

# Fireworks...continued from page 1

“We’re becoming the talk of the town when it comes to fireworks,” he said. Steven Phillips said the event was a good one. “They sure spent a lot of money on the fireworks,” he said. “You can tell they are really trying to promote this county. It’s helped bring a lot of folks in here.” Joseph Foster was impressed with the event. He and his family came out to celebrate his father’s birthday. “This was great,” he said. “It’s the kind of event that boosts your morale. It was fun being around a crowd this large. You could feed off the excitement. “It’s just a good, fun family atmosphere here,” he

said. “You’ve got food, fireworks and music – you can’t go wrong with that.” The Ridges will host fireworks show each year that don’t impact the Fourth of July fireworks display at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hooper said. The next fireworks event: Labor Day Weekend. “We’re looking closely at ways that we can give back to the community and be involved in making a difference in Towns County,” he said. The Resort also will host weekend events that include pontoon rides, Cornhole competitions, horseshoes and of course, good food and music.

In late July, the Resort will host “Upon this Ridge,” a gathering of Christian bands performing in Concert on the grounds of The Ridges. “We’ll have music all day, and we’re excited about that,” Hooper said. The entertainment will include some groups from Florida, a couple of bands from Knoxville, one of notoriety, Caribou, recently featured on the Silver Screen. Several local artists also will be on hand. “It’s going to be an event around Jesus,” Hooper said. “We want to show the community what we are and that we’re a Rock for the community and also a Rock for God.”

# Any and all addictions

A new open 12 Step Recovery Program to help suffering people regardless of the particular addiction or addictions. We meet Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship of the Hills Church, Pinebrook Drive and 129 S, Blairsville, GA. For information email: recoveryieff@gmail.com, or call 706-835-1855. N(Jun1,Z1)CA

# BBQ Fest...continued from page 1

this year at the festival. A Turkey buzzard, a golden eagle, a huge red-tail hawk, a falcon, an owl and other birds of prey entertained the crowd as Dale Arrowood of Sharpsburg, told the history behind each bird. He advised the crowd to hold onto their small dogs. He even asked one lady to step away from the staging area as Edelman the red-tail hawk made his way to his perch high atop a large pine tree. After each bird performed feats of aerodynamics, Arrowood would ask the crowd to help urge the raptors back into their cages by saying their names and “say go home!” Twelve-year-old Madison McKenzie of DeKalb County, said she was amazed at how obedient the birds were following

Arrowood’s commands. “They are pretty scary when you first see them come out, but it only takes a second to realize that they obey (Arrowood’s) voice commands,” she said. The activities included games and entertainment in the Kids’ Zone for the young folks that included an exhibit by the Winged Ambassadors Birds of Prey. The BBQ contest itself is a part of the Kansas City Barbeque Society, which is the largest international organization of barbeque and grilling enthusiasts, trained in the rules of KCBS competitions. Contestants competed for cash prizes, trophies, and ribbons. The event also included the Georgia State BBQ Championships. The ever popular People’s Choice

Awards also were on tap during the weekend event. While BBQ was the main event, it wasn’t the only attraction. The weekend also featured the All-American Arts & Crafts Festival. Locals came out to play their wares during the annual festival. There were wind chimes, glass art, jewelry, chainsaw carvings, pottery and many other crafts on display and for sale. The event also featured live demonstrations of soap-making, blacksmithing, weaving, hominy making, and other historic mountain activities. In front of the crafts and food, Steven Phillips and the Midnight Express performed, along with the Georgia Highlanders Bluegrass Band to celebrate the weekend of festive events.



A variety of BBQ was to be had at the Fourth Annual Horsin’ Around BBQ Festival at Brasstown Valley Resort during the Memorial Day Weekend. It was a BBQ lover’s delight as hundreds came to enjoy the Southern Cuisine. Photos/James Reese and Lowell Nicholson.

# The Ultimate Date Night with Nashville Unleashed at the Lodge At Copperhead

Nashville Unleashed with hosts Jack & Diane return to the Lodge at Copperhead for encore performance with Nashville artists - Trent Jeffcoat, Mark Lonsway and Darryl MacQuarrie. Tickets are on sale now for the June 11, 7:30 p.m. concert in the Grand Hall at the Lodge at Copperhead. Reservations for intimate candlelight seating and buffet dining are available from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Nashville Unleashed with Jack & Diane is an unprecedented concert experience. The show provides a romantic evening for couples and music connoisseurs in an intimate, “in the round” format. Similar to VH-1s Storytellers, Jack & Diane and their ever-changing lineup of guest song-writing artists share the inspiration behind their music and the stories behind their songs. Running the gamut of emotion, from boisterous laughter to soul-soothing rhythms to heartfelt tears, it truly is an acoustic journey of song throughout the evening.

Nashville show. Trent Jeffcoat - after a severe car accident left him paralyzed, he overcame those odds and now writes professionally for The Writers Den. Trent just released a new CD, "When I Find Me That Mountain." Staying true to traditional country music, he has a compelling effect on an audience and is one of the most inspirational artists in Nashville.



Jack & Diane

Mark Lonsway - Recording Artist, Songwriter, Producer, and Guitarist - Toured with Terri Clark. Mark is also the composer for the theme song for WWE Wrestler, Maria Kanellis and several film tracks. Today, national radio airplay is in over sixty-five markets for his debut CD, "Not Your Typical Cowboy." He is also vocalist and/or guitarist for several national TV and radio commercials including McDonald's, Applebee's, and Allstate. Darryl MacQuarrie - Enjoys the reputation as the “one

to watch” for new recording artists. His rich, deep voice, captures and holds the attention of his audience. Darryl has caught the attention of music executives and earned respect as an Artist/Songwriter. 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 resort. Lodging reservations are available at website: www.thelodgeatcopperhead.com or by calling 706-835-7433. N(Jun1,D5)CA