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off the list, Clinton's face turned red and his jaw began to drop. By the time he heard his name called, the sheriff was at a loss for words.

"I think he's done a fine job since he's been elected and I know you do too," President Grady said. "He's a fine Christian man, he's got a lovely wife and family and he's always willing to help, especially here at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds."

As Grady signaled Sheriff Clinton to rise from his chair and accept the honor of Citizen of the Year, so rose the crowd of Lions, law enforcement and public safety personnel in tribute to the man of the hour.

A surprised Sheriff Clinton smiled and addressed the crowd.

"I guess I found out what I'm speaking about to-

night," he said in a humble tone.

"I want to say thank you, not only to the Lions Club, but to the folks that trust me to run the Sheriff's Office," Clinton said. "I want to say thank you to these folks in the room who we just introduced (deputies and public safety personnel). They really do, they give you everything they've got."

"I also want to say thank you to Crystal (his wife) and my children," he said. "They put up with an awful lot and they support me. When it's 2 o'clock in the morning, the phone rings and something bad has happened, they understand."

Afterward, Sheriff Clinton, still at a loss for words, said the honor was "humbling."

"It's a big honor," he said. "However, to me, the

big deal, the heroes, well, they're our deputies. They do a great job and I get the credit for that and I appreciate it. Believe me, I couldn't do it without them."

"I certainly couldn't do the job without our community and my family," he said. "It's a partnership all the way around."

The sheriff said the honor came as a welcomed surprise.

"When we came in, they asked Crystal and I to sit up front so I wouldn't have to walk so far to speak," Sheriff Clinton said. "I was supposed to be the guest speaker and my secretary didn't tell me. I didn't have a clue what they were doing until Ralph started to speak."

"It's a pretty good surprise," he said with a smile.

Shelton shines...continued from page 1

the partisan Shelton crowd with one hit after another.

"I'll tell you one thing folks, it's great to be in Hiawasse, Georgia on a Friday night," he said to the screaming crowd, mostly consisting of fans of the female persuasion. "Heck, it's Friday night, me and the boys have nothing else to do. We're going to put on a show for y'all."

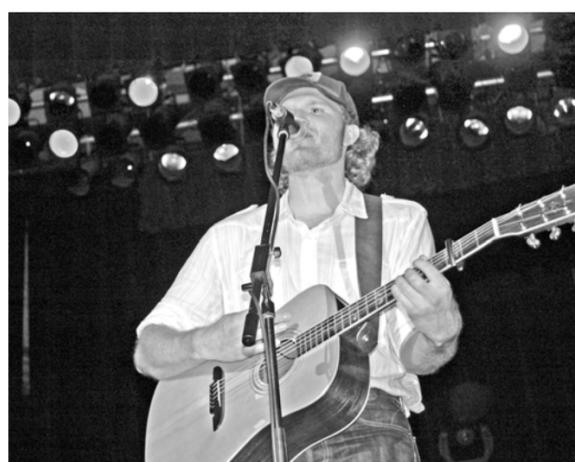
Shelton belted out one hit after another. Especially a hit about tearing down a dirt road with a Rebel flag flying and an Earnhardt sticker behind his head. Well, Shelton fans know the rest of the lyrics and the title to the song. We won't repeat either in this story, but it drew a yell from the crowd.

Shelton also sang his No. 1 hit *Nobody but Me* as the crowd sang along. He followed with a gold one from George Strait's repertoire, *All My Exes Live In Texas*.

Shelton talked about how excited he was to be engaged to his true love, a blond-haired beauty and Country Music star, Miranda Lambert.

The Anderson Music Hall crowd was just as excited for him.

Earlier in the evening,



Nashville newcomer Eric Paslay opened for Blake Shelton Friday evening much to the delight of concert goers. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

the crowd was pleasantly surprised by a young Nashville act opening for Shelton. Eric Paslay, with a repertoire of his own songs and sounding like a young Tom Petty, was all alone on the stage with his guitar more than an hour before Shelton took the stage.

Paslay brought the crowd to its feet on more than one occasion and surprised the partisan Shelton crowd with a guitar picking that would make Roy Clark smile.

He grew up in Texas but moved to Nashville seven years ago. His musical influences include Johnny Cash, Rodney Crowell, Eric

Clapton, Brooks & Dunn and Tom Petty.

This young singer, songwriter stands 6-feet 4-inches and has fiery red hair, covered with a brown hunting hat. If you somehow don't notice him in a crowd you'll definitely pay attention when you hear his voice.

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason was so impressed with the 27-year-old newcomer that she said Paslay will be booked for next year's Georgia Mountain Fair.

"He is talented," she said. "I think he has a bright future ahead of him."

Kendall pleased with park deal

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall has been overwhelmed with the outpour of support for the county's recent purchase of 50.7 acres of land on Mining Gap Trail for future park use.

The property, acquired from the Johnnie Foster Charitable Trust with the help of her sister Nancy Broshears, will be developed into what Kendall refers to as a "comprehensive park" to be forever known as the Ralph and Johnnie Foster Memorial Park.

"Acquiring the property has been a great relief and very rewarding to me," Commissioner Kendall said. "When seeking the office of Commissioner, I made a commitment to the citizens, as a major plank of my platform, to find property for a much needed park."

"I had been turned down at every attempt to acquire property over the past four years and was very concerned that I may not be able to fulfill this commitment," he said. "Thanks to Nancy Broshears and her late sister Johnnie, I have been able to keep this commitment by acquiring property on which to develop a park."

Commissioner Kendall said that he wanted to thank the many residents of Towns County who have called offering their thanks for purchasing the property and support in seeking long-term funding, other than using property tax dollars (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax).

SPLOST dollars, if



Commissioner Bill Kendall approved by voters in the months ahead, will pay for developing the acreage into a park to be enjoyed in perpetuity by residents, both young and old alike, Commissioner Kendall said.

"This project has brought together Towns County residents of all ages and groups in a common cause to benefit all," Commissioner Kendall said. "I want to share with you, just one example of support and thanks to Nancy from Macon County, NC."

WPFJ 1480 AM, The Dove, Christian Radio aired the following on July 2, the day proclaimed by Commissioner Kendall as Nancy Broshears Day in Towns County. The DJ was Charlie Bass.

"Several times this morning, I've made mention of the upcoming Fourth of July weekend and what it means to live in a free country. I think one of the things that make America the country that it is today is the generations of people who lived before us and thought and planned for us. We stand on the shoulders of previous generations to enjoy the freedom we have today. It's great to know that that spirit has not died and I want to share one local

Quilters prepare for festivals



L-r: Florie Campbell, Joanne Olson, and Anne Horne

Members of the Misty Mountain Quilters Guild are busy making items for show and sale in upcoming local festivals. The group will maintain a booth in the Georgia Mountain Fair in Hiawasse, July 21-31; the Butternut Creek Festival in Blairsville, July 24-25; and the new Green Bean Festival in Blairsville, July 30-31. Visitors to the quilters' booth will be treated to displays of "Hugs and Kisses Quilts", demonstrations in various quilting techniques, a chance to buy many various quilted items, and even lessons for beginners. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the American art of quilt-

ing, as well as modern applications and methods.

For more information, visit the website: www.mistymountainquiltguild.com.

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Benefit yard sale

Huge yard sale at Friendship Community Clubhouse, next to Hawg Heaven BBQ on Friday and Saturday, August 13 and 14 from 8 AM until 12 PM, rain or shine. Proceeds will benefit Operation PUP and the Whiskers Project. PUP is a local non-profit animal advocacy group that assists families to spay and neuter their pets and provide educational programs in responsible animal care. The Whiskers Project is a program that traps and spays or neuters feral cats. Please come and support these community service groups. PUP 888-496-2387 or Whiskers Project 888-872-9330. For donations call 706-896-6406. TJul21.F1)SH