

## Lowery signs with Reds...continued from page 1

Lowery can also gain knowledge from Billings pitching Coach Bob Forsch, who spent 16 years in the big leagues, mostly with the Cardinals. Forsch tossed a pair of no-hitters and played in three World Series (1982, '85 and '87). Billings' manager is Julio Garcia, who led the team to a playoff appearance last season.

Lowery hit .431 (75-for-174) with 17 home runs and 87 runs batted in for Young Harris in 2009, helping lead the Mountain Lions to a 44-12 overall record and a No. 4 national ranking.

His name is listed all over the school's record book. Lowery's RBI total is the third best single-season mark in school history, his 17 homers are tied for the third best single season total in team history and his batting average is the fifth best one-year mark at Young Harris.

Lowery's career totals are just as impressive. He ranks second all-time at YHC with 139 runs batted in and 29 home runs (current Baltimore Oriole outfielder Nick Markakis tops both categories), and is third with a .380 career batting average.

The Laurinburg, N.C., native earned first-team All-Region XVII and All-East Central District honors this past season.

## Brothers pack Music Hall...continued from page 1

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.

Jim Wood and the Georgia Mountain Fair Band welcomed the Bellamy Brothers to Anderson Music Hall. They also paid tribute to Anderson

## Indians ready for football season...continued from page 1

come.

"When you sign a contract, to me, that's an honorable thing," Langford said. "If I sign a contract, I'm going to live up to that deal. When you sign a contract, you get prepared and let the chips fall where they may."

A forfeit to Towns County would have been unheard of a decade ago. From 2001 through 2007, the Indians went an abysmal 2-68. During that same stretch, the Indians lost 36 consecutive games.

The Indians broke that merciless losing streak on Aug. 29, 2008 with a 20-0 shut-out win over the Rabun County Wildcats.

Last year at this same

Lowery is one of 11 former Mountain Lions playing professionally. Markakis is starting in right field for Baltimore, while pitcher Billy Buckner is on the Diamondbacks' 40-man roster and is currently pitching for the Reno Aces of the Class AAA Pacific Coast League after appearing in 10 games for Arizona earlier this season.

Lowery was the first of four members of the 2009 Young Harris team, and one of six former YHC players overall, to be selected in this year's draft. He accepted a scholarship offer to attend classes and play baseball at Western Carolina University, a member of the NCAA Division I Southern Conference, before opting to sign with the Reds organization.

Earlier this month, Lowery's YHC teammate, Bryson Smith, was named the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Player of the Year, and outfielder Daniel Warzon was an honorable mention NJCAA All-American. Including Lowery, Smith (Florida) and Warzon (East Carolina), 14 members of the 2009 Mountain Lions signed with NCAA Division I programs, and two others signed with elite NCAA Division II programs.

Music Hall legend "Fiddlin'" Howard Cunningham, who may have performed for the last time after 57 years of providing musical enjoyment.

The Georgia Mountain Fair also honored Mike Cunningham and F.C. Collins for the many years of musical enjoyment they have provided to fans from throughout the country while playing at Anderson Music Hall.

The evening and the Fair came to a close with a two-hour dance following the Bellamy Brothers' performance. Wood ended the evening with his rendition of the legendary 1958 Chuck Berry song "Johnny B. Goode."

time, teams were waiting in line to play the Indians. This season, those same teams won't even return a phone call believing that the Indians are calling to seek an opponent.

Langford said that the Indians biggest challenge will be Aug. 28 when they line up against the Wildcats from Rabun County.

"The first and most formidable challenge will be Rabun County," Langford said. "We're not going to get ahead of ourselves and overlooking our opponents. The Towns County Indians will take each game, one at a time."

Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 28th in Tiger at Rabun County High School.

## Deal comes to town to campaign...continued from page 1

Even as he campaigns for governor, Nathan Deal continues to be actively engaged in the Capitol Hill debate on issues like water, energy and healthcare.

Since his election to public office, Deal, the current financial front-runner in the governor's race, has represented Lake Lanier and the upper Chattahoochee River basin. With the most recent federal court decision that requires Congress to resolve the disputes between Georgia, Florida and Alabama over water in the Chattahoochee, Deal is already at the table and working to protect this most basic and vital resource.

"It's time for us to stake our rightful claim to the waters which, by the bounty of God, fall upon and flow through our state," said Deal, on the day he announced his candidacy for governor.

Deal believes that water for human consumption should always be a priority and is committed to working

with Alabama and Florida in finding a workable solution that allows Georgia to meet the need for drinking water while satisfying Alabama's water needs for nuclear power and keeping the court-mandated flow to Florida's endangered mussels and sturgeon.

As the Republican leader on the Health subcommittee, Deal also has been standing up against the Democrat plan for a government-run healthcare system.

"This is a fight to protect the greatest healthcare delivery system in the world," Deal said. "When people from countries, like Canada, where there is government managed healthcare, come to the U.S. because of an inadequate system in their own homeland, it should be a warning to us all."

Deal offered an amendment that would have prevented the federal government from dictating what benefits individual states must offer, which is required under the Democrat bill. While the amend-

ment was lost in a party line vote, Deal has sent the message to the Democrat leaders that he and his fellow Republicans will not sit by and allow the dismantling of our private healthcare system.

Deal also joined Congressman Phil Gingrey of Georgia, who is a physician, in supporting an amendment that would prohibit the government from interfering with the doctor-patient relationship, which has been the most personal and private of matters.

"A federal bureaucrat should not be involved in telling a physician how to practice medicine," Deal said.

Deal was a leader in the effort to oppose the so-called "cap and trade" bill, which will increase and possible double electric costs for Georgia consumers.

"We must continue our working in standing against these tax and spend initiatives that will only have detrimental results for our people," Deal said.

## Schools facing tough financial questions...continued from page 1

House will be held on Tuesday Aug. 4 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"At this time there are no plans to modify the student school calendar for the upcoming year," Dr. Behrens said. "The school calendar will continue to have 180 days of attendance scheduled for the students."

If parents have any questions or concerns about the Towns County Schools System please feel free to contact Dr. Behrens at the Towns County Board of Education office, (706) 896-2279.

Meanwhile, Gov. Perdue has come under fire from educators throughout the state that question his authority to mandate unpaid teacher workdays.

Georgia's Board of Education was scheduled to meet Tuesday to adopt measures relating to any teacher furloughs. The state board was to consider waivers to the number of days the state requires each school-district employee to work.

Gov. Perdue wants the state's 128,000 public school teachers to take three unpaid furlough days by the end of the calendar year. However, school districts are not required to enact the furlough, but the state is cutting the sum of those days from the districts funding.

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the standards being recommended by the Sheriff's Association and strive to make sure that Towns County Sheriff's Office is operating at the highest standard.

In Towns County we go beyond the minimum requirement of yearly verifications about the whereabouts of sex offenders. Our patrol officers do a fine job of verifying each of our registered offenders regularly. We keep our registry up to date on the website. Some have asked in the past why there are occasional differences in our site and the GBI website. The reason is we are more accurate. As sheriffs, we have 48 hours to update but the state does so at a much slower pace due to manpower issues.

I plan to send officers to the upcoming annual training on sex offender registration, which will be held next month in Stone Mountain. Continuing training helps ensure that these officers stay up to date with current laws and standards.

Also in the summer training session, the sheriffs heard from agents with Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency. These agents verified that prescription drugs are a growing problem everywhere in the state of Georgia. According to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab statistics, 83% of fatal drug overdoses in Georgia are from prescription pills, the leading cause of these overdoses being methadone.

Many young people get

Basically, if a local system ignores the three furlough days, local taxpayers are more than likely to pick up the tab for paying teachers and administrators.

Georgia Association of Educators' President Jeff Hubbard explains that teacher planning days are critical, especially this time of year, because they are used for the initial preparation for the implementation of Georgia's increasingly challenging state standards and curriculum. The planning days also are used for the preparation of instruction based on various learning styles, for academic and grade level team planning, and to prepare the classroom for the children.

"The members of the Georgia Association of Educators are obviously concerned and disappointed about Gov. Perdue's call for furloughing three planning days between now and the end of this calendar year," said Hubbard, whose association represents more than 42,000 educators. "They are concerned that the loss of those planning days, or any days, will negatively impact their ability to provide quality instruction to their students, which is their priority. This amounts to less time to prepare for their students, which impacts their ability to get the

breaks would be better spent on Georgia's future, our children."

Hubbard says Perdue has dumped the responsibility of decisions regarding unpaid teacher furloughs on local superintendents and school boards.

"One question we are looking into is whether our state statutes allow the governor to implement furloughs for contractual employees, which are the majority of our state teachers," Hubbard said. "He has handed off the responsibility for making these hard decisions to the superintendents and school boards. He does not have the authority to mandate furloughs for school employees because they are essentially employed by the local school systems."

Verdailia Turner, president of the Georgia Federation of Teachers, the state affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, is concerned that the furloughs will have a negative outcome on the performance of students.

"At a time when Georgia schools are performing better on statewide and federal tests, we question the governor's wisdom in his decision to furlough teachers," Turner said. "The millions of dollars allocated for programs such as 'Go Fishing Project' and the hundreds of millions of dollars afforded corporations in tax

breaks would be better spent on Georgia's future, our children."

Hubbard challenged state lawmakers to fully explore all other possibilities before resorting to negatively impacting student instruction, especially on the heels of the recent gains in attaining Adequate Yearly Progress.

"Educators are not blind to the effects of the recession and the need to trim budgets," said Hubbard, "but we would ask lawmakers to fully explore all other possibilities."

Some suggestions Hubbard's organization proposes include reexamining the state's tax incentive and tax-free programs.

"At a critical time when our state's coffers are not where we need them to be, it would be negligent to not look at methods to bring in much needed tax monies such as temporarily suspending the upcoming sales tax holiday, examining our corporate tax structure to see if they are paying their fair share, and looking at the feasibility of tax incentive giveaways such as those provided to motion-picture companies," Hubbard said.

"Georgia desperately needs a fair and equitable taxation system," Hubbard said. "The recession has only served to highlight this need."