

## CB&T under new ownership ...from page 1

bank. True, the bank became one of the nation's failed financial institutions, but with Friday's purchase by SCBT, one of Fortune magazine's 100 Most Trustworthy Companies, the bank figures to be once again a major player in the lending game.

Founded in 1900, Community Bank & Trust is the oldest bank in Habersham County and one of the oldest financial institutions in Northeast Georgia.

Community Bank & Trust operates 36 banking locations in 12 Northeast Georgia counties.

Based on the June 2009 FDIC summary of deposits, Community Bank & Trust ranked seventh in the Georgia state deposit market share among Georgia-based institutions.

As of Sept. 30, Community Bank & Trust had approximately \$1.2 billion in total assets and \$1.1 billion in total deposits. SCBT did not pay the

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation a premium to assume all of the deposits.

The FDIC and SCBT also entered into a loss-sharing agreement covering substantially all of the acquired loans and foreclosed real estate.

SCBT will not acquire any of the assets or assume any liabilities of Community Bank & Trust's former bank holding company, Community Bankshares Inc., nor its other

bank subsidiaries, Community Bank & Trust of West Georgia and Community Bank & Trust of Alabama.

SCBT Financial Corporation operates 48 financial centers in 16 South Carolina counties and Mecklenburg County in North Carolina. The corporation has assets of approximately \$2.7 billion, and its stock is traded under the ticker symbol SCBT in the NASDAQ Global Select Market.

## Tax break...from page 1

provided by the state.

It was believed at the time that the Towns County Board of Education and local municipalities could simply vote among themselves to be included in the exemption process. It was later determined that additional legislation would be required.

Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Behrens said that the school system figured the exemption into its 2010 budget during the annual budgeting process.

Statewide, only Towns County homeowners with local homestead exemptions qualify for the additional \$8,000 tax break.

## Bad Company rocks Anderson Music Hall

By Jessica Keaton  
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Bad weather couldn't scare off Bad Company. Despite the threat of nasty conditions, the band braved the rumors of snow and ice to rock out Anderson Music Hall on Saturday night.

Former member of Bad Company and Ted Nugent vocalist, Brian Howe, led the band, performing hits such as *Feel Like Makin' Love*, *Can't Get Enough*, *Ready For Love*, and an encore of their title track, *Bad Company*.

Opening for Bad Company was a local band, Little Giant, from Hall County. The band did a number of cover songs, including a rendition of John Mayer's *Crossroads*, along with



Bad Company's Brian Howe rocked Anderson Music Hall on Saturday night despite the threat of bad weather. Photo/Jessica Keaton

some of their own material.

Following Little Giant's performance, the traditional raffle, this time for two mirrors signed by Brian Howe and front row tickets, took place. All profits were donated to the American Red Cross to help the vic-

tims of the Haiti earthquake.

The night was an interactive one, with Howe encouraging the fans to sing along with their favorite Bad Company tunes. Perhaps the most vocal the crowd got on this evening was during

the encore performance of *Bad Company*.

The evening was not just one of music. Howe's sense of humor shined through in between songs. His self-deprecating jokes were quick crowd pleasers, making Howe not only a musical talent worthy of admiration, but a relatable person.

"That was one of the best concerts I have attended in years," exclaimed Paul Arnold of Young Harris, "Brian Howe's voice was amazing, and the guitar work was fantastic."

Verlene and Scott Satterfield of Dawsonville were in agreement: "It was great."

The sounds of classic rock shifted the evening's focus from the weather. The memorable legend of Bad Company rocked on.

## Heat results...from page 1

schedule II drug without a prescription;

· Tammy Giles, Possession of a schedule II drug without a prescription;

· Charles Alton Bennett, misdemeanor possession of marijuana; possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton was well aware of the ongoing investigations and was pleased to see that a well orchestrated mutual effort between the Towns County Sheriffs' Office and the Drug Task Force yielded several suspects allegedly involved in illegal narcotic activity.

Brad Parks, GBI assistant Special Agent in Charge and commander of the Drug

Task Force was pleased with the results of the operation.

"The success of this evening's round-up is the direct result of organized and intense investigations by qualified personnel." Parks is responsible for grant supported narcotics investigations that span four counties that include Lumpkin, Towns, Union, and White counties.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office and the Appalachian Drug Task Force urge residents to report any and all suspected drug related activity to local law enforcement.

The Drug Task Force can be reached at (800) 497-6121 or the Towns County Sheriff's Office at (706) 896-4444.

## Butterworth talks economics

This week, the state legislature completed four more legislative days and is moving along very quickly. Committees began deliberating legislation and taking on the big issues of jobs and the economy. Among them was a Joint Economic Development Meeting. As a member of the Senate Economic Development Committee, I am working with my colleagues to bring much-needed jobs to our great state and Northeast Georgia.

The Economic Development committee gathered experts on the economy and jobs to provide an economic outlook and make recommendations on how to jump-start Georgia's economy. Economist Robert Pletcher noted that despite Congress passing the biggest spending bill in history last February, jobs continue to crumble. "This is graphic evidence that the stimulus package is part of the problem," he said. We must focus on reducing spending and cutting waste as it is a proven root cause of this economic downturn.

Roger Tutterow, professor of economics at Mercer University, highlighted the effect that the downturn in construction had on jobs. Georgia's heavy exposure in the construction and real estate sector is a large part of why the state ranks among the top ten states in job loss. In order to move forward, Tutterow encouraged us to consider broad-

based tax reform that is comprehensive, rather than focused on only one sector.

Not one expert discussed spending more and raising taxes on the American people. This is our promise to the people of Georgia: we must balance a budget without any added burden on the tax payer. This principle will create an environment for growth. Small businesses and corporations can't survive, much less grow, with heavy tax burdens from the state. If there is growth, development will follow, meaning more companies will look to Georgia as a place to do business.

We have seen incremental growth in Georgia in the last year, but it is not enough. Kia opened a plant and brought 1,200 much-needed jobs to the state. In addition, auto parts suppliers added approximately 3,000 jobs. Georgia Tech estimates that this plant will bring nearly 20,000 new jobs by 2012. In Northeast Georgia, RITZ Instrument Transformers brought 50 jobs and \$3 million in investments and Team Metal Finishing brought 12 jobs and \$2 million in investments. These numbers may seem small in comparison but each job takes some burden away from a family and I am grateful for that.

Throughout the Legislative Session, the Senate and House Economic Development



State Sen. Jim Butterworth

committees will continue discussing ways the legislature can encourage growth in Georgia's job sector. We understand that people throughout America, Georgia, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Senatorial district of Georgia are hurting from a lack of jobs and growth, and an abundance of taxes. The key to economic stimulus, survival and growth is jobs, jobs, jobs.

As always, I am honored to serve you, the 50<sup>th</sup> Senatorial district. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sen. Jim Butterworth represents the 50th Senate District which includes Towns, Rabun, Habersham, Stephens, Banks, Franklin, and Hart counties along with a portion of White County. He can be reached by phone at 404.463.5257 or by email at jim.butterworth@senate.ga.gov.

## Arts and Crafts show scheduled

Brasstown Valley is proud to announce its Sweethearts Arts and Crafts Show. The show will be held indoors at the resort on February 13th and 14th 2010. Hours will be 10am to 5pm each day.

This is a juried event will many outstanding and talented vendors presenting their work. There is no doubt

that you will find that very special item for the special sweetheart in your life. Parking at admittance is free.

Brasstown Valley Resort and Spa is nestled in North Ga Mountains located in Young Harris Ga. Stop in and enjoy this unique event and the beautiful surroundings of the resort. Come make it a day.