

# Hometown Express

A Quarterly Publication of Community Bank of Pickens County



John Trammell, President/CEO  
Community Bank of Pickens County

## Extraordinary Times!

These are extraordinary times! All of us have felt the pain when we fill up our tanks or go to the grocery store. Those of us who have been in banking for some time have seen ups and downs over the years and have even come to expect and plan for these occurrences. In talking with friends and associates in the industry, many of whom have been in banking longer than my 23 years, most agree that we haven't, in some time, seen the real estate market affected so adversely.

While community banks had no role in the sub-prime mortgage debacle, we certainly see the downstream results of a tightening mortgage market. The usual slowing trend starts in the downtown area and moves to us through the counties between us and Atlanta. I believe this to be the case this time. The good news is that recovery usually comes quicker to our area because our inventory of lots and properties is not nearly as large as in some areas.

In the past, community banks, particularly in our area, were told that if we didn't make real estate loans, we weren't serving our market needs! Those real estate loans, again as a result of the sub-prime issue, are now presenting problems as fewer customers can qualify for longer term mortgages. Sales slow and inventories rise. Short term this can cause property values to go down. Fortunately banks have always been required to keep reserves to help defer any loss when problems such as this arise.

Putting things in perspective, the banking industry's overall performance is a reflection of the current economy. The second quarter of 2008 was undoubtedly one of the toughest quarters on record for bank earnings. When a bank's service area is facing challenges, the bank will face challenges. This could be the result of a large local employer closing, demographic shifts, an overall downturn in the economy (like we are experiencing today) or similar factors over which a local bank has no control.

During the last few months, the media has reported (some would say sensationalized) on banking conditions and have focused on FDIC insurance. Often times these reports are a few seconds long and do not accurately report the entire story. First, based on the FDIC's banking report, 96% of the 333 banking institutions in Georgia are well capitalized. Second, the FDIC has more than \$50 billion in assets and is earning more than \$2.5 billion each year in interest. The fund is strong and banks pay insurance premiums on deposits which further strengthen the reserve. And finally, since its inception during the Great Depression, no one has lost a penny of insured funds as the result of a bank going into receivership.

All community banks are able to sit down with you and thoroughly explain the FDIC insurance program and help you get your fund allocation to where you are comfortable. For instance, a family of four can be insured to over \$1 million. Other combinations could allow up to \$3 million to be insured in one institution. We invite you to talk to one of our deposit officers anytime you have a question about your accounts with our bank.

Finally, I appreciate the experience of our board and staff and all their efforts during these extraordinary times. Let's all hope our real estate market turns around soon. Many good Pickens County folks are having a hard time. It's time for community banks to do all we can to help. We should all remember "Tough times don't build character, they reveal character!"

We appreciate the confidence you show by depositing your money here, and we will continue to work hard to deserve it. Please let us know if we can help you with your lending needs as well. ●●●

Community  
Bank of Pickens  
County

"We can make a difference"

John

## Staff Announcements

### Community Bank of Pickens County Announces Staff Promotions



Sherrie Arp



Whitney Johnson



Tammy Reece



Stacia Hancock

- Sherrie Arp has been promoted from Head Teller to Senior Head Teller.
- Whitney Johnson has been promoted to Assistant Head Teller at Cove Road.
- Tammy Reece has been promoted to Assistant Head Teller at Sammy McGhee Blvd.
- Stacia Hancock has been promoted to Head Teller at Cove Rd.

## Congratulations!



**Congratulations to Amy Gaye on the birth of her daughter Kaleigh Ann Gaye, born June 30, 2008 weighing 7lbs. 13oz.**

## Introducing...

Community Bank of Pickens County

## Business/Solutions

Offering solutions you need to effectively manage and grow your business.

Our Business Solutions package includes:

### Commercial Checking

- Unlimited check writing
- No per check fee
- No fee for charge backs
- First order of checks free
- Checks available next business day
- Online Banking
- Overdraft privilege available
- No service fee if you maintain \$1,000 balance

*Note: If your business is set up as a d/b/a, sole proprietor, not-for-profit corporation, or non-profit organization, you can have an interest-bearing commercial checking account.*

### Electronic Statements

#### Online Banking with FREE Web Bill Pay

#### Money Market Account - Interest bearing

### Business Debit Card

- Debit card available with company name inscribed

### Merchant Services

- Service to process credit card sales & point of sale equipment
- Our Banc Card rep comes to your location for setup

### FARS Check Recovery

- Automatic NSF recovery of checks deposited to your account

### E-Corp

- Access to Multiple Accounts on Separate Ports
- Employee Login Credentials Allow Security Rights Administration
- 24/7 Online Banking Access
- Display Groups
- Stop Payments
- Internal and External Fund Transfers
- ACH File Transfers (Direct Deposit Payroll)
- Domestic and International Wires

### Merchant Capture

- Deposit checks directly from your office anytime
- Consolidate funds from remote locations into one bank
- Saves time preparing deposits
- Allows for faster processing of checks
- Saves trips to the bank
- Reduces risk of check fraud

### Safety Deposit Box



## Travelers Club Meetings for 2008

Held at Appalachian Tech from 6 to 8 pm

- October 20
- November 17
- December 15

**Mark Your Calendars. You Won't Want to Miss the Fun!**

See one of our customer service representatives to get set-up today!



**JJ Roper**  
Assistant Vice President  
Bookkeeping

## Team Spotlight on JJ Roper

The spotlight is on JJ Roper. JJ joined the Community Bank of Pickens County team in July of 2001 as a Teller. She has since moved through the ranks of Customer Service and currently holds the position of AVP Bookkeeping. Whenever there is a question in your accounts or a balancing dilemma, JJ works to solve the problem and provide a wonderful hand holding service. JJ has been in banking for over 10 years and prior to that she performed office work and taught gymnastics and dance to children.

When asked why she chose Community Bank of Pickens County she said, "I really liked the banking industry and wanted to continue to grow and Community Bank of Pickens County offered that opportunity. I really enjoy building customer relationships and want them to feel they can trust I will help them."

JJ was born in Tucson, AZ and raised in Gainesville, GA. She graduated from East Hall High in Gainesville and moved to Pickens County in 1988. In her free time, JJ enjoys reading and spending time with her husband of 25 years, Billy and their daughter Sarah, age 22. Her husband, Billy, is a locally renowned artist and JJ manages his career. Sarah lives and works locally. •••

*We are very proud to have a strong commercial banking relationship with the businesses shown below. We hope you will consider doing business with them as well.*

**Denson Insurance Agency, Inc.**  
**Mike Denson**  
 150 N. Main St. • Jasper, GA 30143  
 P: 706-692-6451 • F: 706-692-6452  
 Email: [densonins@yahoo.com](mailto:densonins@yahoo.com)

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*Independent Insurance Agency Representing:*  
 Allstate • Auto-Owners • Travelers • St. Paul  
 Blue Cross Blue Shield • Builders Insurance



**HOLCOMB GRADING**  
 TRACKHOE • BOBCAT  
 DUMPTRUCK • LIGHT GRADING

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**BRETT HOLCOMB**  
 CELL: (404) 314-2053 • HOME: (678) 454-4565

**Sharp Mountain Business Park**

**Light Industrial Buildings**  
**Lots & Buildings For Sale**  
**Will Build to Suit • Warehouse Space**

•••••

*Specializing in Kirby Metal Buildings*  
**Jeff Roland (770) 655-3592**  
 Located on Hwy. 108 - ½ Mile West of 515 on Right

**Village Cleaners**

Dry Cleaning  
 Laundered Shirts  
 Alterations

**10% Discount with this Ad**

Phone: (706)253-1444  
 Located opposite Kroger shopping center

## Tonti's Pecan Puffs

Our valued customers, Rick and Sheryl Little, have shared a very old recipe with us that was one of their mother's favorites. She passed away a year ago and we thought we would honor her by sharing it with all of our friends. Everyone called their mother Tonti. We hope you all enjoy this treat and help us in saluting a much loved Mother.

- 2 egg whites (room temp.)
- 2 cups confectioners sugar
- 1 tsp. apple cider vinegar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 300°F. Grease cookie sheet with solid shortening. In mixing bowl, beat egg whites on high speed until soft peaks form. Sprinkle confectioners sugar into egg whites a few tablespoons at a time. Continue beating until sugar is completely dissolved. Beat in vinegar and vanilla. Fold in pecans. Drop by heaping spoons full 2 inches apart. Bake 12-15 minutes. Cool and store in air tight container. ●●●



Note: If you have a favorite family recipe you would like to share, drop it off at the bank or email it to [susan.wright@cbopc.com](mailto:susan.wright@cbopc.com) and you may see it published here.

One who fears failure limits their activities. Failure is only the opportunity to more intelligently begin again.

– Henry Ford



"We can make a difference"

P.O. Box 40 • Jasper, GA 30143  
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GA  
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