

# Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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## Local Weather and Lake Levels

**Thur:** Cloudy 74 53  
**Fri:** Cloudy 78 54  
**Sat:** Cloudy 79 56  
**Sun:** Cloudy 79 56  
**Mon:** Cloudy 79 57  
**Tue:** Sunny 80 57  
**Wed:** Sunny 80 56



Upstream Elevation Predicted 9/03/09

Lake Chatuge	1922.30
Lake Nottely	1770.30
Blue Ridge	1680.70

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## Mt. Zion Food

The monthly mobile food distribution for families in need will be held at No. Mt. Zion Church of God on Friday, September 11th from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. This outdoor food distribution will be held in the rear parking lot of No. Mt. Zion Church of God on Scataway, rain or shine. We look forward to seeing you there!

## CLASS OF '89 20th Reunion

The Towns County Class of '89 is having a class reunion September 5. The reunion will be at the Towns County Cafeteria at 6pm. There is no charge, we just want everyone to come and have a good time sharing memories. The Class of '89 is also asking all T.C. Grads from 1980-1989 (90&91 are welcome too) to come and join us at 7pm at the cafeteria. For more info please call 706-781-5399.

## Free Food New Times

The Towns County Food pantry will have a free food distribution for Towns County residents on Tuesday, September 8th from 2pm-6pm. Those that are in need are encouraged to come. If you are unable to pick up your food, please call (706)896-4783, prior to distribution day, so arrangements can be made to have your food delivered to you. All clients and inquiries are confidential.

## Cornwell Reward

A \$50,000 reward has been established at United Community Bank to assist in the safe return of 38-year-old Kristi Cornwell. Cornwell, a former Towns County sheriff's deputy, is still missing following her Aug. 11 abduction near her home on Jones Creek Road in Union. To help, contact Kenya Patton at (706) 835-1212 or UCB at (706) 745-2151. For more details see page 1C.

## DOT road crew gets back to work

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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The Georgia Department of Transportation has reinstated Towns County's state DOT road maintenance crew.

That's the word from Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall as the road maintenance crew that was established in the 1940s returns to work on state roads that wind through Towns County.

Kendall expressed his gratitude to Towns County residents for their courteous and sincere concerns about losing the maintenance crew. Kendall passed those concerns on to state DOT officials.

"Many citizens who work across the mountains and begin their morning commute by 4 a.m. to 5 a.m. expressed their concerns that Towns County's DOT road crew always had the



The old state maintenance barn on Georgia 76 at Lower Hightower will soon be replaced. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

roads clear of snow and ice and once they reached the mountain top at the county line, the ice and snow had not been removed," Kendall said. "The old adage - we don't appreciate or miss something until we lose it - rings true here. We want to express our appreciation for the excellent job the DOT crew of four men do in maintaining the 56 miles of state roads in Towns County."

Kendall's office had been swamped with calls regarding the lack of mowing along the county's state roadways. Callers complained that the state roadways within the county's borders had not been mowed at all in 2009. They complained that the tall, dead grass blades had become unsightly and blocked the

See Road Crew, page 3A

## Hoedown and Barbecue a success

By Charles Duncan  
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The turnout was modest but the message was bold.

The first Towns County Drug Free Coalition Hoedown and Barbecue went on without a hitch on Saturday evening despite threatening skies.

The event featured square dancing, Virginia Reel and Line Dancing called by Jim Duncan, and a pulled pork feast complete with all the fixings.

Patrons dressed in denim, cowboy and cowgirl hats, bandanas and comfortable shoes to take part in what Executive Director Marcene Friedley calls the inaugural event to bring awareness that communities throughout America should be free of illegal drugs.



Two-year-old Faith LaPorta was the youngest patron to attend the first hoedown. Photo/Charles Duncan

That message rings loud and clear in Towns County as Sheriff Chris Clinton vows to do his part to rid the community of illegal drugs and the people who

peddle illegal substances.

The coalition is a non-profit group dedicated to the mission of one day seeing a drug-free community here in Towns County.

"The message is drug awareness," Friedley said. "What the coalition does is help bring research to the table to help other groups better understand what is being done in the county about drugs. We're ready to assist wherever it's needed. "What we're trying to do is get more activities for the young people in Towns County," she said.

One of those projects is starting up a baseball league, Friedley said.

"It's an adult baseball league. It'll happen on Friday nights and run for 10

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## 4H Fall Color Classic coming Sept. 12

### Special to the Herald

The 4H 2-bit Horse Club hosts its first event of the year, the Fall Color Classic on Sept. 12, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Union County Saddle Club. Registration for the event begins at 10 a.m.

The open horse show will be judged in 24 categories with Marty Teams, of Blairsville, taking part as this year's show judge.

Price per event is \$10 on the day of the show; \$9 if pre-registered. Also, 4H members in good standing, \$9 on the day of show, \$8 if pre-registered.

Juried events include Huntseat Showmanship, Gaited Showmanship, Western Showmanship, 4H Showmanship, Huntseat

Walk/Trot, Huntseat Pleasure, Huntseat Equitation, Saddleseat Equitation, Leadline Class, Open Gaited, Walkingbred Class, Saddlebred Class, Country Pleasure, Paso Fino Pleasure, Western Walk Trot, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Huntseat Over Fences, Trail Obstacle, Cone Weave, Pole Bending, Arena Race, Cloverleaf Barrels and Open Barrels.

Age groups include youth ages 12 and up, junior, ages 13 through 17 and senior, ages 18 and up.

High points will be awarded in each discipline and age group.

Other requirements include:

- Current Negative Coggins required for all horses brought on the grounds;

- SEI approved helmets are required for Youth English riders at all times when mounted;

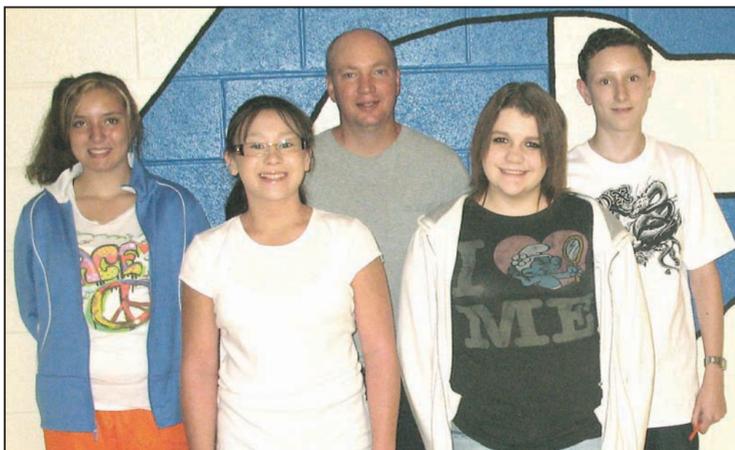
- No alcoholic beverages allowed on premises;
- No unleashed pets on show grounds;

- Pre-registration phone number is (706) 781-6514. Please leave name, phone number and class number;

- Ribbons awarded for first through sixth places;
- Stallions are not eligible to show in all 4H shows.

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## Today's students becoming tomorrow's journalists



Towns County Herald staff member David Seckinger (center) visited Mrs. Loretta Youngblood's eighth grade journalism class last Thursday. This is the middle school's second year having a journalism class. You can read their reports throughout the school year in future editions of the Herald. Pictured L to R: sports reporter Destiny Blythe, staff photographer Danielle Nguyen, assistant editor Megan O'Donald, and editor Alex King. Photo/Loretta Youngblood

## Festival of Arts to return in 2010

By Charles Duncan  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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Linda Denison is confident that the Festival of Arts at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds will flourish in the years ahead.

Denison, of Blairsville, has been an artist since she was 6 years old and sold her first painting at the age of 12. She's active in mixed media and had no trouble selling her work during the festival.

"This is the first of many festivals," said Denison, who also teaches painting at the Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Association. "I can't complain. I've had a good weekend considering the economy. There was a lot of repeat business. "You have to be here to sell," she said. "I'll be



Linda Denison (on left) and Linda Rubenstein take a stroll through Pioneer Village. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

back next year. The weather has really not been bad at all. It's been rather cool and enjoyable."

The festival, sponsored by the Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association, was held Saturday and Sunday.

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## Towns receives \$8 million in federal stimulus funding

By Charles Duncan  
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Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall was tickled pink that Georgia Department of Transportation officials have seen fit to restore \$8 million in road improvement projects.

For the most part, those projects had previously been eliminated due to state transportation budget issues.

The return of these projects can be attributed to federal stimulus funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Commissioner Kendall said.

The projects include the replacement of six bridges with the construction of new bridges, Kendall said.

"The projects consist of acquisition of right of ways, widening and constructing new bridges," Kendall said. "Resurfacing and maintenance of Georgia 75 from McDonald's in Hiawassee to the North Carolina line has just been completed."

Also funded but not on the list - Local Assistance Road Program resurfacing projects of two county



Bill Kendall

roads, Kendall said.

Kendall was delighted that funding had been restored to replace aging infrastructure within the county.

"These old bridges, which are narrow and unsafe, will take much longer to rebuild because of right-of-ways acquisition and engineering," Kendall said. "The bridge over Brasstown Creek going out of Young Harris will be raised 10 feet in elevation due to the present bridge being in the flood plain."

The projects and funding are granted on needs established by Department of Transportation studies for

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## Indians fall in season opener



By Charles Duncan  
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Lakeview Academy must brace itself for a hostile group of Towns County Indians.

The Indians battled the Rabun County Wildcats last week and found themselves embroiled in a separate battle with the gents in the black and white shirts. Head Coach Kyle Langford's Indians were penalized early and often as they dropped the season opener to Class AA Rabun by a score of 33-14.

The Lions, who lost their season opener as well,

traditionally come to play with a huge amount of gusto and intensity when they come to Towns County, Coach Langford said.

"They looked good Friday night. They're the same Lakeview that we've seen the last two years," Coach Langford said. "We're 1-1 against them the

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