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Bury becomes Football Homecoming Queen, receives crown from sister

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County High School senior Anya Bury's peers selected her for coronation as 2019 Football Homecoming Queen on Friday, Oct. 4.

"I was so shocked to hear my name called, but it's an honor to know that my fellow classmates thought so much of me to vote me as Homecoming Queen," Bury said. "And having my sister here to crown me was amazing."

Anya's older sister Ella served as the 2018 Football Homecoming Queen, and she returned to Towns County Friday night from the University of North Georgia to crown her little sister.

"I was so excited when

I heard her name called," Ella said. "I can't believe I got to pass the crown down to my little sister. I am so happy for her."

Anya Bury was escorted by her mother Gina Bury.

This year featured a two-way tie for senior Homecoming Princess, with Sophia Shook and Jamison Wood both taking home the title.

"It was such an honor to even be on homecoming court," Shook said. "And to get runner-up with Jamison - I couldn't have asked for a better night. I couldn't have asked for a better group of girls to share homecoming court with."

Shook was escorted by her father Mark Shook and Regan Vardo, and Wood was

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The 2019 Girls Homecoming Court with Homecoming King Chris Boggus, Queen Anya Bury and 2018 Queen Ella Bury. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Fall Festival returns to Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Friday

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The 2019 Fall Festival at the Georgia Mountains Fairgrounds starts Friday, Oct. 11, and will run through Saturday, Oct. 19.

This year's Fall Festival promises to be another fun-filled, action-packed, rollicking good time for the young, the not-so-young and the mature alike, with food, music and crafts to be available in abundance each of the nine full days of the festival.

Friday, Oct. 11, will feature all the daily food, arts and crafts the festival is known for, plus performances by Larry, Steve and Rudy; The Gatlin Brothers, and Jim Wood and the Georgia Mountain Fair Band at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"We're happy to be able to sing and entertain and go to places like Hiawassee, Georgia," Texas-native Rudy Gatlin said. "It's a beautiful



Porch pickin' is just one of the many authentic mountain activities folks will be able to enjoy at this year's Fall Festival. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

place, beautiful people, and we still enjoy what we do."

Gatlin said he and his brothers haven't done any new projects recently but have been thinking of doing a compilation of favorite Gatlin songs with some fellow artists.

"Well, just come on,"

Gatlin said to North Georgia residents. "We're going to have fun. Come on, or you're just going to miss it. You don't want to miss this."

Jamey Johnson will perform at the Anderson Music Hall on Saturday night,

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Return of Homecoming Parade to Main Street a big hit with community

By Chad Stack
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Roy Perren returned this year as Towns County High School principal, and he made sure to bring with him the return of the annual Homecoming Parade through Downtown Hiawassee.

Several years ago, during Perren's first stint as high school principal between 2004 and 2013, the school held an annual Homecoming Parade.

After a long hiatus, Perren wanted to bring the tradition back to the high school, as he felt that students, parents and the community really enjoyed the parade.

And the theme for the returning parade was very fitting: "There's No Place Like Homecoming."

Following school on



The Towns County High School Indian Raider Marching Band in the Oct. 3 Homecoming Parade through Downtown Hiawassee. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Thursday, Oct. 3, students hurried to put the finishing touches on their parade floats before riding through Hiawassee.

The parade started at 6 p.m. at the Old Rec Gym, traveling up Main Street to its final destination at Zaxby's

Restaurant, with float-riding students tossing candy to all the excited spectators along the way. Serving as the collective grand marshal for the parade were the 2019-2020 Teachers

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State Clogging Festival dances onstage at Anderson Music Hall



Performers dancing up a storm in the 2019 Georgia State Clogging Festival at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

For the first time in its storied history, the Anderson Music Hall played host to the Georgia State Clogging Festival on Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

And the festival brought teams from around Georgia and the surrounding states to compete in various forms of clogging styles.

"This is a clogging

competition that is a regional event by USA National Championships, so teams that compete here can go to a national level event," said David Phillips, one of the festival's organizers. "We have solos, we have teams, and we have duets."

"In solos, there are different categories and different levels. You have contemporary with the footwork, and then we have traditional footwork as well.

"Then, we have different

teams that are doing different categories of dance, and they each have different rules and techniques that they will be judged on. Then we have our duets, then choreographed solos."

Participation in each of the categories was divided by age and dancing technique, with three judges watching each individual to compile a score based on the way that dancer executed techniques.

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Traffic stop in Young Harris results in drug arrest

News Special

YOUNG HARRIS - On Monday, Sept. 30, a deputy with the Towns County Sheriff's Office stopped a Ford truck for a traffic offense on Gumlog Road.

Upon further investigation, the driver of the truck, Joey Delane Head, 60, of Ducktown, Tennessee, was arrested on the following charges:

Possession of metha-

amphetamine, possession of Schedule IV drugs, possession of drug-related objects, drugs not in original container, and failure to maintain lane.

The investigation is active and ongoing, and additional charges are possible.

The case will be forwarded to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Joey Head

Gowder, Heaton trial temporarily delayed due to Atlanta murder trial

By Linda Erbele
Towns County Herald

The federal prescription drug trial of Mike Gowder and Dr. James Heaton has been temporarily delayed after being scheduled to begin Tuesday, Oct. 8, in the U.S. Courthouse, in Gainesville, though jury selection is still expected to begin this week.

At press time, Heaton's attorney, Don Samuel, remained busy defending another client in a high-profile murder case that has lasted longer than expected - hence the delay.

Samuel is the lead attorney for Robert "Chip" Olsen, a former DeKalb County police officer charged in the March 2015 killing of a naked, unarmed man.

Jury selection for the United States v. John Michael Gowder and Dr. James Heaton will begin no sooner than Thursday, Oct. 10, according to the U.S. Courthouse in



Gainesville, with potential for further delays for jury deliberations in the DeKalb County trial.

Scheduling a trial date, especially one with multiple defendants, involves the close coordination of many schedules. For example,

federal prosecutors have previously notified the judge of other commitments they have in November, as have the defense teams.

The October date for the trial of the two Union County men was scheduled by U.S.

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Young Harris woman charged in Oct. 4 fatal motorcycle accident

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

David Bearden, 54, of Hayesville, North Carolina, died last week after the motorcycle he was driving crashed into a car that pulled out in front of him on Georgia 17 North.

Carol Mann, 77, of Young Harris, has been charged in the fatal accident with failure to yield and involuntary manslaughter, both misdemeanors, according to Towns County Jail.

The accident occurred around 9:40 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 4, just short of the Georgia/North Carolina state line.

According to authorities, Bearden was headed north on Georgia 17 toward Hayesville when Mann pulled out at the intersection of Woods Grove

Road near the Sunoco gas station and into his lane of travel, resulting in Bearden's motorcycle colliding with the driver's side door of Mann's Honda Civic.

Towns County E-911 station and the Office of the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Medical Services and Fire Department to the accident, after which Georgia 17 was shut down to await the arrival of Georgia State Patrol investigators.

The Coroner's Office also responded to the crash, and Bearden was pronounced dead at the scene.

Georgia 17 N remained closed for nearly two hours on Friday, as State Patrol investigators were about an hour away at the time of the accident.

Mann was arrested at



David Bearden

the scene by a State Patrol Trooper shortly after 11:30 a.m. and transported to the Towns County Jail Friday, where she was subsequently released on her own recognizance, meaning she didn't have to pay to bond out.

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