

Clinton...from Page 1A

choose me to represent them in this position," Sheriff Clinton said. "I'm honored to serve with a prestigious group of men."

Sheriff Clinton is currently serving his second term as a Region III Vice President. Also, Sheriff Clinton was awarded a Top 10 Award in fundraising by the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes during the Georgia sheriffs' summer training conference last week. Towns County placed third in the state in fundraising for the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes, a non-profit organization currently caring for approximately 80 children on five campuses across the state of Georgia. "The real award belongs to the people of Towns County

for donating to this cause, Sheriff Clinton said. "There are many, many Towns County citizens to thank." This is the fifth Top 10 award Sheriff Clinton has received for his fundraising efforts on behalf of the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes. To donate to the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes or if you know of a child who could benefit from placement in the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes, please visit <http://www.georgiasheriffsyouth.org/>. Also, to donate to the Georgia Sheriff's Association to help fund training conferences for Georgia's sheriffs, please visit <http://www.georgiasheriffs.org/> or call (770) 914-1076.

AVA...from Page 1A

in North Carolina and Towns and Union Counties in Georgia. The Upper Hiwassee Watershed acts perfectly as the natural boundary for the eight wineries that fall into the Upper Hiwassee Highlands AVA. An American Viticultural Area designation is not an easy process and they are not freely given out. The majority of AVAs are located in California with notorious names like Napa Valley and Sonoma. The Upper Hiwassee Highlands region makes the fourth designation for North Carolina and the first ever for Georgia. What does this mean to the wineries? It means that each vineyard in the Upper Hiwassee Highlands has a way to point outwiners and consumers to a special characteristic or overall quality of grapes grown in the region. Additionally, they have

permission to use a tag on their label called an appellation of origin, which proudly states the wine was made in the Upper Hiwassee Highlands region. The vineyards that are included in the region include Clay County, NC's Eagle Fork Vineyards, Cherokee County, NC's Calaboose Cellars, Valley River Vineyards, and Nottely River Valley Vineyards. Towns County's Crane Creek Vineyards, and Hightower Creek Vineyards, Union County's Paradise Hills Farm Winery, and Odom Springs Vineyards. Having the AVA designation assures wine enthusiasts of a product's quality and characteristics. So, take a ride around and get to know the wines of your region. Most vineyards offer tastings and typically have music or other fun events as you sniff, sample, and enjoy each unique vintage.

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

An ounce of prevention...

There is an old saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The same thinking certainly applies to the safety and security of your home. In the past, I have spoken of ways to help protect you from becoming the victim of a burglary. The following are some steps you can take to help protect your home or business from burglary. These ideas are available from a number of sources including, the National Sheriffs' Association, Council on Burglary Prevention, Georgia Secretary of State, etc. They are offered in the spirit of helping you remain safe.

1. Always remember to keep your doors and windows securely locked. Burglars like most criminals often commit crimes of opportunity. If you make your home an easy target, then you may be asking for trouble. It is always best for doors to be secured with a deadbolt lock that has a one inch throw and has the strike plate reinforced, using three inch screws.
2. Sliding glass doors should be secured by placing a metal or wooden rod in the track.
3. If you have an attached garage you should always lock any door leading into your home. Never rely on an automatic garage door opener to be secure. Often burglars will ride through an area with an automatic garage door opener to see if they can open a garage door on the same frequency.
4. When you are away from home, you can create the

illusion that someone is home by placing lights, televisions, or radios on timers and having them turn on and off at different times.

5. It is a good idea to keep the perimeter of your home well lit. The last thing that a criminal wants is a witness. A well lit perimeter can be an excellent deterrent.
6. If you are going to be away on a trip, it is a good idea to have a trusted friend, family member, or neighbor, to pick up mail and other packages while you are away. Having a full mailbox ad packages lying around tells a burglar that you must be away for a while.
7. Consider having a friend or neighbor house sit or leave a vehicle in your drive to suggest someone is home.
8. Never leave a message on your home voicemail telling people you are away and when you will return. This is just letting people know that your home is vulnerable and for how long.
9. Consider taking advantage of the extra patrols offered by the sheriff's office. They can be submitted in person at the sheriff's office, by calling 706-896-4444, or by going online at www.towns-sheriff.com. Click on the "Extra Patrol Requests" link on the left.
10. Always keep shrubbery trimmed back away from windows and doorways. While these may look attractive they can offer easy hiding places for burglars to break in undetected.

Possibly one of the most important steps to keeping your home safe is to organize a Neighborhood Watch program. As I have often said in the past, if every community in our county had an organized and alert Neighborhood Watch, it would be nearly impossible for burglars to commit an undetected crime. Your sheriff's office is always willing to help in organizing a Neighborhood Watch program for your neighborhood. 706.896.4151@SH

Powerful tools for caregivers

It is all about taking care of you - the caregiver! Classes begin August 12 and go thru September 16. Classes will be held at the Union General Hospital Training/Conference Room behind the hospital. We begin class promptly at 1 p.m. and we end at 2:30 p.m.

The following is a list of the six week classes: Class 1 - Taking Care of You; Class 2 - Identifying and Reducing Personal Stress; Class 3 - Communicating Feelings, Needs and Concerns; Class 4 - Communicating in Challenging Situations; Class 5 - Learning From Our Emotions; and Class 6 - Mastering Caregiving Decisions.

The classes are once a week for six weeks. Each class lasts 90 minutes.

This is not a caregiver support group. It is designed to

teach you, the caregiver, skills for surviving the caregiving experience. The class is free. For more information: please contact Deborah Raleigh RN at 706-781-6552 or email her at deborahraleigh@windstream.net or contact Linda Beaver at 706-835-6649 or email her at lcwmc2@yahoo.com.

Note: (August 5 is the last registration day for this 6-week training.) We are looking forward to hearing from you.

How will the "tools" benefit me, the family caregiver? The class will help you: reduce stress; improve self-confidence; communicate effectively with others; take care of yourself and balance your life; reduce guilt, anger, and depression; and deal with difficult feelings and challenging situations. 706.896.4151@SH

Fair...from Page 1A

Rock-N-Roll. Following next came Anderson Music Hall favorite The Bellamy Brothers, also made up of a brother duo, consisting of Howard Bellamy and younger brother David Bellamy. The Brothers Bellamy performed and put on a great show as they sang the songs that made them Pop and Country Music icons. They opened with *Feelin' the Feelin'* and *Let Your Love Flow*. The fans were singing along, clapping their hands, and even some folks were dancing in the aisles.



The Bellamy Brothers once again proved crowd favorites at Anderson Music Hall during the Georgia Mountain Fair. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The Brothers have been performing together for almost 40 years and have withstood the test of time and they still have that magical blend of instrumentals and sound that keep fans coming back for more. Possibly their all time greatest hit, *If I Said You Have a Beautiful Body (Would You Hold it Against Me)*, sent fans into a frenzy. Bellamy Brothers' fans were on their feet, clapping, and absolutely showing these very talented brothers their love and appreciation of their enduring musical talent.

Joe Diffie, whose hits include 1994's *Third Rock From the Sun*, which was certified platinum, and *Pickup Man*, while being certified gold with over 12 other top 40 hits. Throughout the week, The Gibson Brothers, Bobby Osbourne and the Rocky Top X-press, The Travelin' McCourys, and John Berry, who's had more than 19 Billboard hits since the late 1970s, including *Your Love Amazes Me* and *I Think About It All the Time*, deemed one of country music's most remark-

able voices. "We've got some good country here for you folks!" exclaimed Mel Tillis, who has an impressive track record, quite literally, since the 1950s. "I've been rehearsin' and I've had some therapy. It ain't workin'. But I'm at that age where I'm talkin' pretty good," joked Tillis, referencing his well-known speech impediment that does now affect his singing voice, remarkably. "Have y'all noticed?" he asked the crowd. "But the

problem there is that I still can't remember nothing. I had a birthday Aug. 6th and I have another comin' up." While the heart of the entertainment was displayed on stage the nine days of the Fair at the Anderson Music Hall, the heartstrings sat in the lobby, as the Towns County Lions Club displayed an autographed guitar by entertainers who had played at the historic Music Hall. "Each raffle ticket purchased will go toward giving scholarships to high school seniors in Towns County," said Cornelia Hauge of the Towns County Lions Club. "We closed with an amazing weekend," exclaimed Hilda Thomason, General Manager of the Fairgrounds. "Mel Tillis did a great job. He is 81 years old and still entertaining and touring. It's always an honor to have him with us. And it will also be great to have our Moonshine Cruiz-In on August 7, 8, and 9th, with live music and what is looking to be one of the best and biggest car shows we've ever had." For more information about the Cruiz-In, and other upcoming events throughout the year at the Fairgrounds, call (706) 896-4191.



Racing...from Page 1A

In 2000 they created The Paddling Porker Show. These little piggies swim race four at a time as the crowd cheers the porkers on to victory as they finish their race diving in to a 24-foot swimming pool called the Hogwash. These pigs run for the ultimate prize for a pig, an Oreo cookie. Rest easy race fans because these racing beauties are not meant for the breakfast table. The only side of a placemat they see is the underside of the racing banners across their backs that show their numbers. "They let us know when it is time to quit racing and we retire them to our farm in Florida," said owner Sharon Ross. State and local fairs are



not the only venues for these adorable little pigs. They are favorites at graduation parties, private affairs and bar mitzvahs.

They travel to more than 125 different shows in a single year, which keep the racing pigs busy. Good luck little racers

and we will see you next time you visit the Georgia Mountain Fair.

Books...from Page 1A

while their many volumes stood colorfully on display. "Almost five years ago my father finally got around to doing what he always loved to do, make books," Chris said. "So he started Morningside Children's books." Based in Florida, Keith, who was in the commercial printing business 30 years prior, writes all of the original stories. "We have 14 titles in print and about another six more in the works," Chris said. "They're illustrated by various artists. A lot of people have their books made overseas, but we handcraft all of our books

on our own so we can get into a lot of venues a lot of other author's can't. One of our artists is from Poland, through one of our websites. The same thing happened with the next girl, who is Scottish, living in Paris." While some of the books are comparable to works of famed author and cartoonist Shel Silverstein, author Keith Roman has a style all his own. When asked where his inspiration sprang from to create the bright eye-candied bound books, his wife simply yet assuredly responded, "Me." *I Sat Beside An Elephant* is one title that holds a special

place for Keith Roman, having written it after remembering the title phrase as a child having grown up with a speech impediment, now able to share with other children how to possibly overcome a challenge, physical or the non. *A Woop in My Soup* is a Dr. Seuss inspired take on a Willie Nelson garbed character kicked back beneath an umbrella, feet submerged in a hot bowl of broth. Based on a conversation Chris and his father were having one morning over breakfast, ideas were brought to the table and a book was served up.

"We were talking about *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish* and we were kicking around ideas and he was making me laugh and I said, 'We can make a book out of that.'" The Romans are extremely grateful for the support from the North Georgia region, drawing from experiences of their times in the area being a family affair. "We come up in the Blue Ridge and Smokey Mountains too, in the summer time, with the great wildlife. That's why some of the books are inspired by my mom. She's nature. She's wildlife, all the way."

Gallery...from Page 1A

Atlanta." Rust, glass, minerals, pearl-papery photography, and typography adorned the rooms, one that includes a fireplace with paintings that dressed the mantle fittingly, as crowds carefully surfed the wave of creativity on display. "I work with a lot of found objects," said Janet Smith, a multi-media artist out of Jasper. "My passions are decorating, gardening especially, so the work lends itself to outside and nature and I've

always been attracted to rusty things." Smith collects objects most would deem random. However, there is a method to someone else's mad mess. "There used to be a dump in Blue Ridge that I could go to for some cool stuff. There's an automotive place that I get the rusty washers from. I saw a guy with some old telephone wires one day and asked him if I could have them. I just collect all this stuff and create." Vicki Fox, daughter of

Mountain Arts Association, Inc. member Linda Rubenstein, presents fine photography on both big and small sheets of Fuji Pearl archival paper, capturing Georgia's forests and lakes as they change throughout the seasons as weather conditions continually change. What is left are photographs of crooked silhouetted trees after a tornado's wake or before and after views of what a heavy snow can do to sturdy limbs, all without digital touchups. "The landscape where

we live. I mean, is this not God's country? I love the fall, when this one was painting," said Hiawassee resident Linda Rubenstein, referencing an oil painting she had on display of Hamilton Gardens located at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. "Every morning when you go across that bridge, on the lake there's that mist. I mean my gosh, everywhere you turn there's a painting. I don't have to go to far."

Cruiz-In...from Page 1A

Rod Power Tour' and we traveled from Florida, Charlotte, West Virginia, Ohio, Iowa and Wisconsin all in seven days. We've gotten a lot of publicity. This thing is going to be awesome." Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall has taken time to carefully plan the public safety side of the event with Towns County Fire Chief Mitch Floyd, Hiawassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright, Assistant Fire Chief Harold Copeland and Towns

County sheriff's Lt. Mark Cecci as Parrish outlined preparations for safe travel throughout the weekend's events. "We'll pull out of here and I'll lead a tour down into the town. We're supposed to go to where the new Towns County Historical Society space is," said Parrish, referencing the new Historical Society space Commissioner Kendall had put into place, utilizing over 2,200 feet of space in the previous Towns County Recreational Center.

"We're going to open up the concession stand and have BBQ, slow dogs, pizza, all the things we do for a concert. We'll open up the ice-cream shop," said Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason. "That'll all be available starting Friday night when we have the concert." Live music will accompany the event. Tommy Townsend, Steven Phillips and Midnight Express, and Bluegrass Band Breaking Grass,

from Mississippi, will perform for the masses. "I know Mr. Kendall has invested a lot of time into it. This is going to be a huge deal for the County and City," said Parrish. "I know two or three people who are coming from New Mexico. Some are driving from Canada." For more details about the upcoming Cruiz-In, contact Thomason at the Fairgrounds at (706) 896-4191 for more information.