

Court of Appeals overturns Osborn verdict

By Charles Duncan
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Edward Osborn versus the State of Georgia is headed to the Georgia Supreme Court.

That's because the Georgia Court of Appeals overturned the criminal convictions of the former Towns County Sheriff's Office chief deputy relating to a July 2007 drive-by shooting in Towns County.

The basis of the reversal: moving the jury selection from the Towns County Courthouse to McConnell Baptist Church following a bomb threat violated state law by moving Superior Court without the approval of the county's sole commissioner and without Osborn's consent.

That's according to the Georgia Court of Appeals decision recorded earlier this

month. Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley said he will appeal the Appeals Court's decision to overturn Osborn's conviction to the Georgia Supreme Court.

"I plan to appeal this ruling to the Georgia Supreme Court," Langley said. "We will ask the Georgia Supreme Court to rule on this decision by the Georgia Court of Appeals. The ruling by the Court of Appeals in no way suggests or comments on the guilt or innocence of Mr. Osborn."

"The case can be retried if necessary," Langley said.

Last year, Osborn's appeals attorney Brian Steel alleged that the change of venue from the courthouse to McConnell Baptist Church following a bomb threat was unconstitutional

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Former Towns County Chief Deputy Eddie Osborn could be free on bail again in two weeks following the recent reversal of his criminal convictions by the Georgia Court of Appeals.

New Miss GA Mountain Fair crowned

Jessie Carballo finally wears the crown after a year in the shadows

By James Reese
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The second time was a charm for 18-year-old Jessie Carballo, of Murphy, NC.

Carballo, last year's first runner-up in the Miss Georgia Mountain Fair beauty pageant, was crowned Miss Georgia Mountain Fair on Monday night at Anderson Music Hall.

"I was so excited to win it all," Carballo said. "I want to represent the Fair so well and I'm so glad I have the opportunity to do it now."

First runner-up went to Alexi Taylor Via, of Hiwassee, and second runner-up went to Jessica Ley, of Murphy, NC. The contestants chose Jessica Ley as "Miss Congeniality."

The talent segment of the competition went to Alexi Taylor Via, of

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Jessie Carballo has followed in her sister Miranda's footsteps, becoming Miss Georgia Mountain Fair 2011. Her sister Miranda Carballo was Miss Georgia Mountain Fair 2009. Photo/James Reese

Schools ready for classes to begin anew

Open House at all three schools 5 p.m to 7 p.m. Aug. 3

By Charles Duncan
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The first few days of school can be hectic at times. Students must memorize their class schedules, determine where their classrooms are and get to know their teachers all over again.

Some teachers will be familiar, others will be brand new faces and many will seem like old friends. One of the new faces in the crowd in 2011 will be new Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams.

"I'm a bit nervous, but I'm also excited," she said. "I've never been in a situation where all the schools were located on the same campus. I think that's wonderful though, as far as planning and efficient use of facilities."



Towns County Schools Chief Melissa Williams is excited about the new school year.

No doubt about it, the start of the 2011-2012 is just around the corner.

On Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Schools Auditorium, parents of rising ninth graders (Class of 2015) will experience orientation, TCHS

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Fair boosts local economy

Locals, tourists alike turn out for 61st Annual Georgia Mountain Fair

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County's local economy continued to receive a booster shot over the last several days as the Georgia Mountain Fair is in full swing.

From music acts at Anderson Music Hall to the rides at The Midway to the exhibits at Pioneer Park, the Fair, in its 61st year, is flourishing amid economic depression.

On Saturday, people started lining up in Downtown at 7 a.m. to get ready for the 11 a.m. start of the annual Georgia Mountain Fair Parade.

Traffic was at a premium for most of the weekend as passersby and locals frequented the Fair.

Those inside Anderson Music Hall saw Neal McCoy, Ronnie McDowell, Irons in the Fire, Nelson Thomas, Country Music Legend Roy Clark and Atlanta Rhythm Section along with a number of other acts.

At The Midway, youthful exuberance prevailed as one-by-one, the youngsters lined up to take on the Scrambler, the Thunder Bolt and the Wipeout. The Ferris Wheel also was a popular attraction.

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The 2011 Georgia Mountain Fair has been a welcomed relief from the doldrums of our nation's economic plight. Photos Lowell Nicholson

Taxpayers must decide future long-term debt

Commissioner Kendall turns the clock back to 1984

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall has tied a knot in the loophole that takes the decision of long-term county indebtedness out of the hands of local taxpayers.

Kendall adopted the Taxpayers' Empowerment Act last week, which puts the future long-term indebtedness of Towns County in the hands of local voters through a called referendum.

The new local legislation turns back the clock to 1984, County Attorney Rob



Commissioner Bill Kendall

Kiker said.

"Towns County shall not incur debt except in accordance with the provisions of the 1984 Constitution of

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'Upon This Ridge' at The Ridges on Saturday

By Charles Duncan
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Saturday figures to be one of the biggest days ever for The Ridges Resort & Marina.

That's when General Manager Chad Hooper and the new owners of The Ridges welcome a gathering of Christian bands performing in Concert on the grounds of The Ridges.

It's called Upon This Ridge. The fellowship starts at 2 p.m. and lasts until 9 p.m.



Chad Hooper

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD



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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Clouds	91 65
Fri: Storms	87 65
Sat: Clouds	88 66
Sun: Storms	87 66
Mon: Storms	88 63
Tue: Sunny	88 63
Wed: Sunny	89 65



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/27/11	
Lake Chatuge	1924.52
Lake Nottely	1778.16
Blue Ridge	1677.95

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Varsity Football

Towns County Indians' Head Football Coach Kyle Langford is champ-ing at the bit.

He's ready for Varsity Football Practice to begin, and football fans, that's just around the corner.

The Indians' first varsity practice is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 1 at The Refuge off Plottown Road.

"It looks like the numbers are going to be down in terms of the number of bodies on the field," Coach Langford said. "The flip side to that is that the 25 we have can all do things. There's nobody out there that's helpless or not skilled."

"It's guys that have been around," he said. "Anytime you have players that want to play, that's the good news. For these guys, they're going to have an opportunity to do good things and contribute in a real meaningful way."

"We do have to be careful that we keep people healthy and make the most out of the talent that we do have. Our goal has to be to put the best 11 on the field every game."

"We're probably further along in our conditioning moreso since I've been here," he said. "I've seen good teams before with 25, 26 players and I've seen teams with 50 players that weren't so good. That really doesn't matter until you get on the field on Friday nights."

DFCS has moved

Towns County's Department of Family and Children's Services office has relocated to 1620 US Hwy. 76 West, Suite 4 at Chatuge Place. They are located in the office suite formerly occupied by Georgia Vision Center near Mamasu's Brick Oven Pizza and Mossy Bottoms Café.