

STORIES OF THE YEAR: A look at Gwinnett's top headlines

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As of Tuesday, December 31, 2013
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From staff reports



» Balfour indictment, not guilty verdict

Gwinnett's recent history has been marred by corruption scandals for years, but the swift trial of Sen. Don Balfour had a different ending in 2013. The Snellville politician, whose erroneous expense reports had followed him for months, was indicted in November, but found not guilty of 18 counts the next month. After calling the controversy politically motivated from the witness stand, Balfour's suspension was lifted in time to return to the General Assembly for its session in the new year.

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- » [Balfour indicted on theft, false statement charges](#)

Don Balfour, was indicted in November for his erroneous expense reports, but was found not guilty of 18 counts the next month.



The five firefighters that were held hostage at gunpoint spoke to the media in April. Pictured from left are Jody Moss, Jason Schuon, Tim Hollingsworth, Chip Echols and Sydney Garner.

» Firefighters held hostage

A Suwanee man took five Gwinnett firefighters hostage in April for more than three hours and demanded that his utilities be turned on. Lauren Holman Brown, 55, died that evening following a loud explosion and an exchange of gunfire with members of a SWAT team. Brown faked chest

