

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thurs: Rain	84 65
Fri: Rain	86 65
Sat: Rain	86 66
Sun: Rain	86 65
Mon: Rain	87 66
Tue: Rain	87 66
Wed: Rain	86 67



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/22/2015	
Lake Chatuge	1,925.21
Lake Nottely	1,775.34
Blue Ridge	1,686.32

INDEX

2 Sections 14 Pages

Arrests.....	2A
Church.....	6A
Chamber.....	5A
Classifieds.....	2B
Editorial.....	4A
Legals.....	3B
Obituaries.....	7A

Sports Page 8A

TOWNS COUNTY Farmers Market

Locally Grown

See Page 2A

S.A.F.E. Back to School Bag Sale

See Page 5A

Bonnie Ridge Bluegrass on the Hiawasse Square! July 25th

See Page 5A

Back to School help for Foster Children

See page 7A

Unnecessary Farce Coming to the Peacock Performing Arts Center

See Page 10A

Auditions beginning at Licklog for Steel Magnolias!

See Page 7A



JULY 17-25TH

Rhubarb leads Georgia Mountain Fair Parade

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

One of the most famous voices in Country Music history was on hand Saturday to lead the Georgia Mountain Fair Parade.

Warren "Rhubarb" Jones, the pride of Tallapoosa, served as the Grand Marshal of the 65th Annual Georgia Mountain Fair Parade.

"We're just honored to be here, because these are just special people here," Jones said. "These are salt of the earth people, this land is absolutely heavenly, it's peaceful, it's quiet, it's wonderful, and people who have never been to Hiawasse or Young Harris, they don't know what they're missing."

The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds started its engines with its annual parade as people lined the streets to get a glimpse of the Country Music Hall of Fame Disc Jockey as a long line of cars, trucks, and even a boat rolled out from Park Sterling Bank en route to the Fairgrounds.

The parade included more



Parade Grand Marshal Warren "Rhubarb" Jones.

than 20 entries in its 2015 edition, said Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason.

"We've got the Blue Ridge Jeepers. We have horses and wagons and buggies. We've got the Tractor Club from Hayesville, N.C., and then we've got the Antique Car Club," Thomason said.

Last year, it literally rained on the parade.

"There wasn't hardly anything to it, because it rained

and everybody kind of dropped out," said Thomason. "But this year the weather is cooperating with us. And we really wanted people to come out on the streets and around the businesses and enjoy the parade. I wanted them to know that we've really worked hard at it."

The Mountain Grand Marshal of the parade was Dr.

See Parade, Page 9A

Traffic stop leads to felony arrest

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

A 30-year-old Hiawasse man is in custody on a dozen felony charges that include six counts aggravated assault on a peace officer, the Towns County Sheriff's Office reports.

Dustin Lee Gunnells, age 30, of Hiawasse, was arrested and charged with six counts of aggravated assault on a peace officer and six counts of possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime. He is currently being held at the Towns County Detention Center.

It was unclear if bond had been set at press time.

According to a press release from the Towns County Sheriff's Office, the incident involving Gunnells began to unfold on Wednesday, July 15, when Towns County sheriff's deputies, a patrol lieutenant and an Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office agent initiated a traffic stop on Highway 76 at the old Mohawk building.

According to sheriff's reports what began as a misdemeanor traffic offense soon escalated into a felony stop with nearly deadly consequences.

Immediately after being approached by law enforcement, Gunnells exhibited acts of aggression towards the officers and began making statements consistent with sovereign citizen type beliefs, sheriff's reports show.

Rather than comply with deputies, Gunnells reached for



Weapons seized by Towns County deputies during last week's traffic stop.

a gun, according to Sheriff's Office news release.

Fearing for their safety and public safety, deputies were forced to make entry into the vehicle by breaking the driver side window and then physically remove Gunnells from the vehicle, sheriff's reports show.

As Gunnells was being removed from the vehicle, he attempted to reach for another gun, this one located in a holster at the small of his back, sheriff's reports show.

Deputies were able to get Gunnells under control and disarm him, according to the Sheriff's Office.

One deputy was slightly injured by broken glass, but due to the quick action of the two seasoned officers, no serious injuries occurred, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The suspect was checked by EMS and refused any medical treatment, sheriff's reports show.

Deputies removed several firearms from the vehicle and the driver. Each of them were within reach of the suspect during the altercation. The firearms included a 9mm handgun, a .45 caliber handgun, a .40 caliber handgun, a .44 magnum caliber short rifle, and a .223 caliber AR-15 format carbine, according to sheriff's reports.

According to sheriff's reports, several additional ammunition magazines were with the firearms. Each of the firearms were loaded and all, except the AR-15, had rounds in the chamber. Two of the pistols, including the one on the suspect's person were cocked.

Gunnells remained in jail at press time.

Aaron Deyton honored for valor in line of duty



Aaron Deyton, center, and the individuals involved in helping save his life.

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Sheriff's Deputy Aaron Deyton returned to light duty last week, after many harrowing months of recovery and bravery in the face of great adversity.

And he's right back where he wants to be.

"I'm glad to see everybody," said Deputy Deyton. "I miss everybody. Everybody that worked on me that night or that helped that night, I know everybody. I've hated not see-

ing everybody for the last 10 months."

The Towns County Sheriff's Office held an awards ceremony at the Towns County Courthouse on Tuesday, July 14, for Deyton and the first responders who were on the case the night he was attacked and wounded while apprehending a suspect on Oct. 1, 2014.

Following that night, many in the county consider Deputy Deyton a hero for protecting the public at all costs, despite grave injuries to himself, by apprehending that suspect, who otherwise

might have gotten away to hurt someone else.

"I don't think I've done anything anybody else wouldn't have done in the same situation," said Deputy Deyton following the ceremony, who was accompanied by his wife, Christine. "We all do the same job. I think that I've done what every other cop, especially in Towns County, would have done. You get hit, and it kind of makes you mad - you're going to go after who hit you and make sure they don't hit anybody else."

See Deyton, Page 9A

Henson exits race for Union County seat on EMC board

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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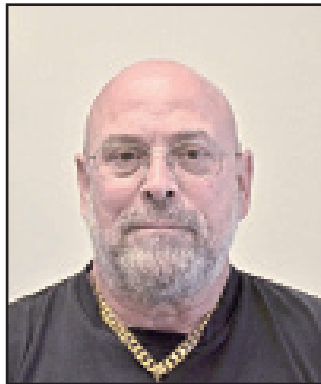
Danny Henson was all in and ready to run on a petition ballot for the Union County seat on the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC board of directors.

Then he started to think: "If I wasn't running, who would I vote for?"

He then got in his truck and drove to the Union County Farmers Market. There he greeted fellow EMC Union County candidate Mickey Cummings.

"I shook his hand, and I wished him good luck," Henson said. "Mickey wished me good luck. I told him I didn't need it, that I wasn't running. With a good man like Mickey running, there was no reason to turn my life upside down to be on the board.

"I'm voting for Mickey Cummings, and I wish the people that would have voted for me would do the same,"



Danny Henson

Henson said. "I've known Mickey Cummings forever, and he's a good man and an honest man. I can't think of anyone better to represent the membership of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC."

Patrick Malone and Charles Rich also are petition candidates for the EMC board of directors' Union County seat.

Henson said that the board of directors have taken

See EMC, Page 9A

Peter Noone and Hermits headline GMF music Friday

By Shawn Jarraerd
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Don't touch that dial, North Georgia - the Georgia Mountain Fair is telling you that you're into something good.

And that something is Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits, playing the Fair this Friday, July 24, at 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

As a special treat, Country Music Star Natalie Noone, Peter's daughter, will accompany her father to perform some of her own material during the shows.

Originally part of the British Invasion of the 1960s, Noone has flexed his staying power over the last 50 plus years and is still going strong.

"The Stones are still going and Paul McCartney's still going, and we're the only ones who are still out there, I think, just because we're the most persistent," said Noone. "The Stones won't quit, will they,



Peter Noone

and the same with Paul McCartney - I'm a fan of both bands. It's like I always say, as long as the Stones are still touring, I've got another 20 years in the business."

Noone and Herman's Hermits are responsible for such beloved hits as *I'm Into Something Good*, *Henry the VIII*, and *Mrs. Brown, You've Got A Lovely Daughter*.

A British pop heavy-weight himself, Noone found

See Hermits, Page 9A

Veterans honor Bill Kendall

By Mason Mitcham
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Local veterans honored Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall on Wednesday, July 15, at Daniel's Steakhouse.

Present were the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Marine Corps League, SeaBees, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Mel Halfon read from a scroll, signed by all the veterans present, honoring Kendall as an honorary veteran. He is in the eyes of the veterans of Towns County.

"In 1984 the Board of Education and Mr. Bill Kendall, then school superintendent, and the student council formed the Towns County Veterans Park," it read. "Monument panels are dedicated to those who served in defense of our country. What began in 1984 we continue today to honor the next group of Towns County veterans. We are proud to honor your service. An honorary veteran, we are very proud of you, Mr. Bill Kendall."

In addition, the American Legion Auxiliary Ladies honored Mrs. Jean Kendall with flowers.

Commissioner Kendall was also presented with a plaque for service to Towns County Veterans, presented by Joel Turpin.

"This plaque is from all the Towns County veterans associations," Turpin said. "It's for the Veterans Park."

Todd Kimsey, a veteran of World War II, and a retired teacher, said that he was happy to see Commissioner Kendall honored in this fashion, especially since he could remember coaching Kendall at basketball.

"He was the only player I had who could play a complete ball game and never have the first hair out of place," he said.

Finally Commissioner Kendall got up to speak.

"These fellows have mentioned a time or two to do something for me," he said. "I



Bill Kendall

did not want them to do this. I did what I did for the veterans in the park and everything to recognize the veterans. We need to do that. I just appreciate the opportunity and the honor to do that.

"Over the year, and in the office, I receive a lot of plaques and things, and recognition for different things, but this by far is the greatest honor I've ever received," he told those assembled. "Thank you for what you've done for our country, and anytime we can recognize that we need to do it."

"Every time the nation's been in trouble, veterans have always been there to answer the call, in all kinds of places," Kendall continued. "We've got fellows over there who were serving over in Iwo Jima and Normandy. All those places, the veterans had to answer the call. I just appreciate everything."

Commissioner Kendall isn't yet done with honoring veterans. He has new plans in the works.

About a year ago, Kendall was at Arlington Cemetery and saw the statue of the flags being raised at Iwo Jima and

See Kendall, Page 9A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

