

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Storms	78 63
Fri: Storms	78 60
Sat: Storms	77 61
Sun: Storms	79 62
Mon: Storms	79 62
Tues: Sunny	80 63
Wed: Sunny	79 63



Upstream Elevation Predicted 07/10/13	
Lake Chatuge	1927.35
Lake Nottely	1778.53
Blue Ridge	1687.50

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Sports

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63rd Annual



July 19th-27th
GA Mountain Fairgrounds
FREE Parking!

Hiawassee Garden Club's
64th Annual Standard Flower Show

July 19th-21st
Ga Mtn Fair

See page 2

Free Food Distribution



North Mt. Zion Church of God
Parking Lot
Thursday, July 18th

See page 6

TOWNS COUNTY Farmers Market

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

July 20th & 21st
Meeks Park
FREE Admission • FREE Parking



13th Annual Butternut Creek Festival

Deal, Ralston and Taylor headline 63rd GMF Parade

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

District 51 State Sen. John Wilkinson didn't have to look far when he was asked to help find a Grand Marshal for the 63rd Annual Georgia Mountain Fair Parade.

The Toccoa Republican, who represents Towns County in the State House, picked up the phone and dialed an Atlanta number. The man on the other end of the phone line was honored to be asked, he graciously accepted.

Gov. Nathan Deal will be the Grand Marshal of the 63rd Annual Georgia Mountain Fair Parade on July 20th.

The parade is scheduled for 11 a.m. in Downtown Hiawassee.

Gov. Deal's office confirmed last week that the Governor will be in town to serve as the parade's Grand Marshal.

Likewise, Georgia's Speaker of the House, David



Gov. Nathan Deal



Speaker David Ralston



Christian Taylor

Ralston was honored to be named as the parade's first North Georgia Mountains Grand Marshal.

"The Georgia Mountain Fair is a tradition woven deep into our state's fabric," Speaker Ralston said. "For generations, thousands have come to Towns County to celebrate our mountain heritage."

"I am truly honored to See Parade, 12

TCSO: Towns County woman still missing

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

The Towns County Sheriff's Office is asking for help in locating Charlotte Diane "Dee Dee" Donaldson of Hiawassee.

Donaldson, 53, known locally as Dee Dee Adams, has been missing since June 24th, Towns County Sheriff's Lt. Terry Connor and sheriff's Investigator Sgt. Mark Cecci said in a release to the Towns County Herald.

She was last seen leaving her residence located at 500 Hickory Hill in Hiawassee, on foot on June 24th, according to the release.

Diane "Dee Dee" Adams-Donaldson is described as a white female height 4-foot, 11-inches, 145 pounds, brown hair, and brown eyes.

She is the granddaughter of the late Aleck and Nan Adams, of Blairsville.

Her father is the late Clarence Adams, of Blairsville.

Her sister Gail Ann Adams lives in Young Harris.

Dee Dee still has many relatives in Union County



Dee Dee Adams-Donaldson

and Towns County.

The family is praying for the safe return of their beloved Dee Dee.

Gail Ann said that the family is distraught, heartbroken and a nervous wreck at the moment.

They have put Dee Dee's situation in God's hands and are praying for word to come in at any moment.

Anyone with information as to the whereabouts of Diane "Dee Dee" Adams-Donaldson is asked to call the Towns County Sheriff's Office at (706) 896-4444.

Fireworks rule over heavy rains

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The skies above the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds lit up Saturday night as thousands of people gathered on the shores of Lake Chatuge to watch the Fourth of July fireworks, hosted and sponsored by the Fairgrounds.

Rain had postponed the event from the actual Fourth of July celebration on Thursday, but the weather cooperated and the show went on without a hitch on Saturday.

The Fourth of July is a time when many Americans pause for a few minutes of celebration to remember why we are free - to honor courage and bravery, that started this country with 13 colonies and a dream.



The night sky was lit with fireworks on Saturday. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Fifty-six Americans adopted a document that forged the backbone of this great land, and through sacrifice and loss, they signed their names. They wrote it for the people and they signed because they believed in

what it said. This great document, argued by many to be the greatest ever written, the Declaration of Independence, was signed and adopted by the

See Fireworks, 12

Enotah Circuit budget approved

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Commissioners representing the four counties that make up the Enotah Judicial Circuit met at the Union County Community Center on June 26th to approve the final draft budget for Fiscal Year 2014.

The pre-budget meeting between the five-member boards of White and Lumpkin counties, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris had already taken place earlier in the year and the representatives gathered to cast their final vote on the FY2014 budget.

The final budget is \$698,415, with White contributing \$181,701.98, Lumpkin contributing \$208,414.70, Union contributing \$148,384.45 and Towns County contributing



Union and Towns commissioners Lamar Paris and Bill Kendall check the numbers for the Enotah Judicial Circuit budget. Photo/Joe Collins

\$72,852.68, according to the final budget.

All present at the meeting approved the budget and it passed.

The Office of District Attorney will receive \$434,628 from the budget, with \$272,900 going toward salaries and

wages, according to the final budget. The District Attorney's Office experienced a budget increase in 2014 due to increases in health insurance premiums (\$76,784) and retirement contributions (\$39,450).

The circuit's Juvenile See Circuit, 12

Blairsville man back behind bars in North Carolina

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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An accused child molester who calls Blairsville home has been recaptured in the North Carolina county he escaped from after more than 24 hours on the lam.

Clay County, NC Sheriff Vic Davis reports that John Douglas Graham, 48, of Blairsville, was recaptured late Monday night, on Qualla Road, about a mile from the county jail.

He was holed up in an abandoned house, Sheriff Davis said.

Graham escaped from the Clay County Jail on Sunday afternoon around 3:20 p.m., Sheriff Davis said.

Graham was being held on \$500,000 bond related to child molestation charges. Following his return to custody, Graham's bail is now set at \$1 million, Sheriff Davis said.

Graham's bail was already \$500,000 because he



John Douglas Graham

was a flight risk. The reason - he was extradited to North Carolina from Puerto Rico, where he allegedly fled to avoid prosecution for child molestation charges, the Towns County Herald has learned.

According to Sheriff Davis, Graham's bail was raised another \$500,000 for his escape charge, bringing the total to \$1 million.

Graham, escaped Sunday afternoon from the sally port of the Clay County Jail, and was

injured climbing the sharp razor wire at the top of the fencing, Sheriff Davis said.

Graham left blood evidence behind, Sheriff Davis said.

Graham's last known address was Blairsville. Union County Sheriff Mack Mason had his deputies paying close attention to Graham's neck of the woods.

"It's good to hear he's behind bars again," Sheriff Mason said. "He needed to be rounded up really quick and he was."

Graham has also been held in the Cherokee County Detention Center in Murphy, NC.

Sheriff Davis said that the effort to round up Graham was part of a cooperative effort of local law enforcement agencies.

Sheriff Davis praised area law enforcement for their cooperation.

No further details were available at press time

Flag raising at City Hall



The Flag-raising at Hiawassee City Hall. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis and her staff, along with the Hiawassee Police and Towns County Fire & Rescue, members of the City Council and Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall all met last Tuesday afternoon to raise the first United States of America flag on the newly erected flagpole at City Hall.

City Hall has been moved into the historic Bank of Hiawassee Bank building downtown and the facility was recently renovated.

The raising of the flag represented the completion of a job well done.

"We are so proud to raise the US Flag and we want everyone to know that here in the City of Hiawassee we are proud to be Americans," Mayor Mathis said. "We've wanted to have this ceremony earlier, but

with schedules and the weather, it's not been possible. I'm honored to see it flying because it represents our country and our freedom. It just makes our new facilities complete."

Mayor Mathis would like all to know that the new billing system is now installed and should be working properly within the next couple of months.

"Our new billing system is complete and working well," she said. "It will take a couple of months to get everybody switched over, so, we ask that folks be patient as we work out all the bugs and transfer all the needed information to the new network."

Mayor Mathis invites everyone to stop in and see the renovations at City Hall and the new flag flying out front.

She reminds everyone that it is their building as residents, so they are welcome to stop in any time during normal business hours.

Heavy rains wreak havoc



By Joe Collins
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Young Harris - Towns County road maintenance crews were out on the Fourth of July helping folks stranded from road washouts that resulted from heavy amounts of rainfall last Wednesday.

Winchester Creek, Crisp, Settlement and Kirby roads, all sustained major damage and were impassable as flash flood conditions took a toll.

Crews worked throughout the day on the Fourth and

evening. It was a diligent effort on the part of the County Road Crew, Clyde Shook, Tommy Shook, Stacy Collins and Terry Stroud to get repairs done and get the roads open.

Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall had his hands full on the Fourth as calls came in late Wednesday

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TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

