

The Hall is rocking...continued from page 1A

playing a George Strait-brand of Country Music.

Thurmond, accompanied by his father Roger Thurmond and his brother Tim Thurmond, said that his father started the band when he and his brother were just young boys.

"We've been playing together for a long time," Tom Thurmond said. "Ever since my brother and I were about 8 years old. It's been a heck of a lot of fun over the years."

On Friday, Little Miss Dynamite, Brenda Lee, also a Georgia native, sounded out the hits that made her a star in both the Pop and Country Music genres. She's the only Georgian in both the Rock 'N Roll and Country Music Hall of Fames.

"I can't tell you how special it is to be here in Hiawassee, Georgia," said Lee, an Atlanta native. "I've performed in 86 different countries and all over the United States. But there's nothing like performing in front of the home folks."

Another Georgian kicked off the day for Lee. Freddie Way, one of the rising stars of Country Music and a native of Cornelia, told the crowd that it was an honor opening for Brenda Lee.

"She's a legend," he said. "It's an honor to share the same stage with her."

On Saturday, The Brothers Bellamy took the stage.

One thing is for certain, one of the most successful duos in Pop and Country Music brought a



Ray Price croons *For The Good Times*. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

capacity crowd to its feet after playing the bulk of its 14 No. 1 hits. Those songs included *If I Said You Had a Beautiful Body (Would You Hold It Against Me)*, *Sugar Daddy*, *Redneck Girl*, *Dancing Cowboys*, *For All the Wrong Reasons*, *Old Hippie*, *Reggae Cowboy*, and *Kids of the Baby Boom*.

The Brothers or what's left of them as Howard Bellamy jokingly said, love to bring their Grammy-nominated act to the stage. They love Georgia and they especially love the folks who come to Hiawassee.

"Y'all are a diehard bunch of fans," David Bellamy quipped to the crowd. "Thank you all for being here."

The Brothers engaged the crowd urging fans to sing along as they belted out their legendary list of songs. The duo received a warm welcome from those in attendance. In the 1990s, Billboard named the Bellamy Brothers as Top Country

Duo; in addition, the brothers eventually went on to set the record for most duo nominations from both the Academy of Country Music and the Country Music Association, despite having never won either duo award.

Union County native Tommy Townsend, now of Nashville, Tenn., opened for The Bellamy Brothers.

He concentrated on his local ties to the North Georgia Mountains. He wasn't shy about telling that he was born in Towns County, but raised in Blairsville.

"How many of you here tonight are locals?" Townsend asked the crowd.

A loud cheer echoed throughout Anderson Music Hall.

"I'm proud to be here to perform for you tonight," he said.

On Monday evening, the legendary Ray Price wooed the capacity crowd with his collection of all-time favorites that included *For The Good Times*, *Danny Boy* and *Release Me*.

Back to school help for foster children

Time is growing near for our area children to start returning back to school. They will be picking out their backpacks, new clothes and shoes to start back to their classes again. Everyone will be "shopping" for their child's school supplies and checking out all the clothing sales to stock up on everything their school-age child will need to prepare them for the new year. They are aware how much this helps to boost their child's self-esteem and excitement for the work ahead. Every school-age child loves to pick out that new "outfit" for the first day of school.

A foster child is no exception. They, too, want to take part in the fun of the first day of school, as well as be prepared for the work ahead in the new year.

Thanks to the generous donations given for years by the citizens in both, Union and Towns Counties, our area "Foster Children" will again be given cards in their own name so they can "go shopping" for new backpacks, school clothing and shoes. Our non-profit program, "Towns and Union Foster Children's Enrichment Program, Inc." has been providing these gift certificates for our foster children for several years now.

The citizens in our community have helped our foster children feel proud and more excited about going back to school each year. And we thank you for your continued generous support given even in hard times!

Anyone that would like to donate to our non-profit program again this year, please make your checks payable to: Foster Children's Enrichment Fund and mail to: Foster Children's Enrichment Fund c/o Pat Elliott 2514 Buck Run, Hiawassee, Georgia 30546 or deposit directly at the Bank of Blairsville or Bank of Hiawassee.

The foster children of Towns and Union Counties thank each of you! Any questions, please contact Board and Volunteers: Pat Elliott (706) 896-3749, Richard Paolillo (706) 745-1190 or Sherry Wendt (706) 253-2514.

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Fair packs a crowd... continued from page 1A

Mississippi and Alabama as well.

The amazing fact of this year's event, children and adults alike withstood the near 100-degree temperatures in the carnival area as they enjoyed the rides.

The reason, Thomason theorizes is that even though the economy continues at a stale pace, families understand the value of having a good time.

At the Fair, families are getting the biggest bang for the buck. With first class musical performances, carnival rides, unique attractions and a glimpse into North Georgia's rich history and culture, the Fair provides something for every member of the family.

"The Fair is very affordable and no where else are you going to find this much entertainment for \$9 a day per person," she said.

The musical lineup for the first week has included headliners Roy Clark, T. Graham Brown, Brenda Lee and The Bellamy Brothers.

It has also featured regional talent that includes Country River, Freddie Way and Tommy Townsend. For the most part, Anderson Music Hall has been packed. And music fans must remember this: each seat during the Fair is a General Admission seat - there's no saving seats.

Headliners for the rest of the Fair include Gene Watson, Jim Ed Brown and Helen Cornelius, Billy Joe Royal and

Earl Thomas Conley.

Thursday is Bluegrass Day featuring Mountain Heart, Paul Williams & Victory Trio, Little Roy Lewis & Elizabeth "Lizzy" Long.

Local and regional talent for the rest of the week includes Jim Wood and the Georgia Mountain Fair Band, James Childers and the Scataway Pickers and Steven Phillips and Midnight Express.

Wednesday is Customer Appreciation Day with patrons getting in for \$8 all day. Also on Wednesday, the Georgia Mountain Recipe Showcase featuring Heritage Days, for competitors ages 70 and over. If you're competing in the Recipe Showcase, you get in free.

Runoff... continued from page 1A

for the Democratic nod for Secretary of State. Buckner lost in her bid four years ago to become Secretary of State to Karen Handel, who did not complete her full term as Secretary of State, rather opting to run for governor. Buckner took 35 percent of the vote in the Democratic Primary to 22.6 percent for Sinkfield.

The July 20 primary did settle two local races: Enotah Judicial Circuit Dis-

trict Attorney and State Senate District 50. Jeff Langley will be the circuit's new District Attorney as he defeated Raymond George in three of the four counties that make up the circuit, including Towns County.

State Sen. Jim Butterworth returns to the Gold Dome after soundly defeating his challenger Terry Rogers in six of the eight counties that make up the 50th Senate District, including Towns County.

Fiddler On the Roof opens Thursday



A wedding dance from *Fiddler On the Roof*

While others frolic on cool summer night in the mountains, the Lick Log Players prepare to entertain you with an extraordinary production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

This year the talent is amazing again with local community performers, including Young Harris' Patricia Hanks as Zoloff; Brasstown's Lenora Somervell as Yente; Blairsville's Wayne Roshaven as Tevye; Murphy's Herb Silbert as the Rabbi; and Hayesville's Charlie Swafford as the Fid-

ler. *Fiddler on the Roof* will be performed at the Peacock Playhouse in Hayesville, NC beginning Thursday, July 29 - August 1st and then August 5th through the 8th. Tickets are \$15 and students are \$8. For more information call toll free 877-691-9906.

Don't miss the tradition, the singing, the dancing, the music. To life! If you have any questions call - Jeanne Mills at 706-745-3500. See you at *The Fiddler on the Roof*! NTJul28, Z3JSH