyle.

Mathis said that the community relies on Bank of Hiawassee's century of experience.

"The city of Hiawassee extends appreciation to its shareholders, directors, officers and employees for their contribution to the citizens of the great state of Georgia," Mayor Mathis proclaimed.

BOE...from page 1

Revenues for the 2009-2010 school year are estimated to be \$1 million less than expenditures. The Local Fair Share (5 mills of local tax dollars to pay for Quality Basic Education) has swelled from \$2.3 million in 2006 to an estimated \$4.1 million for the coming school year.

Towns County has the lowest BOE imposed millage rate in Northeast Georgia at 3.544 mills. The local Board of Education has not raised its millage rate since 2003. In fact, the millage rate has dropped during that time frame from 5.25 mills to the current 3.544 mills.

Behrens worked with staff and administrators in preparation of the proposed budget. He says that staying at the current millage rate, the school system would be facing an intense financial burden.

"It will be very difficult," he said. "Times are tough. I wish I had better news."

"You're looking at folks in the community that aren't making as much, so preparation of the upcoming budget has been an intense project," he said. "Bottom line, you want to make sure that our kids are still receiving a good quality education."

The board will discuss the budget at its July 20th meeting.

"I presented all the options and it depends on what the board wants to do," Dr. Behrens said. "If you look at the numbers, we've done about the same percentage of cuts that other school systems have done."

"Physically, we didn't have to let people go, we just didn't fill positions," Dr. Behrens said. "We're operating with fewer people. We've looked at every cost imaginable."

Cliffs...from page 1

Witnesses say that a teenager was supposed to be watching the child, but instead had wandered off to another part of the lake. Reportedly, family members arrived at the scene before the boy was airlifted out.

The newspaper, which knows the identity of the boy, is not publishing his name for privacy reasons.

Due to HIPPA regulations, which protect the privacy of individually identifiable health information, the newspaper was unable to confirm the condition of the child.

Over the years, the area known as "the cliffs" at Lake Nottely has been the site of numerous injuries and drownings.