

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Storms	84 59
Fri: Clouds	79 51
Sat: Sunny	78 51
Sun: Clouds	77 54
Mon: Clouds	78 55
Tues: Clouds	76 54
Wed: Clouds	76 51



Upstream Elevation Predicted 09/11/13	
Lake Chatuge	1,922.42
Lake Nottely	1,770.73
Blue Ridge	1,680.21

INDEX

2 Sections, 16 Pages

Arrests	2A
Chamber News	8A
Church/Obits	6A, 7A
Classifieds	2B
Editorial	4A
Letters	4A
Legals	3B

SPORTS

10A



Talent Show Auditions
Anderson Music Hall
September 28th
by 3 PM



Free Food Distribution
Tuesday
Sept. 17th
Towns County Food Pantry
Thursday
Sept. 19th
North Mt. Zion



Arts & Crafts
Celebrate Autumn Arts & Crafts Show
Sept. 21-22, 2013
See Page 5A



Sept. 28th
Union County Farmer's Market



FOOTBALL
Friday Sept. 13th 7:30 p.m.
vs. Rabun County

SOFTBALL
Tues. Sept 10th 4:45
@ George Walton

Fri-Sat Sept. 13th & 14th
North Fall Classic Tournament
North Hall County

That's a really big bear

By Heather Poole
Towns County Herald
heather.tcherald@windstream.net

The Saturday of the Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruizin, while everyone was at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds looking at stunning, expensive antique cars, Matt Turpin of Turpin's Wrecker Service of Hiwassee was looking at about \$500 in damage to his truck.

While driving in Hiwassee, headed towards the Helen area on Georgia 75, an absolutely huge black bear made a poor choice to try to cross the road.

His timing could not have been worse though, because the monstrous bear ran right into the side of Turpin's truck.

Living in the mountains, we all know how much damage a creature like a deer can do to a vehicle, but what about hitting a bear? A bear measuring nearly 7 feet tall standing upright.

While no official measurements were taken, the bear was estimated to be roughly



This black bear has eaten his last ear of sweet corn in Towns County.

550 pounds, and around 7 feet long, making him unrealistically oversized.

Though the North Georgia Mountains have a ton of bears, they generally range about 6 feet in length, and around 3 feet high at the shoulder. Although female adult bears usually weigh around 300

pounds, adult males can weigh in at 500 pounds.

Regardless, the Turpin bear is already a legend.

Apparently, the only thing that was not abnormal about this bear was that he had poor eye sight.

See Big Bear, Page 9A

Ledford, Stokes are indicted for murder

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

A Towns County Grand Jury has handed up a 13-count indictment against the two Hiwassee women accused of murdering 53-year-old Diane "Dee Dee" Adams-Donaldson on June 17th.

Brittany Elizabeth Ledford, 21, and her reported 32-year-old lover, Rebecca Ann Stokes, have been charged with felony murder, malice murder, two counts each aggravated assault, tampering with evidence, and removal of a body from the scene of death, according to the indictment handed up last week in Towns County Superior Court.

Stokes also has been accused of terroristic threats for pointing a gun at Adams-Donaldson and firing it in her direction, the indictment shows.

The murder, according to See Indicted, Page 9A



Rebecca Stokes



Brittany Ledford

Chili Cook-off returns with a blast

By Heather Poole
Towns County Herald
heather.tcherald@windstream.net

Indeed, there was Fire in the Mountains.

It sure was a good thing Towns County did not have any weekend emergencies last, because every emergency responder was on the Downtown Square.

The Fire in the Mountains Chili Cook Off returned this year to a successful welcome back party.

Sponsored by the Towns County Fire Corps, Towns County Fire & Rescue put on an incredible event on the Square in Hiwassee on Saturday.

Ring leader of the event, Perry Bush, was laughing at 8 that morning saying, "this point of the day is always mass confusion."



Pigtorkin Boys Chili returned with tasteful bliss on Saturday to Towns County Fire & Rescue's Chili Cook-off. The boys took first place and pocketed \$300. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

It looked more like organized chaos though. Already, numerous cookers had already decorated the Square, setting

up wherever they could find enough space, while volunteers

See Chili, Page 9A

Gibson talks to the Movers and Shakers at Mary's Grill

By Heather Poole
Towns County Herald
heather.tcherald@windstream.net

Towns County High School Principal, Jonathan Gibson, loves Towns County.

Friday, Sept. 6th, Gibson spoke to the Mountain Movers and Shakers, and he had everyone in attendance feeling the same way.

An exhilarating speaker, Gibson proved how much he loves his job. He wasted no time telling the group that he wants to be sure that TCHS students are prepared for much more than just college, but careers.

He used an analogy of assisting students in releasing their hypothetical parachutes when they graduate and leave TCHS behind. He does not want students to leave high school afraid and unprepared of what the future holds - with a closed parachute.

He made the example personal, explaining that when he was in high school, college was an option. Now it is not.

"We are forcing them to go to college, and we are missing the mark," Gibson said. "That is sending kids to college with a closed parachute."



Jonathan Gibson

Essentially, Gibson wants every student to have an idea of what they want to do. Whether it is attending a trade school or a college, or getting a job that does not require a college degree, Gibson wants students to be self motivated. Gibson pointed out that Towns County has some really brilliant students.

"These North Georgia Mountain schools are typically the cream of the crop," he said.

He admitted that the students are struggling in math, but instead of sugarcoating

See Gibson, Page 9A

Towns County celebrates Cora Berrong

By Heather Poole
Towns County Herald
heather.tcherald@windstream.net

Exciting celebrations took place last week at The Senior Center in Hiwassee. Not only did one lovely lady turn 100, but one of her friends in attendance, a regular at the Center, has been 100 for a couple months, now.

Cora Berrong was accompanied by her son to celebrate her birthday. She was most definitely amongst friends. Almost every person in the Center came by Cora's table to tell her happy birthday and wish her well.

Cora said she was going to take advantage of it because she would have to wait another year to have this much attention again.

Her popularity was no surprise though, as she has lived in Towns County nearly all her life.

Cora completed Elementary School at Hightower, and attended high school in Hiwassee. A lover of knowledge, she went on to attend Habersham College, now North Georgia Technical College in Clarksville, where she majored in Business Administration. She worked in Atlanta for about two years, only to return to Hiwassee.

She married her childhood sweetheart, John Lee Berrong, and together they owned a store. Once the construction of Lake Chatuge began, the couple had to move.

Cora was a stay at home



Cora Berrong was surrounded by friends and family last week at the Towns County Senior Center as she celebrated No. 100. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

mom, but she and her husband had a motel in the 1960s. West of Hiwassee, the motel was seasonal, so she only worked during the summer.

John passed away in 1977, so to keep herself occupied, Cora started working at the Senior Center. She has always enjoyed having something to keep her occupied, and that rings true even today.

One member of the staff said Cora loves to read. She reads the staff the morning paper every day. Smiling, she admitted Cora sometimes reads it twice.

It is no small feat to reach such a milestone as being alive for 100 years, and the greeting card companies do not seem to trust any of us can do it.

One of Cora's friends presented her with a balloon with "100" written all over it in black permanent marker. Laughing, he explained you cannot find a balloon for a 100th birthday. He personalized the card, too, because there are apparently no Hallmarks for that.

Those that knew her came prepared. Cora loves flowers and cards, so she received many of both. Legacy Link, designated by the Department of Human Services in North Georgia as responsible for advocacy for seniors, presented Cora with a goody bag.

Her son Jimmy was obviously very proud of his

See Cora, Page 9A

Grand Jury indicts Ohio man for rape

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

The Towns County Grand Jury has indicted a 34-year-old Ohio man for rape.

Paul Jason Brothers, 34, of Waynesville, Ohio, was indicted on eight counts, Towns County Superior Court records show.

The incident allegedly occurred in October 2012 at a residence in Towns County, Towns County sheriff's reports show.

Warren County, Ohio Sheriff's officials picked up



Paul Jason Brothers the suspect for Towns County. Brothers waived extradition, and Towns County deputies transported him back to Towns

County on Saturday, Aug. 10th, sheriff's reports show.

Grand Jurors indicted Brothers on charges of rape, statutory rape, two counts aggravated child molestation, three counts child molestation, and simple assault, according to the 8-count indictment.

The alleged victim reported the sexual abuse to the Towns County Sheriff's Office in March of this year, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The alleged victim was under the age of 16 at the time of the alleged incident, according to the four-page indictment.

Man charged in marijuana grow on Konahetah Road

TCH Special Report
tcherald@windstream.net

In August 2013 investigators with the Towns County Sheriff's Office received a tip regarding a possible marijuana grow in the area of Konahetah Road in Towns County.

Sheriff's Cpl. Brandon Barrett, K-9 deputy with the Sheriff's Office, relayed the GPS coordinates to the Governor's Task Force and Appalachian Drug Task Force to be used during their Drug Interdiction Surveillance Flights.

On Sept. 5th, the Task Force conducted flights in Towns County and identified possible marijuana plants growing in the yard of a residence on Konaheta Road.

A ground team consisting of Task Force agents, Department of Natural Resources rangers, and the Towns County K-9 unit, arrived at the residence to investigate further.

Seven suspected marijuana plants were found in the yard of the residence.

While agents were on scene, a resident at the home, Mark Anthony Woody, 45, arrived.

Woody was on probation, and agents found that he had a Fourth Amendment waiver which allowed sheriff's deputies and Task Force agents to enter the residence and continue the investigation.

An additional 26 suspected marijuana plants were found inside the residence, growing in several different rooms.

Also allegedly found were numerous starter kits and



Mark Anthony Woody

items used for indoor growing, sheriff's reports show.

Sheriff's deputies and Task Force agents seized the 33 marijuana plants which have a street value of approximately \$36,900.

Woody was arrested and charged with possession and manufacture of marijuana.

At press time Woody is still being held in the Towns County Detention Center awaiting bond.

Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton urges residents to continue to report information on suspicious activity or illegal drug operations to the Sheriff's Office.

All information received is strictly confidential and can lead to seizures such as this one.

Residents can call the Towns County Sheriff's Office at (706) 896-4444 or the Tip Line at (706) 896-3697 to report suspicious activity in their neighborhoods.

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

