

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Wednesday, August 7, 2013

Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thu: Storms	81 64
Fri: Clouds	81 64
Sat: Clouds	81 63
Sun: Storms	82 61
Mon: Storms	81 60
Tues: Storms	80 59
Wed: Storms	80 59



Upstream Elevation Predicted 08/07/13	
Lake Chatuge	1,924.67
Lake Nottely	1,773.87
Blue Ridge	1,684.81

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TOWNS COUNTY Farmers Market

Locally Grown

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



Sentimental Journey Jazz and Swing Band

On the Square
August 10th 6-8 p.m.

TAX-FREE SHOPPING

Georgia's Tax Free Weekend
August 9th-10th



Georgia Moonshine Cruizin
August 8th, 9th & 10th
Ga Mtn Fairgrounds

Free Food Distribution



Towns County North Mt. Zion
Thurs., August 15th
10 a.m. - Noon

Fire in the Mountains
CHILI COOKOFF
September 7th
10 a.m.
on the Square

Judge Miller denies bond in murder case

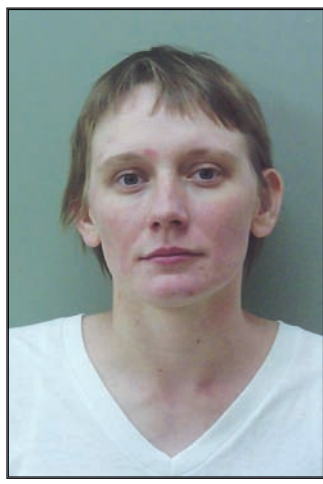
By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
cduncan.tch@windstream.net

Enotah Circuit Senior Superior Court Judge Murphy Miller denied bond for the two women charged with the murder of Diane "Dee Dee" Adams-Donaldson on Monday morning.

Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley argued that Ledford was a flight risk, having been on the lam from law enforcement on various charges that include deposit account fraud, forgery and criminal trespass.

Despite assurances from her mother, Teresa Ledford, that she would supervise Brittany, Langley told the court that Brittany had been in hiding from law enforcement, living in the woods and a tree house behind the property of codefendant Rebecca Ann Stokes.

Brittany Ledford, represented by Public Defender Charlie Brown, was arrested at Stokes home, after a consent search in July granted



Brittany Ledford
to Towns County Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Barrett by Stokes.

Brittany Ledford later was charged with malice murder, felony murder, aggravated assault, unlawful removal of a body from a crime scene, and tampering with evidence following her arrest in July on unrelated charges at Stokes' residence, Langley said.

Langley urged Judge Miller to deny bail.



Rebecca Ann Stokes
in a bedroom underneath a pile of clothing," Langley told the court. "Is she a flight risk? I think so."

Bond denied, Judge Miller said.

Enter Stokes, represented by former Enotah Circuit District Attorney David Turk.

Stokes' father and husband testified on her behalf that she was not a flight risk if granted bail by Judge Miller.

See Denied, Page 11A

Stage is set for Fifth Moonshine Cruizin

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

The fifth year of the Georgia Moonshine Cruizin at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds is sure to provide an economic boost for Towns County and surrounding communities.

The event is expected to bring in an estimated \$1 million into Towns County alone.

"It's always a huge economic event for the community, especially local hotels and resorts, locally owned shops, the campground at the Fairgrounds, and of course gas stations," said Hilda Thomason, general manager of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

It all kicks off on Thursday with the Haulin' Mash Moonshine Bash at the Ridges Resort & Marina.

The welcome party at The Ridges, is open to the public, start up time, 5:30 p.m.

The party also features some of the Classic Cars that make up the Moonshine Cruizin.



Rakes Parrish

This year's event has lots of excitement. On Friday at 9 a.m., meet the cast of the Speed Channel's RU Faster Than A Redneck right next to ET Motorgear Event Apparel trailer. An hour later, rev up for the grand opening of the event. At 11 a.m., the Lacy Snider Show cranks up live music at the Music Hauler stage behind the school house at the Frontier Village event site.

See Cruizin, Page 11A

YHC finishes as second best bass anglers



L to R, Mark Peeler and Brad Rutherford of Young Harris College are the nation's second best bass anglers after finishing second in the Carhardt Bassmasters Championships on Lake Chatuge. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Young Harris College's dynamic duo of Brad Rutherford and Matthew Peeler's three-day total of 36 pounds,

See Bass, Page 11A

Back to School Bash was the hottest ticket in Towns

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

Amy Gibby-Rosser, coordinator of Family Connections at Towns County Comprehensive Schools is committed to improving students' readiness for school.

At 10 a.m. on Aug. 1st, despite ominous clouds, smiling children were eagerly showing off backpacks, lunch boxes, and other various school supplies they had picked out from the stacks of donated goodies in front of the school.

"All kids love to have their school supplies in hand, and we don't want kids to feel like they don't have the opportunity to start school the same as everyone else," Gibby-Rosser said. "We've done this for many years."

"But this is the first time we have done it with other organizations involved," she said. "We have churches involved, and people have provided activities, and snacks."

The event has always been well attended too. Last year, 220 children were served, about 20 percent of the school population, proving it was a large need in the community.



Amy Rosser

Thankfully, that community has always been a compassionate one.

"It's been years ago that it started," Gibby-Rosser said. "The Episcopal Church of Good Shepherd in Hayesville, NC started supplying us with school supplies and that's how it started, because we saw such a need."

Word of the event spread quickly, and this year alone, Gibby-Rosser was receiving phone calls from all over.

"We had so many people call us and ask what they could do to help," she said. "That's what it's all about."

The contributors included Sharp Memorial UMC, Macedonia, McConnell, East-

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Towns County wins through tourism

By Heather Poole
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

In the last year, Towns County has been visited by two movie crews, CNN, Gov. Nathan Deal, Speaker David Ralston, and recently, a racing show thanks to the Cruizin in at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Just when you thought Towns County had received as much publicity as was possible, ESPN shows up. While the sports network may seem like an unlikely presence in the small town, Chad Hooper, general manager of the Ridges



Fans (tourists) root for the home team, Young Harris College, during the Carhardt Bassmasters Championships. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

FFA Public Speaking preps at City Hall

By Todd Forrest
Towns County Herald
sports@nganews.com

Last week City Hall hosted the Towns County High School FFA Informal Speech Contest, presented by the Mountain Movers and Shakers.

Sabrina Garrett's Public Speaking team was well represented with six extremely bright, and charismatic members: Jill McCray, Tyler Osborn, Luke Wood, Tyler Sisco, Jasmine Forrester, and Adam Penland.

At the end of the day, the judges decision was too close to call but eventually it was Penland, a sophomore, who stole the show and received the \$75 reward.

Meanwhile, Forrester,



Sophomore Adam Penland delivers his speech at City Hall last week. Penland took home the first prize of \$75. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

who finished as the Runner-Up, winning \$25, will be speaking at this Friday's Movers and Shakers meeting at Mary's Southern Grill.

"We passed the hat

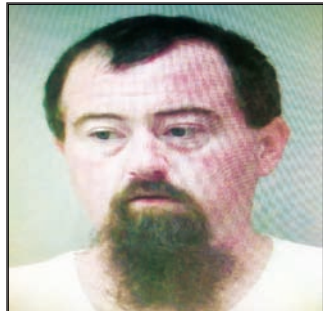
See FFA, Page 11A

TCSO, Drug Task Force bust two

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

Two area men face multiple drug charges following their arrest last week at a residence on Bell Street, Towns County Sheriff's reports show.

Travis Wayne Pugh, 38, of Hayesville, NC, and Kenneth Wade Shiver, 50, of Hiwassee, face charges of possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and possession of marijuana less than an ounce following their arrests by Towns County deputies and an agent with the Appalachian Drug Task Force, on Aug.



Travis Pugh

3rd. The arrests were made after alleged illegal drugs were found in a residence on Bell Street.

An amount of marijuana was seized at the residence, and



Kenneth Shiver

the two suspects were taken into custody. The case is still under investigation, and the two are still in custody in the Towns County Detention Center at press time.

Tax free holiday Aug. 9th and Aug. 10th

Georgia will have a tax-free holiday weekend this year for just the second time since 2009.

Towns County students return to the classroom on Thursday, possibly a little too late as parents have already spent their hard-earned dollars on back to school clothing and supplies.

This year's tax holiday will begin at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 9th, and will end at midnight on Saturday, Aug. 10th.

During the holiday, shoppers can avoid paying the state sales tax on clothing and footwear items with

a sales price of \$100 or less per item; a single purchase, with a sales price of \$1,000 or less, on personal computers and personal computer-related accessories; and general school supplies to be used in the classroom or in classroom-related activities with a sales price of \$20 or less per item.

The exemption does not apply to the following items: clothing accessories, jewelry, handbags, umbrellas, eyewear, watches, watchbands, cellular devices, furniture, or computer-related accessories designed for recreational use.

Sheriff Clinton urges county residents to act

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

At the Mountain Movers and Shakers weekly meeting held at Mary's Southern Grill in Young Harris, Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton roused the crowd with the unsettling facts he presented about House Bill 1176, and House Bill 1.

The former bill deals with criminal justice reform. Taught as a way of saving state money, Sheriff Clinton explained that it really just puts a huge burden on the county.

"It empties prison beds, sure," Sheriff Clinton explained. "But it puts them in the county prison."

The reforms are projected to save Georgia taxpayers millions of dollars over the course of the next five years, but Sheriff Clinton promises, "if you follow the money, you start to see a different picture."

The crowd was in unanimous agreement that the only people that seem to benefit from



Sheriff Chris Clinton

this bill are lawyers.

"It's the attorneys of the dope dealers who are making money," Sheriff Clinton said.

When asked what can be done to prevent the passing of this bill, Sheriff Clinton quickly suggested getting in touch with District 50 State Sen. John

See Shakers, Page 11A

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

