

# Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, July 17, 2013

## Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Storms	84 64
Fri: Storms	83 64
Sat: Storms	81 64
Sun: Storms	78 63
Mon: Storms	79 62
Tues: Sunny	80 62
Wed: Sunny	81 63



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/17/13	
Lake Chatuge	1,925.09
Lake Nottely	1,775.33
Blue Ridge	1,686.24

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## Sports

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## FFA String Band Reunion



## Mountain Home Music

Saturday, July 27 8 PM

see page 2

## Hiawassee Garden Club's 64th Annual Standard Flower Show

July 19th-21st Ga Mtn Fair



## Free Food Distribution



Towns County Food Pantry Tuesday, July 23rd

See page 6

## Towns County Farmers Market

Fridays 5:30-7:30 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



## Nelson Thomas Cody Savage play the Hiawassee Square

Saturday, July 20th • 6 PM see page 3

# Adams-Donaldson found; two charged with murder

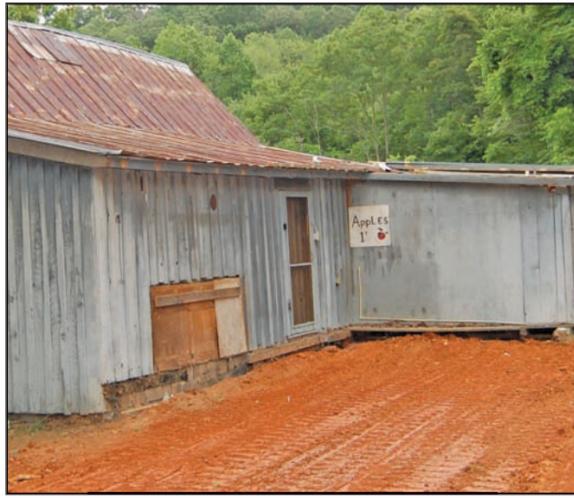
By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

The search for 53-year-old Diane "Dee Dee" Adams-Donaldson has come to an end with tragic consequences.

Adams-Donaldson, who grew up and went to school in Towns County, was discovered in an old hand-dug well at the old Roper farm on Turner Turnpike in rural Towns County.

Forensic experts with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Laboratory have positively identified her remains using dental records and other forensic identification techniques, according to the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

According to murder warrants for Brittany Elizabeth Ledford, 21, and Rebecca Ann Stokes, 32, both of Hiawassee, Ledford shot Adams-Donaldson in the throat and back on June 17th at 500 Hickory Hill, in Hiawassee.



The hand-dug well where Diane "Dee Dee" Adams-Donaldson's body was recovered was just underneath the apple sign on the wall of the old Roper Farm House in rural Towns County. The well has been filled in. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Also, Ledford is accused of moving the body to another location and disposing of it down a well, and destroying evidence related to the crime, arrest warrants show.

The caliber of weapon used in the murder has not been

disclosed by authorities.

Stokes is charged with murder for her part in the crime, which includes willingly and knowingly assisting Ledford in concealing the murder of Adams-Donaldson, destroying evidence of the



Brittany Ledford

crime, assisting in the transport of Adams-Donaldson's body, and helping dispose of the body down a well, arrest warrants show.

Ledford and Stokes have confessed to the crime following extensive interrogations by Towns County investigators and GBI agents, according to the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

Ledford and Stokes were already inmates at the Towns County Detention Center at the time of their confessions, sheriff's reports show.



Rebecca Stokes

Ledford was being held on charges that include first-degree forgery, eight counts of deposit account fraud, and criminal trespass, Towns County arrest warrants show.

Stokes was being held on an obstruction charge, Towns County arrest warrants show.

The two women are being held without bond following a first court appearance on Friday in Hiawassee before Towns County Probate Judge David Rogers.

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# Fair opens at 6 p.m. Thursday

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Come one, come all to the 63rd Annual Georgia Mountain Fair, July 18th through July 27th, at the Georgia Mountain Fair Grounds, in Hiawassee.

The scheduled opening date is Friday, July 19th but the Fair's Midway will actually open at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 18th.

It's just one of the new features the Fair will have for visitors this year.

Expectations are running high at the Fairgrounds as the 2013 production promises to be one of the best since its opening in 1950.

Gov. Nathan Deal will serve as the Grand Marshal of the Parade on Saturday.

House Speaker David Ralston will serve as the North



The 63rd Annual Georgia Mountain Fair opens Thursday in the Midway. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Georgia Mountains Grand Marshal, and 4-year-old Christian Taylor will serve as the Towns County Grand Marshal.

The Fair has been a staple to the economy of Towns County for 62 years as it brings

thousands of guests to the area each summer to experience one of Georgia's premier fairs. The tourist revenue generated by many local businesses during

See Fair, Page 9

# Towns County graduate makes medical history

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Towns County High School graduate Dr. William L. Nicholson Jr., son of local physician Dr. W. Lanier Nicholson and his wife Freddie, recently received recognition from the New England Journal of Medicine for his work in helping to identify a new disease caused by tick bites.

A phlebovirus found in two blood samples from farmers in Northwestern Missouri were the first organisms of its viral group to be found in the Western Hemisphere and Nicholson Jr. and his colleagues were responsible for its discovery.



Dr. W.L. Nicholson Jr., right, with his father, Dr. W.L. Nicholson Sr.

He is a local boy "done good," and his efforts and those of his team could very well save lives. For their outstanding

See Nicholson, Page 9

# Horseless carriages converge on Towns

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The North Carolina Horseless Carriage group convened in Hiawassee this week for their 62nd Annual Group Tour.

The group will gather on the Downtown Square on Thursday, July 18th beginning at 7 p.m. to let people see their automobiles.

Jim Wood and the Georgia Mountain Fair Band will entertain folks as they reminisce of days gone by or try and imagine how such a vehicle could run.

It will be an opportunity for auto enthusiasts and regular folks alike to ask questions, talk to owners and actually place their hands on turn of the 20th century cars.

The club travels to places like Towns County because of the regional advantages.

They can haul their cars here without much trouble



Horseless carriages will take locals back a century as they celebrate their 62nd Annual Group Tour.

and the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds will allow them parking.

The local roads allow them to travel safely without too much stress on their brakes.

The beauty of the area, the lodging and restaurants and of course Lake Chatuge

all came together to become a desired location for the group.

There are 60 automobiles and 130 people registered to participate as several daily road trips have been scheduled to neighboring towns.

It is a unique group of

See Horseless, Page 9

# 15th Annual Butternut Creek Festival Saturday and Sunday

TCH Special

Blairsville - Come join the High Country Artisans as they present the 15th Annual Butternut Creek Festival this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, July 20th and 21st, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

More than 70 of the Southeast's finest artisans and crafters, demonstrators, non-profit organizations, food vendors, and musicians will join this local art organization as they take advantage of the serene environment of Meeks Park as they line the shores of the Butternut Creek.

There is something for everyone at the yearly venue.

This year's demonstrations include Mal McEwen's chainsaw carving, Butch Dey's blacksmithing, Jerry King and his foot pedal wood-turning, Hans Meier's jigsaw puzzles, Linda Woody's pottery and Holly Williams will be there with her alpaca weaving.

The Blue Ridge Dulcimer Players will be playing on



The High Country Artisans ask you to come visit Meeks Park, in Blairsville on Saturday or Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Taking the gazebo Stage Saturday will be Cody and Carlee Savage, from Cleveland, Highway 76, from Blairsville, and Fastgear, from Robbinsville, NC.

Sunday's lineup include Victorious of Blairsville, Chloe Sanguine and Crista Lynn.

Fifteen art categories have been filled. Stained glass, jewelry, wildlife painting, wood-turning, pyrography, functional stoneware pottery, silk flowers, wood furniture, nature photography, decorative gourds, old world Santas, purses and totes, glass and

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# Movers and Shakers learn about Towns County Fire Corps

By Joe Collins  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Liz Ordiales, president of the Towns County Fire Corps, spoke to the Mountain Movers and Shakers last week at Mary's Southern Grill.

Ordiales presented in detail the importance of the Fire Corps and their purpose in assisting the Towns County Fire Department and EMS.

The Fire Corps is a voluntary, not for profit organization made up of individuals who wish to serve their community by helping their local fire department and EMS.

Fire departments all over Towns County would have fewer services today if it weren't for the Fire Corps and their efforts at raising money for needed basic equipment.

Fire Corps is a nationwide program founded in 2004 through Homeland Security.

It was adopted by Towns County in 2008. It is a proactive group that assists the operation of resource-constrained fire and EMS departments through the use of citizen advocates for non-operational activities.

These can include but are not limited to fundraising, education, fire safety outreach, programs like Firewise and Fire Adapted communities, youth programs and administrative assistance.

The Fire Corps is primarily a fundraising arm and program assisting organization that tries to raise at least \$25,000 a year to purchase needed equipment for Towns County Fire & Rescue stations.

Their service that is invaluable to local fire and rescue crews.

"The Towns County Fire Corps is basically responsible for raising money to support the fire stations and EMS," Ordiales said. "We prioritize the needs of each of the six stations, strategically placed throughout the county, and focus on purchasing basic needed equipment."

"We just spent more than \$4,700 on scuba equipment that our certified team didn't even have," she said. "They had



Liz Ordiales

to use personal and borrowed equipment just to respond.

"Now they have what they need and they have already used it on calls to Union and Rabun counties as they are the only certified dive team in the North Georgia Mountains," Ordiales said.

The Fire Corps, in conjunction with Frank Riley, oversees the Firewise Community program installed in five of the six different communities served by the Towns County Fire and EMS Departments.

It is an alert and response program that assists homeowners to recognize fire potential hazards on their property and helps remove brush and debris that can fuel a fire that could burn out of control. This service has already seen a drop in fire calls and fire damage.

"People can contact us at the Towns County Fire Corps through their local fire station and we will send someone out to evaluate your property," Ordiales said. "Then, if you need to clean up fire hazard potential fuel like a dead tree or old brush piles, we will get folks there to help you chip it up or haul it off."

"It is a service we provide through the Fire Wise program," she said. "This pro-

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

