

# DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



## Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

The March 3, 2010, edition of the Towns County Herald contained an article indicating U.S. Representative Nathan Deal (R-GA/9) resigned his Congressional position to focus on his candidacy for Governor of Georgia as a Republican. I applaud his decision to resign. However, this should have occurred when he announced his candidacy.

I recommend, that upon announcing a run for an elected position, the candidate should immediately resign any elected or appointed position the individual holds. Further, any civil service employee should also immediately resign.

Seldom do we see an individual run for elected office and resign their current position. This is a conflict of interest because the individual is no longer providing full attention to his/her constituents. Rather, the candidate will run and if not elected return to his/her current position as if nothing happened. This must change!

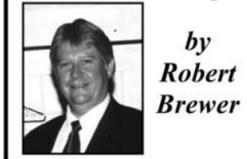
Will we ever see a politician submit a bill requiring elected, appointed, and civil service employees to resign upon announcing candidacy for a different office? Of course not!

I challenge our elected officials to approve such a bill for federal, state, county, and local levels of government. I also ask my fellow voters to contact their representatives and challenge them to vote "Yes!" for this bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Christopher D. Mazur

## Extension Tips



by  
Robert  
Brewer

### March tips

The optimum time to prune all fruit trees is just before bloom. Pruning allows the tree to direct nutrients to branches that will bear high quality fruit. The objective is to remove dead, diseased, or damaged wood. Also, remove shoots that are growing straight up or down, as neither provides good fruit development. Growth crisscrossing the center of the tree should be removed as well. A more open tree allows light penetration and air circulation, thereby increasing fruit quality and reducing disease and insect pressure.

Don't turn under grass and weeds to plant strawberries. Enough old growth will survive to compete with the young plants, making for a weedy mess. There is increased danger of grubs in such locations.

For your first raspberry patch, think small; 6 to 10 plants will do for a start. Since raspberries send out underground runners which can be invasive, you may want to sink an 8- to 12-inch sheet of metal vertically around the planting.

Before planting a backyard orchard, map out the site, giving particular attention to air and water drainage. Avoid frost pockets, areas where cold air gathers, or you may be disappointed year after year when flower buds freeze and drop. Good water drainage is also important for good tree growth. If drainage is questionable, drainage tiles or land reformation may be required for productive fruit trees. Shallow soils may require irrigation.

Spring applications of

pesticides should be made on peaches, apples and pears. Correct timing for spraying depends on the stage of development of flowers.

Weed control is one of the most time-consuming, yet most important, practices in any fruit planting. Young strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, grapes and fruit trees all suffer if weed growth is uncontrolled. Peach trees, of all the fruit trees, suffer the most from weed competition. Mulching helps control weeds.

What you plant is what you get with potatoes. When you plant seed potatoes (pieces of potato tuber), there is no true seed that may have been cross pollinated. So you can plant different varieties side-by-side in your garden and rest assured that each will produce the type of potato expected.

Plan your garden. Remember, it takes at least two hours per week to care for a 20 x 50-foot garden, not including harvesting and planting.

The lure of new varieties, colors, or yields often is hard to resist. Try a new type on a small scale until the plant has proven itself in your particular soil and climate. All-American Selections are always good to try.

Don't dig too far down when planting asparagus crowns. Yields improve dramatically when crowns are set at a depth of 5 to 6 inches -- not the commonly advised 12 inches. Contrary to the standard practices of deep planting and not harvesting for up to three seasons, recent studies show that harvesting shallow-planted asparagus after the first year boosts yields 40 percent over three years.

Lettuce is very sensitive to low pH. Lime should be applied to the soil if the pH is below 6.0.

If your garden is on a hillside, plant across the slope (not up and down) to help hold moisture in the soil and reduce erosion.

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

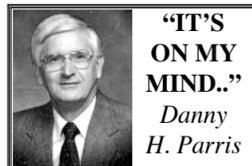
When snow fell in North Georgia recently, I had a chance to hike into the back country and visit the birthplace of my father. The old homestead is a beautiful place on any day of the year, deep within a sheltered cove between two clear mountain springs, but on this day with eight inches of snow on the ground, it was enchanting. If you have ever hiked into a forest during a snow storm, you know the soul searching silence that can accompany such a journey. I could almost hear the sounds of children playing, almost a century ago now, and the voices of my grandparents who would often sing to each other when they were at home together.

Little remains of that old mountain home: some rocks that were left after the chimney was stolen years ago to build someone's rock wall; a couple of locust posts slowly fading into the ground. But the stories passed down from generation to generation still animate the little cove in my imagination, and on that day my thoughts turned to the hardships that were endured by so many Appalachian families. I imagined a family of seven living in a two room cabin a day's journey by wagon from the nearest town. I thought about them snowed in with no telephone, no electricity and with very few of the modern conveniences we take for granted - their only entertainment being that which they created for themselves. I thought about how so many of us panic today if the power goes out for five minutes and of the "hardships" we would endure should some of the things we take as our god given right be taken from us.

If you listen to the stories of the old people who grew up in the mountains, the hardships they endured are usually only mentioned in passing and with a certain pride. The predominant theme of these stories is one of vitality and strength within the context of close family ties

and tight knit communities. In other words, the people who endured those "hard times" don't necessarily think of themselves as having suffered through anything, but transport a modern American back in time to those days and you will probably have one miserable human being. The constitution of human beings has not changed in two or three generations, but our perspective certainly has.

As we face uncertain times and confront the issue of our declining financial affluence, many of us are already suffering from the withdrawal of some of our materialistic pursuits. We do not know when the economy will recover, but we are beginning to realize that it will never recover to the same state of borrow and spend to which we had grown accustomed. It is unlikely that civilization will grind to a halt or that the lights will go out for good, but it would behoove us to begin to reprogram our expectations. For far too many Americans, happiness is codependent with the acquisition of money for the purchase of material symbols of wealth and what passes for our peace of mind is dependent on the constant stimulation provided by technology. Yet only a few decades ago Americans were quite capable of experiencing happiness and fulfillment minus the majority of the things we now think we cannot live without. In the days ahead there will be many who will experience the real suffering of unemployment, bankruptcy and even hunger, but for the rest of us a large portion of the whining and complaining we will do, our "virtual" suffering resulting from the withdrawal of our virtual affluence, can be eliminated by a simple decoupling of our expectations from our happiness and by a relearning of what have so casually been called the "simple pleasures."



"IT'S  
ON MY  
MIND.."  
Danny  
H. Parris

### Life Is All About Books

When we are born the date and place of our birth is recorded in the record book in the county courthouse. If you need proof that you have been born and are alive you can go to the courthouse and look in the Book of Records for your birth. If this information has been recorded then you can receive a document called a birth certificate to validate that you were born. From the day we come into this world we are introduced to books. Life is all about books, from the baby book to the book of remembrance at your death. When I started to school it was all about books. My teacher taught me how to read books. I was introduced to books like Days and Deeds, Singing Wheels and Friendly Village. My recollection of Alice and Jerry, Dick and Jane, Spot and Puff is still so vivid they seem like intimate childhood friends. I believed that they were more than pictures in a book. While I was always fascinated by books, as I passed from grade to grade I was not known as one who always had his nose in a book. My teachers and my parents were constantly nagging me to hit the books. Sometimes I was tempted to hide them rather than hit them. Just to be truthful and give an honest confession, as I became a teenager I was more interested in my little black book than I was cracking any school book. My problem was that I wanted to close the books too soon after I had opened them. This created some difficulty for

me since my teachers were so narrow-minded that they wanted to do everything by the book. These teachers were highly intelligent. They could read me like a book. Although, I worked extremely hard to make my teachers think my academic life was an open book, they let me know rather quickly that you can't judge a book by its cover. You know I really liked all my teachers but every time we had a test I felt like they were mad at me and threw the book at me. Most of my teachers took more than a leaf out of my book. Well, a lot of years have passed since Dick and Jane and I have been blest by many wise teachers who introduced me to great books that have enriched my life. The hundreds of books that I have acquired over these seventy years are treasures of great value, but the one book that has influenced my life more than all the others combined has been the Bible, God's Holy Word. This book is not the book of the month nor the book of the year, but it is the Book of the Ages. The preacher (Ec.12:12) said, "...of making many books there is no end." In spite of many who neglect the Bible as an obsolete document, I'll assure you there is no book on the best sellers list that comes anywhere near the wisdom for living life as does the Bible. It tells us of one who is keeping the books on all of our lives. This book tells us of the true Judge who will one day close the books and balance the books perfectly for the first time.

I would like to recommend God's book to you. Have you checked on your spiritual birth certificate lately? Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life?



## Community Calendar

**Towns County Water Board Meeting** 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.  
**Mountain Community Seniors** meet the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 2 p.m.  
**Towns County Democratic Party** meets the 2nd Thursday of every month. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.  
**Towns County Republican Party** meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 5 p.m.-6 p.m. Dinner at Daniels Steak House, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. meeting, 896-7281.  
**Towns County Planning Commission** is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse.  
**Towns County Commissioners** meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse.  
**School Board Meeting**, 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.  
**Hiawassee City Council** 1st Monday of month 4 p.m., at City Hall.  
**Young Harris City Council**, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 p.m., Young Harris City Hall.  
**The Hiawassee River Valley Kennel Club** meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moor-man: 828-835-1082.  
**The Unicoy Masonic Lodge** #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.  
**Board of Voter Registrars** meets

the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.  
**Towns County Board of Elections** holds its monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Elections Office (Old Rock Jail).  
**Towns County Historical Society** meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 5 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org  
**Bridge Players** intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Health Dept. Call Eden at 706-896-6921.  
**Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG)** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregarts-craftsguild.org. mtnregarts-craftsguild@hotmail.com.  
**VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry** will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m., \$9 a plate, all you can eat.  
**Mountain Computer User Group** meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Goolsby Center at YHC. Q & A at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.  
**FPL Retirees Breakfast** will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Hole in the Wall Restaurant on the square in Blairsville at 9 a.m.  
**Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter, Trout Unlimited** meets 2nd Thursday of each

month at Cadence Bank in Blairsville. 5 p.m. Fly Tying - 7 p.m. General Meeting. Everyone welcome. www.ngatu692.com.  
**Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)** meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call John Quinlan at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous:** 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.  
**Mothers of Preschoolers** meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information.  
**Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary** on the 3rd Monday of each month, except the months of July, October and December, in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m.  
**Old Fashioned Square Dance Lessons** each Mon. in Hiawassee, GA, 6 p.m. at the Senior Center (2 blocks south of the town square, beside the Courthouse) Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060  
**Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club** meets 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.  
**Mended Hearts Support Group** meets the 2nd Monday of each month at Chatuge Regional Hospital Cafeteria from 5:30-7 PM. For information contact 706-994-6988.

**Towns County Herald**  
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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