

Towns County Herald

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Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Storms	85 59
Fri: Clouds	83 59
Sat: Clouds	81 57
Sun: Clouds	82 56
Mon: Sunny	82 58
Tue: Storms	84 60
Wed: Storms	86 61



Upstream Elevation
Predicted
8/25/10

Lake Chatuge	1922.50
Lake Nottely	1770.90
Blue Ridge	1652.80

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Public Hearing

The Towns County Sheriff's Office will host a public hearing on Aug. 26 to seek input on the future of local public safety. Actually, it's the long-term strategic plan for law enforcement in the most under-staffed Sheriff's Office in North-east Georgia.

The purpose of the long range plan is to serve as a frame of reference, a kind of road map, offering direction of how Towns County will move forward into the future of law enforcement. As with any long range planning, the county must reassess itself from time to time to make certain that the department moves in the direction deemed most beneficial to all Towns County residents.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday at the Towns County Courthouse at 6 p.m.

Food Pantry

The Towns County Food Pantry will hold its free food distribution on Tuesday, Aug. 31. The distribution will be held at the Towns County Food Pantry on Jack Dayton Circle from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. All that are in need of assistance are encouraged to attend. If you are unable to pick up your food, please call (706) 896-4783 for more details prior to distribution day. This allows us to make arrangements to deliver food to you. All clients and inquiries are kept confidential.

Open House

The Development Center for Families and Children at the Young Harris Community Center is open on Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

We offer free tutoring, parenting classes, wellness counseling, food, structured games and activities.

An open house is scheduled Sept. 7 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more details, call (706) 896-4131, extension 1235.

The center is made possible by a grant from the Governor's Office of Children and Families.

Turn on the lights, it's time for football

By Charles Duncan
Towns County Herald
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Turn on the lights, Friday night football is back in Towns County.

The Towns County Indians kick off the 2010 season at Frank McClure Stadium with their neighbors from Union County at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

"I'll give Union County a lot of credit, they are a very well-coached football team," Indians' Head Football Coach Kyle Langford said. "From top to bottom, you can look at the film and you can look at past films and there's nothing that they're lacking coaching-wise."

"They've got it down pat and they're very sharp at what they do," he said. "They're not going to change because of what you're doing; they're just going to

keep doing what they do best."

Panthers' Head Coach Brian Allison runs a spread offense. Allison considers 2010 a rebuilding year for Union after having lost 16 valuable seniors to graduation.

Gone from the Panthers' player inventory are quarterback Kyle Owenby, Wesley Adams, Michael Akins, and all-around athlete Blake Gowder.

To be blunt, Coach Allison says 85-90 percent of his offense repertoire from 2009 is gone.

Langford said that doesn't matter, they're still the Panthers and Allison knows how to prepare his teams despite the loss of ammunition.

"They do their thing and they do it well," Coach

See Home Opener, page 5A



Expect this scene to repeat itself often this football season as freshman quarterback Jackson Noblet breaks loose on a big gainer during last week's scrimmage with Fannin County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The Rock is dishonored



It didn't take Towns County High School Principal Roy Perren long to cover up purple and gold graffiti on the school's sacred Senior Rock on Monday. The graffiti left a message for the school's football team: "we're coming to get some on Friday." Photo/Charles Duncan

By Charles Duncan
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When senior football player Billy Meier arrived at school on Monday, he had to look twice to believe his eyes.

The object of his attention made his blood boil; he became overwhelmed with a strong sense of anger. He soaked up the image like a Bounty paper towel. It's something he won't ever forget.

Bottom line: say it ain't so, somebody painted The Rock at Towns County Schools purple and gold. No one could point an accurate finger at the culprit, but the fact is, not only was The Rock painted

See The Rock, page 11A

VA Clinic targets September

By Norman Cooper
North Georgia News Editor

The Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic in Blairsville is in the inspection stage of the construction process. The clinic is scheduled to open in the latter part of September.

The new clinic will offer primary care services, mental health services, x-ray services, and a blood draw pathology lab to veterans, according to Devin Harrison, the Community-Based Outpatient Center Coordinator for the U. S. Department of Veteran Affairs at the Atlanta VA Medical Center.

The building has approximately 7,000 square feet which consists of eight exam rooms, blood draw lab, x-ray room and administrative space. There will be medical doctors, nurses, a mental health doctor, and medical support assistance. An administrator will be on site and responsible for the day to day operations. That individual will be hired before the clinic opens.

The address of the clinic is 1294 Highway 515 East, Suite 100, Blairsville, Georgia, 30512. The telephone service has not yet been connected.

"I want the people of Towns County and surrounding counties to know that on the behalf of the VA Medical Center in Decatur that we are excited to be in the community," said Harrison. "We are excited



The VA Outpatient Clinic in Blairsville is nearing completion. Officials say the next step is a construction inspection. The clinic, which also serves Towns, is slated for a September opening. Photo/Norman Cooper

to be able to provide services to the veterans in the community of Towns County. We can't wait until the clinic opens to serve the veterans."

The clinic will primarily serve the veterans in the counties of Union, Fannin, Towns, White, and Lumpkin. That does not exclude veterans from other counties obtaining services in Union County.

Those who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who were discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable may qualify for VA health care benefits. Reservists and National Guard members may also qualify for VA health care benefits if they were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a Federal order and completed

the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty.

Veterans who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to veterans discharged for hardship, early out or a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

The Atlanta VA Medical Center currently oversees six VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinics in Cobb County, Gwinnett County, South Fulton County, Stockbridge and Newnan in addition to an outpatient clinics in Decatur and Rome.

Commissioner revises dangerous dog laws

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall is amending the county's dangerous dog ordinance.

The move was prompted by numerous complaints about a pack of dogs terrorizing the Holly Hill and Streak Hill communities, Commissioner Kendall said.

According to the commissioner, small dogs and cats have been killed by the aggressive pack while on the property of their owner. Also, the pack has shown aggressive behavior toward residents in the Holly Hill community.

The problem has been an ongoing occurrence for at least six months, residents in the Holly Hill community say.

"What we're doing is amending the ordinance to deal with a serious problem,"



Commissioner Bill Kendall

Commissioner Kendall said. "These dogs belong to one person; they've been advised to control their dogs. These dogs have been determined to be dangerous dogs."

The ordinance was amended last week to better define the term aggressive dog. The new meaning

See Ordinance page 11A

Smith excited about youth football in 2010

By Charles Duncan
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Towns County's Youth football program continues to flourish under Coordinator Jimmy Smith.

On Friday, the program welcomed and honored its team of youth coaches for a banquet at the Towns County Senior Center.

Last year, three out of four Towns County Youth Teams made it to the playoffs, each falling just shy of their respective conference titles.

"Almost every kid that played last year is back again this year," he said. "We've got a few new ones this year as well. I think we can be back where we were last season."

"There, a lot of heart in these kids," he said. "And this group came to learn. They ask questions and they don't complain about the practices. We're excited about youth football in Towns County."

Smith, who welcomed and honored the youth coaches along with Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, said the goal is to win it all this season in the four respective youth football categories.

"That's what we want to do," Smith said. "We almost got that last year for three of our youth football programs. That was incredibly exciting. We hope to improve on that and we expect to be better this season."

Smith has been the



Jimmy Smith

youth football coordinator for 14 years. He said that this season is no different than the previous seasons. He still expects Towns' youth teams to come out on top.

"Every year is as exciting as the first year," he said. "I look forward to being around the kids every year and watching them grow as people and as sportsmen. I think I've learned as much from the kids as they've learned from me."

"I still get excited about this program," he said. "Each year is different, but the excitement remains the same. I love to see these kids get fired up about football. They're following a path to the future of our high school football program."

See Youth Football, page 11A

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