

Towns County Herald

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Wednesday, July 24, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Storms	81 59
Fri: Clouds	82 61
Sat: Clouds	78 61
Sun: Storms	78 59
Mon: Storms	80 60
Tue: Storms	81 61
Wed: Clouds	81 61



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/24/13	
Lake Chatuge	1,924.89
Lake Nottely	1,774.84
Blue Ridge	1,685.94

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Towns County Back to School Bash
August 1st
Front of School
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

see Page 10

TOWNS COUNTY Farmers Market

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



Musical Performers include:
Dustin Lynch
Brent Cobb
John Anderson
Gene Watson
 and more!



Ron Schott and the Sharptones
 to play the Square
Saturday, July 27th

See Page 5



FREE Boat Inspections July 27th
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Gov. Deal, Speaker and Taylor lead largest Parade ever



Christian Taylor
 By Charles Duncan
 Towns County Herald
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Significance returned to the Georgia Mountain Fair on Saturday. Gov. Nathan Deal, Speaker David Ralston and 4-year-old Towns County Grand Marshal Christian Taylor made sure of that.



First Lady Sandra Deal, and Gov. Nathan Deal celebrate the North Georgia Mountains on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson
 Following behind Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton, the trio led the largest parade in the 63-year history of the Georgia Mountain Fair. When the horseless carriages carrying Taylor, Gov. Deal and Speaker Ralston crossed the Robert Anderson Bridge, the last leg of the parade was just pulling out of the Park Sterling Bank parking lot. Excited parade watchers



House Speaker David Ralston enjoys a historic ride through Hiawassee on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson
 Governor said. "It was an event to remember." Gov. Deal and Georgia's First Lady Sandra Deal, were excited to be a part of the parade and thrilled to be in the parade. "They were sure lined up watching this parade," the

Jones crowned Miss Ga. Mountain Fair

By Todd Forrest
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

As Sally Ann Jones was crowned by Miss Georgia Mountain Fair 2012 Breann Lindsey, one could see, the magnitude of emotion that swarmed the 2012 Fannin County High School graduate as she immediately broke into tears.

With the iconic Country Music duo The Bellamy Brothers warming up the crowd before the Pageant, Jones wasn't just whistling Dixie, as she swept the awards presentation, taking home three prizes, including the big one.

First, Jones earned the respect and admiration of her fellow competitors by laying claim to Miss Congeniality - voted on by the Pageant contestants, later, Jones went on to blow away the judges, winning



Sally Ann Jones, of Blue Ridge is the new Miss Georgia Mountain Fair. Photo/Lowell Nicholson
 the Talent Contest. Finally when it came time to crown a new Miss Georgia Mountain Fair, a humble Jones, Contestant No. 3, was once again astonished when her name was called for the third time. "I am absolutely blessed and thrilled that this is happening," a surprised Jones said. "I am so enthralled right now that I don't even know what's

CNN comes to the Fairgrounds

By Joe Collins
 Towns County Herald
 Staff Writer

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason was all smiles as she chauffeured the crew from CNN Headline News around the 63rd Annual Georgia Mountain Fair last week.

Not only was the plan she'd been working on so diligently the last several months coming together as the Fair got underway, but national television network CNN was on hand to cover the event as well. It was a big day for the Georgia Mountain Fair.

The campground was full and the Fair staff was seeing good crowd numbers as Headline News reporter Jennifer Westhoven toured the annual event and did her interviews with Thomason as her guide.

It is a big deal when an event like the Fair can get national attention on its open-



CNN Headline News gets a little advice about North Georgia sawmilling Fair Expert Stanley Wood. Photo/Joe Collins
 ing day. The Fair represents a large influx of revenue to the county so everyone is affected when it has good years and bad years. This year is shaping up to be a good one. Robinson's Racing Pigs and Paddling Porkers was the first stop for the crew as the little pigs ran their hearts out for their most coveted of prizes, the Oreo cookie. The crew filmed as Lindsay Slowham and Brittany Spareribs hit turn four tender-

July Term Towns County Grand Jury indictments are in

By Charles Duncan
 Towns County Herald
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The following persons were indicted during the Towns County Grand Jury's July Term.

Persons under indictment by the Towns County Grand Jury are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley presented these cases to Towns County Grand Jurors during the July Term of the Towns County Grand Jury, according to Towns County Superior Court records.

Anthony Clarence Grizzle, violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act, posses-

sion of a Schedule II controlled substance; making a false statement; reckless conduct.

Rachelle Lee Hughes, neglect of a disabled adult; reckless conduct.

Lori Ann Morgan, second degree criminal damage to property; endangering security interest.

Joseph William Murray, two counts violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act, distribution of oxycodone.

Bernard Smiley Scott Jr., aka Barnard Smiley Scott, terroristic threats, two counts obstruction; two counts criminal trespass.

William Harris Smith Jr., two counts driving under the influ-

ence; habitual violator; no proof of insurance; improper lane change; operation of an unregistered vehicle; open container.

Jacob Andrew Turner, theft by taking; 29 counts theft by conversion.

Terry Dewayne Williams, burglary, theft by taking.

Douglas Keith White, violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act, possession of a Schedule II controlled substance; crossing a guard line with contraband; driving under the influence (less safe, drugs); improper display of license plate.

James Austin Whitman, terroristic threats; criminal trespass.

Adams-Donaldson laid to rest in Union County

By Charles Duncan
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Murder victim Diane "Dee Dee" Adams-Donaldson was laid to rest Saturday in Union County beside her brother Wayne Adams at the Adams family's residence.

Adams-Donaldson, 53, of Hiawassee, was murdered June 17th in Towns County.

Brittany Elizabeth Ledford, 21, and Rebecca Stokes, 32, have confessed to the crime, according to the Towns County Sheriff's Office. Charges against Ledford and Stokes were upgraded last week, according to the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

The charges against Stokes now include malice murder, felony murder, unlawful removal of a body from a crime scene, tampering with evidence, and terroristic threats, the Towns County Sheriff's Office reports.

The charges against Ledford now include malice mur-



Dee Dee Adams-Donaldson
 der, felony murder, aggravated assault, unlawful removal of a body from a crime scene, and tampering with evidence, the Towns County Sheriff's Office reports. Adams-Donaldson, who spent a portion of her youth in Union County, was discovered in an old hand-dug well at the old Roper farm on Turner Turnpike in rural Towns County. Adams-Donaldson's remains were recovered approxi-

Barrett sentence upheld by Ga. Supreme Court

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County's first death penalty conviction since the 1960s has been upheld by the Georgia Supreme Court, Towns County Superior Court records show.

The state's highest court upheld the murder conviction and death sentence of Winston Clay Barrett for the Aug. 4th, 2002 murder of Barrett's friend Danny "Stumpy" Youngblood.

A Towns County Grand Jury indicted Barrett on Dec. 3, 2002, charging him with malice murder, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, and two counts of possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

Enotah Circuit District Attorney Stan Gunter filed written notice of intent to seek the death penalty on Feb. 3rd, 2003.

Jury selection began July 12th, 2004.

Superior Court Judge Hugh Stone granted Barrett's motion for a change of venue on July 27th, 2004.

The trial was relocated to Hall County, with jury selection beginning March 7th, 2005.

Then Assistant District Attorney Jeff Langley led the state's prosecution. Fifteen days later, Barrett was convicted of beating and shooting to death his friend "Stumpy" following a night of drinking in Helen.

Barrett had argued that he was defending his home at the time of Youngblood's killing. Barrett alleged that a drunken Youngblood had urinated on his television and attempted to defecate on his bed prior to the physical dispute. Under Georgia law, defense of habitation is not a defense available to a defendant when the victim is a guest in the home, even in cases where the



Clay Barrett
 guest/victim is unruly or even threatening. The Hall County jury found Barrett guilty of all counts of the indictment against him on March 22nd, 2005, and recommended a death sentence for the malice murder conviction on March 23rd, 2005. In addition to the death sentence, Judge Stone sentenced Barrett to 20 years in prison for aggravated battery, and 5 years for one count of possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, with all sentences to be served consecutively. The aggravated assault conviction and the remaining possession conviction merged with the other convictions, court records show. From that moment on, Barrett began to file appeals for a new trial, which the trial court denied on Nov. 21st, 2011. Barrett filed a notice of appeal on Nov. 30th, 2011. Finally, Barrett's appeals were exhausted and the Georgia Supreme Court upheld his convictions and death sentence.

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