

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Extension Tips



by
Robert Brewer

weeks. A little mid-day shade will also help to maintain the quality of the flowers and prolong the blooming season.

Verbenas, Euonymus, Pachysandra, Ivy, and climbing roses are some of the plants that will root fairly quickly by layering them into the warm soil. Fasten a section of the stem containing one or more "eyes" down onto cultivated soil with a horseshoe shaped piece of wire and cover it with additional soil. By summers end, the stem should be rooted sufficiently to sever it from the parent plant and replant into another area of the garden. Sow seeds of Hollyhocks, English daisies, Foxgloves, Violas, Canterbury bells, and Sweet William into the garden now for next year's bloom. Geranium cuttings may be made in late July to start plants for indoor bloom during the winter months, and for setting into the garden next spring.

Shrubs and Trees. Summer blooming shrubs should be pruned for shape after they have finished flowering. Remove any dead or diseased branches. Fertilize flowering shrubs like Rhododendrons, Camellias and Azaleas immediately after they have finished flowering with a 'Rhododendron' or 'Evergreen' type fertilizer. Dead head the developing seeds pods from your Rhododendrons and Azaleas to improve next years bloom. Be careful not to damage next years buds which may be hidden just below the pod.

Fruits and vegetables. Begin enjoying the harvest of your homegrown fruits, vegetables and herbs! Fertilize June bearing strawberries after the harvest, and ever-bearing varieties half way through the season. Plant out successions of salad crops for continued harvesting throughout the summer. Sow seeds for cool-season crops directly into the garden by mid-July. Continue to protect your fruit from the birds with netting. Empty areas of the garden, where the crops have finished, should be replanted with either a fall vegetable crop, or a cover crop of clover or vetch to help control the weeds. Cover crops can be tilled into the soil later, to add humus and nitrates to the soil.

Lawn care. Contrary to popular belief, a brown lawn isn't necessarily a dead lawn. Grasses do go dormant in times of drought, but will quickly return to life with the fall rains. If a lush green lawn is important to you, and you don't mind mowing, water it regularly, and deeply. If a water shortage is expected, or you hate tending to grass, you may choose to just let your lawn go dormant, and water it as seldom as once a month. Raise the cutting height of the mower. Taller grass cools the roots and helps to keep the moisture in the soil longer. Avoid using fertilizers in hot, dry weather. House plants. House plants can be moved outside to a shady, protected spot. Continue to watch for insect or disease damage and take the necessary steps to control the problem. Warmer and drier weather means it will be necessary to water and mist your house plants more often. Feed your house plants with 1/2 the recommended strength of a good soluble house plant fertilizer while they are actively growing.

Odds and ends. Be alert to slug and snail damage. These creatures will be hiding during the heat of the day, but will come out of hiding in the cool morning and evening hours or after a rain. Seek and destroy ALL slugs and their eggs! Keep the weeds pulled, before they have a chance to flower and go to seed again. Otherwise, you will be fighting newly germinated weed seed for the next several years. Change the water in your bird bath regularly, and keep it filled. Standing water may become a breeding ground for mosquito larvae. Continue to watch for insect or disease damage throughout the garden, and take the necessary steps to control the problem.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Most of us have heard the term, "voodoo economics" batted around in political circles, but for many of us, economics itself is a form of voodoo. One would think that the opposite would be true; that the study of buying and selling would be easy to understand. After all, the transactions involved in commerce are overwhelmingly those of addition, subtraction and division. The forty dollars I paid this weekend for pasta and tomato sauce divided by two people is greater than that same forty dollars divided by 10 frozen dinners. The frozen dinners are more "economical," especially if you consider the bargain price you pay for multi-syllabic chemical additives, but they are certainly not as tasty as our favorite Italian restaurant, nor as healthy.

Nevertheless, though economics considers transactions involving basic math, the theories about those transactions are anything but basic. Keynesian, Post-Keynesian, Consumer Theory, Value Theory, The Austrian School and Time-Based Economics: these are but a few of the many, and in the process of explaining the simple process of buying and selling we have moved from simple math to statistical analysis and beyond, into the mystical realm of human psychology.

Yet few if any of us pause to consider whether the Keynesians or the Austrians are to blame when it takes 50 bucks to fill the gas tank or when the power company raises its rates. In fact, the recent rate hike by Blue Ridge Mountain EMC has caused quite a stir in our local communities and there is plenty of blame, most of it directed at the power company. Some of the theories as to the reasons for this rate increase would make a Keynesian blush. I took some time this weekend to examine the numbers behind this rate hike.

Looking at the power company's own statistics, it appears that they have joined a growing number of Americans including our national government, our state government, hundreds of thousands of banks and corporations, millions of small businesses and tens of millions of American citizens in that their debt to income ratio has grown to an unsustainable level. How did this happen?

Again, the numbers tell the story, and the culprit isn't the new facility they are building, which has been a favorite target for some. That project will add a whopping \$1.49 to the average electric bill. The "culprit," in fact, is the unplanned and unregulated growth which we have railed against in this column for

years, and the story of how that happened is a familiar one to our readers.

We have a relatively low population density in our area compared to many other parts of the state. Our residents are spread out over a large area on terrain that is often difficult to access. Consider the number of trophy homes perched on steep inclines or on ridge tops that no fire truck will ever reach. Consider the house tucked away at the end of a long and winding pig trail that the county will never pave, yet the power company is required by law to provide electricity to each and every outpost in their service area. Multiply the number of pretentious perches and pig-trail palaces by the number of years we allowed, in fact encouraged, unregulated growth in this area. Factor in the often overlooked fact that it usually takes decades for a power company to recoup the costs of providing service to that floodlight we see glaring out from the top of the mountain. Can you do the math?

When it is all said and done and no matter how the numbers are presented, there will still be some who prefer to understand current events in terms of conspiracy or malfeasance. There is a simple answer to those accusations, and I found the numbers on a website provided by the Georgia Public Service Commission at www.psc.state.ga.us/electric/surveys/2010/allpropwin10.asp. This website compares rates for all electricity providers in the state of Georgia and the most recent comparisons are for the winter of 2010. In the 1000 to 1500 KWh range, the cost of electricity in our area was the 17th cheapest in the state. There were 77 electric providers that were more expensive. If you add our recent 6% rate increase, we are still well within the top third for cheapest electric rates, and by the time the next numbers are published, many electric providers will have raised their rates as well, including a likely 10% increase by Georgia Power.

Think about that for a moment. With a lower population density over the most extreme terrain in the state, even with the rate increase our EMC provides power at a rate that is cheaper than what most Georgians pay. According to the math I learned in school, this means that they are doing their job more efficiently than most of their peers. Look at the numbers for yourself, and if you still want to punish the power company, you might try turning off those floodlights.



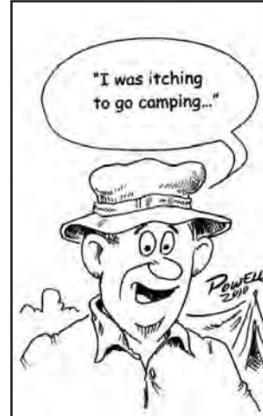
"IT'S ON MY MIND.."
Danny H. Parris

To Tell the Truth

Someone has said that "there are people who exaggerate so much that they can't tell the truth without lying." The ninth commandment teaches us that we should speak truth and refrain from lying. Deception, falsehood and lying originated with the devil. He is a liar from the beginning and the father of all lies. Not only are there those who love to lie, but there are those who love to believe a lie rather than to believe the truth. Most Americans have come to the point of accepting lies and falsehoods as being just a normal way of life. "Everybody lies" is not true, but the devil will tell you it is true. In the political arena we are plagued with deceit, lies, half-truths and false information of all kinds. Business circles as well, seek to profit by false and underhanded deception. We have corporate executives who plot to defraud shareholders out of billions of dollars. Major corporations are charged with false advertising and are hauled into court by consumer groups. Even in religious circles there are those peddlers of lies rather than prophets of love and truth. People exaggerate or outright lie on resumes. They lie about places of employment and falsify educational degrees. This is done across the spectrum - from theology to cosmetology. Lying is not confined to just a certain

occupation, race or ethnic group. Lying permeates all mankind. Mankind is prone to lie from birth. Kids lie. Adults lie. Young and old alike lie but shouldn't and don't have to. We lie to God, ourselves and to others, but shouldn't and don't have to. Ladies, have you ever seen your neighbor, sister church member or family member with a new outfit on and said, "Oh," "that is so nice and looks so good on you?" By all the time you were thinking, "where in this world did she find such an awful looking outfit!" You lied. I tell you I have been between a rock and a hard place on occasions as some of you other men. Fellows, has your wife ever come home from the beauty salon and as soon as she walked through the door, you thought, "My lands, someone has used a leaf blower on her head?" But when she asked, "How do you like my hair?" There was no hesitation, you responded, "Oh," "it looks good." We lied! Shouldn't have, didn't have to, but we knew that to avoid a great outpouring of tears we just didn't speak the truth. It is true that fallen mankind has departed from truth and lapsed into error and sin. However, God is a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He (Deut. 32:4). He, therefore, "desireth truth in the inward parts" (Ps. 51:6). Thank God, Jesus came as "The Truth" and when He ascended back to heaven He sent the "Spirit of Truth" to guide us into all truth (John 16:13). Every believer has the "Spirit of truth" that enables him to believe truth, think truth, speak truth and practice truth.

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Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 6 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 Tuesday 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 Hiwassee 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 Moorman: 828-835-1082.
The Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Stephens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young

Harris.
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, mtntre-gartscraftsguild.org, mtntre-gartscraftsguild@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/bluridge-mountains.
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.
Chattahoochee 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.
We Do Family Oral History of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded ad would like to do so, Please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.

Towns County Herald
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GUEST COLUMNS
From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE EMAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc. Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*
Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.