

The Erwin Record

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017

16 Pages • Vol. 90 • No. 42

www.erwinrecord.net

West Greene defeats Blue Devils in region game. See story on page 1-B.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Double murder stuns county

One victim was mother of five

By Keeli Parkey
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"It's a sad situation. I hate it for the children and the family. ... When you have something like this happen in the community, it does affect everyone."

That was the sentiment expressed by Sheriff Mike Hensley when discussing the murder of two sisters last week in south Unicoi County.

According to Hensley, law enforcement was notified about "a man with a gun" around 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 11, on Lower Higgins Creek Road.

"While we were on our way to the scene, 911 dispatch receives another call that two women had been shot on Lower Higgins Creek Road," Hens-

ley said. "Myself, Chief Deputy Frank Rogers and another deputy arrived at the residence. We discovered two female victims who were dead with gunshot wounds to the head."

The victims have been identified as sisters Donna K. Jones, 34, and Amy B. Jones, 29. Hensley said Donna was the mother of five children. They have been placed in the care of family members.

"There was a witness there who gave me information about the suspect and a description of the suspect's vehicle. I immediately notified dispatch to release the information to everyone locally and in the surrounding states, including Mitchell County, Yancey County and Madison County in North

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Clyde William Banner

Public defender appointed to represent suspect

By Becky Campbell
Johnson City Press

The man accused of killing his girlfriend's adult daughters at their Unicoi County home borrowed the shotgun from a neighbor the night before the shooting, according to court documents filed in Erwin.

Clyde William Banner, 63, 293 Lower Higgins Creek Road, was captured in Madison County, N.C., about three and a half hours after the shootings on Wednesday, Oct. 11. He was charged with two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of sisters Amy B. Jones, 29, and Donna K. Jones, 34, inside the home where they lived with their mother, Teresa Jones, and Banner.

According to the two warrants filed by Chief Investigator Ron Arnold, Banner borrowed a shotgun from a neighbor the night before the shootings. Sheriff Mike Hensley said Banner told the neighbor, who is also Teresa Jones' sister, that he was going squirrel hunting the next morning.

At some point that next morning, Teresa Jones was

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TOWN OF UNICOI

BACK IN TIME



Erwin Record Staff Photo by Kendal Groner

Margaret Lewis, left, and Pat Lynch prepare biscuits made from scratch in a woodfire oven during the Heritage Day at the Bogart-Bowman Cabin on Saturday, Oct. 14.

Unicoi celebrates days gone by

By Kendal Groner
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Those who attended the Heritage Day at the Bogart-Bowman Cabin on Saturday, Oct. 14, got a glimpse of what life was like a few hundred years ago.

After the Town of Unicoi purchased and restored the cabin in 2008, it has been the meeting place of the Unicoi History Committee and the location for several fun, educational events held throughout the year.

Saturday's free event celebrated the rich history and mountain culture of the area with reenactors dressed in attire from the era. The reenactors displayed live exhibits and demonstrations,

some of which included basket weaving, hearthside cooking, blacksmithing, medicinal herb use, breadmaking, wool making, storytelling and the firing of a replica revolutionary war-era cannon.

"We have a lot of great volunteers that come out and donate their time to spend the day here and show what life was like in the late 1700s, early 1800s in Unicoi," said Sarah Jennings, director of Parks and Recreation. "Yesterday we had 305 kids come from Unicoi County schools and they got to make jump ropes and see how biscuits were made and use an apple cider press. The kids really enjoy seeing the heritage of the area."

Linda Lail with Tri-State

Basketry Guild has been attending Heritage day for the last six years and enjoys sharing her love for basket weaving with others. She displayed handwoven baskets made of reed, grapevine and white oak bark.

"I've talked with the kids about why baskets were so useful 200 years ago, and their main purpose was harvesting food," she said. "I explained how different baskets might be good for potatoes or some might be better for harvesting eggs."

Some of the medicinal plants native to the area were on display as Elizabeth Baird Hardy, an English Professor from Mayland Community College, discussed how different medicine and health care was in

the 18th and 19th centuries compared to today.

"They didn't have a CVS to go to when they got sick, and so they would have plant-based medicine practices," she said.

She explained how many of the settlers had their own medicinal herb gardens or learned what medicinal plants could be foraged by talking to their Cherokee neighbors.

"The Cherokee and the settlers both had an idea that you could tell by looking at a plant what it was good for," she said. "For example bloodroot, the leaf is sort of shaped like a lung, and the root was pounded into a powder and inhaled for respiratory problems."

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UNITED WAY

Annual campaign begins

Sets goal of \$120K

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With a focus on education, financial stability and health, United Way works to improve the lives of communities all around the world. With nearly 1,800 United Way chapters, the nonprofit is powered by over 2.8 million volunteers and 9.8 million donors.

On Tuesday Oct.17, the Unicoi United Way held its fundraising kickoff breakfast at the Clinchfield Senior Adult Center. Dozens of community members and leaders, business owners and school officials attended the event to share their support and enthusiasm for the organization's fundraising efforts.

The Rotary Club of Unicoi County, Unicoi County Family YMCA, Contact Ministries 211, Children's Advocacy Center of the First Judicial District, Unicoi County Little League, Change is Possible (CHIPS) Family Violence Shelter, Unicoi County/Erwin Health Department, Unicoi County Shoe Fund, Second Harvest Food Bank, Sequoyah Council Boy Scouts of America, Clinchfield Senior Adult Center, Unicoi County Dental Schools Program and Backpack Program, Unicoi County 4-H, Tennessee Rehabilitation Center, Unicoi County Habitat for Humanity, The Monroe Foundation and CASA of Northeast Tennessee see all receive funding from Unicoi County United Way.

"Our major role is to provide funding for all the nonprofits in the area that we serve," said Lee Brown, president of the Unicoi County United Way. "One of the highlights is the backpack program where we take kids shopping for school supplies, and we provide support for the Christmas shopping tours that reach a lot

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Joel Duling speaks about the work of United Way during the local chapter's campaign kickoff breakfast on Tuesday, Oct. 17. (Erwin Record Staff Photo by Kendal Groner)

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This Week's Weather

Thursday 71° 40°

Friday 75° 44°

Saturday 75° 46°

Sunday 75° 53°



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