

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Balsam Range Brings the IBMA “Album of the Year” Award Home to Papertown**

**HAYWOOD COUNTY, NC** – The Mountains of Haywood County are buzzing with excitement following the International Bluegrass Music Associations annual award show in Raleigh on Thursday night. The county’s native bluegrass band, Balsam Range, won the prestigious award of Album of the Year for their recording of “Papertown”. This was the band’s fourth album, which quickly became a favorite among their fans and beyond. The widely acclaimed album spent five straight months at the #1 spot on the Bluegrass Unlimited chart. The accomplishment not only earned them bluegrass bragging rights but also helped them earn one of the industries most accomplished awards.

Balsam Range earned seven total IBMA nominations this year, including two under the Song of the Year category, which they brought the award home in 2011 for “Trains I Missed”. In addition to their many accomplishments in bluegrass music, the group recently earned their spot on the silver screen. The group is providing music for and making appearances in the 2014 film release of “Careful What You Wish For”. The movie is crime thriller currently under production at Lake Wylie, near Charlotte, NC.

In 2007, five talented friends, musicians, and songwriters founded Balsam Range. The group’s members, Tim Surrett, Buddy Melton, Darren Nicholson, Marc Pruett and Caleb Smith, fondly named themselves after the magnificent Balsam Mountain Range in their home county of Haywood. Their distinct sound and blend of unique talent quickly grew a following among locals and visitors alike. The fan following proudly refers to itself as “Balsam Nation”.

Even with their newly earned Album of the Year status under their belt, Balsam Range isn’t making plans to slow down anytime soon. The group has a full line up of upcoming performances and appearance through 2014. To view a full schedule and learn more about the band, visit [www.balsamrange.com](http://www.balsamrange.com)

*Along with its picturesque beauty, Haywood County offers year round cultural, music, family fun activities and special event. For more information click [www.visitncsmokies.com](http://www.visitncsmokies.com)*

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