

Towns County Sports

Towns County's Leader In Sports

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Panthers prevail in Blairsville on Military Appreciation Night

By Daysha Pandolph
Staff Writer
Towns County Herald

Blairsville - Last Friday, the Indians ventured across county lines to face off against the Union County Panthers in a 49-7 Towns loss — a showdown that brought together the two communities in a presentation of military appreciation.

“We played hard and I was very pleased with some of the adjustments we made in the second half,” said Coach Jason Roquemore, who emphasized what a great overall experience the game was for their team. “It was another opportunity for them to go out and compete at a very high level.”

The Indians' second consecutive road trip got off to a rough start and saw them staring up at a 14-0 deficit before their first offensive snap following an 11-play Union County scoring drive and a Towns fumble on the ensuing kickoff.

Union County added touchdown strikes from 27, 10 and 3 yards to mount a 35-0 lead. The Panthers added a 1-yard run and a 22-yard pass in the second, extending the margin to 49-0 at the break.

“Not only was the game a great chance for the younger kids to get more play-time under their belts, but it served as a friendly reunion for a number of kids who have played



UCHS and TCHS cheerleaders join together during the pregame flag presentation. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

on both teams throughout their high school careers,” Roquemore said. “It’s two communities that basically grow up together. Just being that close in proximity it’s going to be natural and a lot of those things are outside your control,” he says regarding the movement of students from school to school. “It doesn’t make the game any more or less important.”

Several individuals made some outstanding contributions Friday night, and while Roquemore is proud of their hard work, he credits the entire team for all accomplishments.

“Here’s the greatest

thing about football: it takes all 11,” he said.

Towns County got on the board during the fourth after a third-quarter blocked punt awarded senior Connor Chastain and the offense possession at the Panthers’ 40-yard line.

On second and 10, Dustin Barrett picked up three on a pitch, eventually resulting in a fourth and 7, where Chastain found a leaping Julian Mosley in double coverage at the seven.

Facing another fourth down, Chastain fired a strike between two defenders to sophomore Morgan Walker in the back of the endzone.

Barrett’s point-after concluded the scoring with 11:50 to play.

With the third loss of the season, Roquemore encourages the Indians to continue their hard work and focus on what’s ahead. “It’s not where we are, it’s where we’re going.”

During halftime, the Towns County Marching Band was first to take the field with their show “Bond, James Bond.” Their amplified performance wowed the audience and highlighted the talent of several students during the more exposed sets of the show. Following the TCHS Band, the Union County Pride of the Mountains Marching Band



Towns County sophomore Dustin Barrett totes the rock during the first half of Friday night’s rivalry showdown in Blairsville. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

performed their outer-space-themed show “Beyond the Stratosphere.”

This week, the Towns County Indians will take a bye week and focus on fundamentals and health, according to Roquemore.

The game opened with

a touching ceremony in honor of military service members, with the TCHS cheer squad joining the UCHS cheerleaders and student section on the field to hold up a giant American flag as the UCHS marching band performed the National Anthem.

TCMS Football: Indians defeat White County 42-36

By Ansleigh Hardin
Guest Contributor

The Towns County Middle School football team continues to find ways to win, with a 42-36 victory over White County on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

Tucker Engert had 11 carries for 156 yards, 3 touchdowns and 181 passing yards. Jayden Tournage handled the tough yards with 8 carries and 72 rushing yards and a touchdown.

Sam Sarafin made 6 catches for 149 receiving yards and a touchdown.

And Baylor Rogers had 2 catches and 27 receiving yards.

The Indians drove the length of the field with 1:24 left on the clock to take the lead for good with 22 seconds left in the game.



The TCMS offense put up 42 points during last week’s win at White County.

“I’m just incredibly proud of the fight and resilience that these young men showed today,” Head Coach

Jeff Stowers said following the game. “They just refused to allow themselves to lose.” The Indians return home

for a game against Union County on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 5:30 p.m.

Appalachian Trail Day at Brasstown Bald September 16th



Join us for Appalachian Trail Day on September 16th at Brasstown Bald from 10 AM until 3 PM,

backpacking demos; showing tips and tricks on how to pack a backpack and what to take along, Leave No Trace themed activities, an exhibit on the history of the Appalachian Trail, and the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club will be showing videos that they have produced in the Mountain Top Theater.

hosted by the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club and FIND Outdoors. Admission to Brasstown Bald will be free all day in honor of the event. Those folks wanting to ride a shuttle bus from the parking area to the summit will need to pay \$3 dollars per adult for bus passes.

The Brasstown Bald summit trail will be open and transformed into the mini Appalachian Trail with signage for each of the states that the actual AT passes through. There will be

If you are looking for an adventure before or after the event you can park at Brasstown Bald and hike 4.5 miles on Jack’s Knob Trail to reach the Appalachian Trail at Chattahoochee Gap, where the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River originate. Please visit our website or call for more information. <https://gofindoutdoors.org/sites/brasstown-bald/>; 706-896-4137.

Hinton Center Scored Big with “Swing for Hinton, Swing for Hope” Charity Golf Tournament

Over \$30,000 was raised by Hinton Rural Life Center’s “Swing for Hinton, Swing for Hope” charity golf tournament weekend, which included a dinner and silent auction on Friday, August 18, and golf tournament on Saturday, August 19. This is the third year for the tournament, held at Mountain Harbour Golf Course, with 60 players participating, 27 sponsors, and raising almost \$13,000.

“Playing golf anywhere in the mountains is always fun, and it can be even more fun when you’re playing golf with your fellow community members for a great cause at an unbelievably beautiful golf course,” said tournament participant and first place team member Justin Flanagan. “We couldn’t have asked for better course and weather conditions. Everyone was smiling and just enjoyed a good day out on the course,” he said. “The Chick-fil-A biscuits and Mountain Snacks jerky sticks were the fuel that kept our team alive and in better spirits for some of the putts we missed,” he joked.



The winning foursome, left to right, of Caleb Tallman, Scott Tallman, Justin Flanagan, and Jacob Wallace each received gift certificates from Mountain Harbour Golf Club, Hinton Rural Life Center, and The Copper Door restaurant.

nity Connections Coordinator Jeremy Jenkins, who started his position in June, directing the golf tournament was a new, challenging, but rewarding experience for him. “I really enjoyed working with so many members of the community, from Hinton board members to the local chambers and also the amazing staff at Mountain Harbour Golf Club,” said Jenkins.

“I am extremely appreciative for the guidance I received from Mountain Harbour residents and Hinton volunteers Bob Rogers and Bill Meldram, and Jorge Azor, president of the Mountain Harbour Property Owners Association, was extremely helpful and supportive. Chef Luis and Beth from Mountain Harbour Grill really upped the tournament experience by providing

a great lunch when players finished play.

“My favorite part of the day was being able to ride the course and get some valuable face time with all of the golfers,” said Jenkins. “There was such a positive energy the morning of the tournament, and it was great to see such a turnout in support of Hinton Rural life Center. I’m committed to

making next year’s tournament even better, with more players, more sponsors and volunteers,” he said. “And, we already have next year’s tournament date confirmed with Mountain Harbour for Saturday, Aug. 24.”

A dinner featuring the culinary skills of Hinton chef Bobby Castaneda and silent auction was added this year and hosted at Hinton Center, with 96 in attendance and 60 silent auction items. Two items, sculptural art pieces by glass blower David Goldhagen and woodworker Joe Waldroup, were live auctioned by auctioneer and Hinton summer missions staffer Tim Ryan. Over \$18K was raised by the dinner and auction.

“For our first dinner and auction, it was extremely successful,” said Bill Meldram, a member of Hinton’s board of directors who coordinated the dinner and auction. “Not only was it successful for securing monies for Hinton, but also educating 100 people about what Hinton does in the community and making more friends for Hinton.”

Like the dinner and si-

lent auction, in addition to raising funds for the home repair, firewood, and Christmas Care ministries Hinton offers to area residents, the tournament also helped Hinton raise awareness of the nonprofit’s presence in the region, networking and educational programs such as the Council for Collaborative Impact and Leadership Chatuge Community Builders, and its campus offerings of Sanctuary Trails and Gardens, meeting and event services, and indoor and outdoor worship spaces, such as the Dysart Chapel.

“At the end of the day,” said Flanagan, “we played golf, but we contributed to a great cause, a cause that I personally needed two months ago when my mom passed away. Our family was able to use the chapel at Hinton for her celebration of life service. You may not see evidence of what Hinton does everywhere, but they’re just up the road and happy to help. I can’t thank Hinton Center and their staff enough. We’ll be back again next year to support the tournament.”