

Towns County 4th of July Weekend!

Photos by: Lowell Nicholson & James Reese



Fatal Crash...continued from page 1A

of the crash. Steve Dyer's wife Deane Dyer and their daughter Maggie Dyer were seriously injured in the crash, Banks court records show.

Russum appeared before Superior Court Judge Robert Adamson in April 2006, where a plea agreement with District Attorney Madison was accepted.

Russum was sentenced to 10 years, with three years to serve in state prison, and seven years on probation. The remaining charges were to be served concurrently with Count 1 (10 years, serve three), Banks court records show.

His driver's license was suspended for five years, Banks court records show.

According to the Georgia Department of Corrections, Russum served his sentence in Washington State Prison, entering the system on May 31, 2006, and being released per his sentence on Jan. 16, 2009.

Russum also has two theft convictions on his state prison record along with a motor vehicle violation, state prison records show.

Craig, 61, of Hiawassee, was laid to rest June 30 in the Pine Grove Baptist Church Cemetery; Banister Funeral Home of Hiawassee had charge of the arrangements.

According to a White County Coroner's Office



Brent Russum

spokesman, Craig was returning home from work on Saturday, June 25th, driving North on Asbestos Road in White County, when his 1994 Ford Escort was struck head-on by a 2004 Chevrolet 2500 driven by the 25-year-old Russum, of Cornelia.

Gordy Wright, public information officer for the Georgia State Patrol, said the accident occurred around 5:10 p.m. on June 25th.

"One vehicle (headed South) traveled off the west shoulder, causing the driver (Russum) to over correct, resulting in a head-on collision," Wright said.

Russum was traveling South on Asbestos Road; Craig was traveling North, Wright said.

"(Russum) went off the west shoulder, came back

across the center-line and collided head-on with the Escort (driven by Craig)," Wright said.

Craig died as a result of injuries sustained in the crash; Russum, according to Wright, fled the scene of the crash on foot.

"He fled the scene on foot, but was brought back to the crash scene," Wright said. "Once they found him (Russum), he was taken for medical treatment to Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville by ground transport."

At press time, Russum was being held in the White County Detention Center in Cleveland.

Russum is charged with first-degree vehicular homicide; driving under the influence (refused blood test); hit and run; leaving the scene of an accident; failure to report an accident with injury, death or damage; and failure to maintain lane, all related to the crash with Craig's vehicle, patrol crash reports show.

No other persons were injured as a result of the fatal crash on Asbestos Road, Wright said.