

# Spring...from page 1A

Payne, the only male member of the company, has performed in the *Nutcracker Suite* in Atlanta. He said he didn't feel out of place being the only male member of the company.

"I just think of myself as one of the dancers. It's a lot different than the *Nutcracker Suite* because that requires more acting," he said.

The accompanying music for the concert was provided by local artists. Ryan Showalter, originally from Lawrenceville, performed between dance sets.

The second set of the company's performance opened to *Glory to God*. The company danced to *Lilly*, words, music

and vocals courtesy of local artist Rachel Lilly.

Fuzion Dance Company member Amy Vardeman, a senior at Towns County High School, danced her way into a college education at Valdosta State University.

Following the company's Spring Concert performance, Vardeman said she her departure from her beloved North Georgia mountains tugs at her heart strings.

"It will be sad, but I think it will be fun," she said.

Her mother Susan Vardeman and her sisters, Ansley and Taylor say they truly will miss Amy.

"Things will be crazy," the trio said, referring to life without Amy in the mountains.

# Silver finish...from page 1A

the Middle School Indians after Head Coach Jeff Stowers encouraged him to give it a shot.

"He told me if I liked it, stick with it, if I didn't, then give it up," Davis said. "It took a while to get the hang of it. I wasn't good at first, but then a light bulb went off and I knew what I was doing."

"Coach Stowers was right, I did have what it takes to be a successful wrestler," he said. "I'm excited about what the future holds for me in amateur wrestling."

Stowers said the wrestling future is bright for Davis.

"Here's a kid who has never wrestled before, but you could tell by his build that he was definitely a wrestler," Coach Stowers said. "We really worked with him during the Middle School season and he came a long way."

"Coach Le Church and Coach Jason Hoffman have really put a lot of time and effort in working with Kyle and it's made a world of difference," Coach Stowers said.

"We're a small school, we don't have a lot of wrestlers, but we've got a lot of potential in the hallways. Kyle

Davis is a prime example of that," Coach Stowers said.

Davis said that for others who have thought about wrestling, but weren't exactly sure about how to get started, the first step is signing up and getting on the mat.

"I didn't have a clue that I would be successful as a wrestler," he said. "I'm glad I listened to Coach Stowers and came out for Middle School wrestling. There are some other kids in this school that would be great wrestlers if they just gave it a shot. I was almost a state champion in my first year. I'm going to work a lot harder in the off season and get where I need to be for next year."

Davis recommends signing up for Middle School wrestling and getting involved in Towns County's USA Wrestling program.

USA Wrestling is the central organization that coordinates amateur wrestling programs throughout the nation and works to create interest and participation in amateur wrestling, Coach Stowers said.

"It's a great program," he said. "Wrestling is a great sport for young kids to get involved in."

# Comp Plan...from page 1A

critical updates occur every decade to make sure the plan is in character with how the community wants the county and cities to grow.

Communities are required to implement regulations that are consistent with how the community wants the county and cities to grow.

The growth appears geared toward the city of Young Harris, where Mayor Andrea Gibby wants to hear from her constituents about how they want the city to be shaped over the next decade.

"We're looking to grow as we grow," she said. "Our population projections are in line with Young Harris College's growth. With the state of the economy, it's hard to

make projections.

Further public hearings and participation efforts will be held over the next four months, and the full process of this update should be complete by August to provide the state a review and all for final state approval prior to the county and cities adopting the plans before Oct. 31.

The comprehensive plan is required for the county and the cities to maintain their qualified local government status, which was lost just a few short years ago.

A countywide public meeting is scheduled from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on March 23 at the Towns County Courthouse to seek public input into the comprehensive plan process.

# YHC Majors...from page 1A

major began in 2008.

The program was passed by the faculty in the spring of 2009. In October the paperwork was turned into SACS for substantive change."

A Comm Studies major will be trained to succeed in the study of human communication in relationships and through media—offering the best of what liberal arts can be.

The job possibilities vary and are diverse from PR, to journalism, to media positions, to pre-law, to health communication, to graduate study preparation and more.

Some classes in the Communications department include classes on media policy, dying and death, non-verbal communication, interpersonal communication, media literacy, human communication and more.

Rob Dussler, Outdoor Education instructor, said the process of getting the Outdoor Education major approved was very exciting and educational.

"We surveyed other institutions and their programs," he said. "All were unique but were also similar regarding foundational coursework."

# Budget cuts...from page 1A

able to get money out of the budget," he said.

"Until I see the proposal, until I see what they're looking at, I'm not sure how it's going to affect us."

Some school systems are closing schools and going to a four-day school week to make ends meet.

"We'll know more in the days ahead," he said.

The state already has cut into teacher planning days, using some of the 10

days set aside for teacher training as part of the state furlough program. Classroom time for students could be next, including a shorter school week.

Lower than expected revenues have the state's lawmakers already bracing for another \$1 billion shortfall in 2011.

Georgia's Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle said that to absorb the reduction of revenues, cuts are to be expected.

# 4-H at risk...from page 1A

lower than a year ago, meaning state lawmakers have an even tougher decision when finalizing Georgia's 2011 Fiscal Budget. It's the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of declining state revenues.

Sen. Butterworth has vowed to leave no stone unturned in finding ways to defend and save the 4-H program that reaches thousands of youth ages 9 to 19 statewide.

"I am extremely concerned about the topic of the 4-H and county extension programs," Sen. Butterworth said.

"These programs cannot be removed from UGA's Research and Extension arms. The 4-H program touches the lives of more than 156,000 students and aides them in developing valuable life skills that better prepare them for leadership roles in their careers and community. Economic growth and success of Georgia agribusinesses greatly rely on the next generation of innovators."

"Additionally, the Extension Service helps Georgians become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible," Sen. Butterworth said.

"Extension agents are in nearly every county in Georgia. Most counties have a combination of agents who specialize in agriculture, natural resources, youth development and family and consumer sciences."

Sen. Butterworth said that without a doubt, there would be cuts from the state budget.

"Some school programs might be limited, but not eliminated," he said. "There will be

layoffs, but not to the extent recent discussions implied.

"Regardless, rest assured that I remain committed to ensuring that future generations of 4H-ers will have plenty of opportunities to use their heads, hearts, hands and improve their health through programs administered through statewide County extension offices," Sen. Butterworth said.

Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens said he doesn't believe that the 4-H programs will be impacted the state fiscal crisis.

"That's been a very successful program for a long, long time and done a lot of good for the kids," Dr. Behrens said. "I really don't think that anything is going to happen to that program. The lawmakers have been going around and around about a lot of things, but I don't think they'll touch that program."

Some legislators say the cuts that could include the 4-H program are out of their hands. Supposedly, the University System of Georgia's Chancellor and Board of Regents will make the final determination of where the cuts come from not the legislature.

The Appropriations Committee sets the amount of the cut, not where the cuts are targeted, according to State Rep. Steve Davis' Web site.

The Henry County Republican says that concerns about the 4-H program should be expressed to University System Chancellor Errol Davis.

Chancellor Davis' e-mail address is chancellor@usg.edu according to State Rep. Davis' Web site.

# Ray Stevens...from page 1A

Over the years, Stevens' music has ranged from Country to Pop to Gospel, and includes former No. 1 hit *Everything Is Beautiful* and *Misty*.

For the most part, Stevens has been renowned throughout the years for his novelty hits, which include *The Streak*, which describes a fanciful tale about a man and his wife encountering a nude streaker at various locations and giving eyewitness news accounts.

It included the unforgettable line: *Don't look Ethel!* with Stevens' characters always replying: but it was done too late, Ethel had already been mooned.

The song poked good-

natured fun at the 1970s fad labeled *streaking*, or running nude in public.

Some of Stevens' other novelty songs included *Shriners' Convention*, *Mississippi Squirrel Revival*, *Ahab, the Arab*, (*sheik of the burning sands*), and the unforgettable *Gitarzan*.

A multi-platinum recording artist, songwriter and two-time Grammy winner, Stevens is celebrating 50 years in the music business this year. His career has spanned more than 25 million albums and more than 4 million videos sold throughout his illustrious career.

Tickets for the Ray Stevens Concert at Anderson Music Hall go on sale on May 21.