

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY
OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Thank you

The family of Ricky Burrell would like to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the prayers, love and support, food, money, and cards. Each thing you gave was strength for us to carry on. All the words spoken or written will forever be in our hearts. A very special thank you to Cochran Funeral Home for allowing us to spend as much time as we wanted with Ricky, your love and compassion will never be forgotten. Also, thank you Mary Payne for giving me the gift of Ricky's Heart.

We love you all,
 Tator, Shannon, Jennifer, Dylan and Devyn Burrell

Hi everyone

Recently some irresponsible person left two beautiful yellow kittens on my front porch. We discovered the first one early in the morning and made arrangements with our veterinarian to place the kitten up for adoption. We discovered the other one right at dark yesterday and have been looking for someone to adopt him. (Our veterinarian has several already up for adoption). If you or anyone you know would be interested in adopting him, please let me know. He is approximately 6 weeks old. He has short hair. He is eating kitten chow moistened with warm water. He is beautiful and I would love to keep him but we already have 3 cats and 2 dogs. If people would have their pets spayed and neutered, there wouldn't be so many kittens and puppies without a home!

Spay and neuter,
 Jo Anne Allen



From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

Last week Detectives Wilson and Williams proved once again how hard deputies are working, solving an arson with an arrest in less than 48 hours. I received the call from Chief Edge and Lieutenant Donaldson at approximately 11p.m. and discussed the case and the initial investigation.

The state Fire Marshal was not immediately available; however, Lieutenant Donaldson is highly trained in arson investigation and was able to tell us what we needed to know about the fire itself. Detectives went to work and within 48 hours a suspect was in jail having confessed to the crime.

Also, while following up on a theft report, detectives discovered several storage buildings in North Carolina full of stolen property from Towns County. Our detectives are working alongside Clay County detectives and have made an arrest in the case.

Also, we had a car wreck in which the driver apparently left the scene. Several emergency workers combed the area in a grid search to try and locate the driver. Later, a canine team tracked the driver through the woods to an area of highway where the scent trail ended. It is believed that the driver caught a ride. A full report of the driver's identity was released to the paper and

anyone with any information is encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Office at 706/896-4444 and speak with Chief Edge or Lieutenant Donaldson. Our primary concern is making sure of the driver's safety and that he is not injured and in need of assistance.

There will be a car show beginning Thursday at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and due to the large number of cars on display as well as other events such as the Little River Band that will be playing at the Anderson Music Hall, we anticipate several thousand people to attend the three day event.

Deputies will be working overtime to ensure that the event goes smoothly and that everyone remains safe during the event. We encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the event, which will hopefully be a much-needed boost to our local economy. Please be aware that there will be increased traffic flow, particularly in the area of Georgia Hwy 2/US Hwy 76, between the Ridges Resort and the City of Hiawassee.

Also, just a reminder to everyone that school is now back in session for the coming year. Please be mindful of the buses and students entering and leaving the school in the mornings and afternoons as well as keep a watchful eye for school bus stops. I would ask that everyone work with us in keeping a watchful eye for children getting on or off school buses. Let's help keep them safe.

I will be meeting with the Citizen Review Board this week and will ask that they give a report of that meeting for all.

Also, this week I will be speaking to the AARP and will speak on senior safety.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Over the last several years we have had many discussions here about the rise of corporations and the blurring of the lines between government and business, and as more and more headlines during these days of "stimulus" point to the excesses of investment banks and insurance companies, there is a growing sense of outrage, long overdue. It remains to be seen whether this outrage is felt broadly enough and deeply enough to affect any change, or whether a nation numbed and "dumbed" and unaccustomed to taking action will find a solution that can avoid an eventual painful breakdown of the system before a restructuring can occur.

Some historians have long noticed the relationship between republican and democratic administrations and the types of businesses that thrive during each. Generally speaking, energy and defense does well under republicans; banking and insurance does well under democrats. The number of bankers in the Obama Administration as compared with the number of oil men under Bush would tend to support this theory. However, the partisan politics to which people cling with the same blind allegiance they might offer sports teams or alma maters, which allows the collusion between business and government to thrive (at the expense of the taxpayer), is increasingly an impediment to our being able to find effective solutions to our problems more than it is an effective mechanism for electing people to office.

"Divide and conquer" is a maxim which has been known and practiced since ancient times. Consider the American version. During the Bush Administration the erosion of privacy and personal freedoms was resisted mainly by people calling themselves democrats, while some of the things that Bush did right were entirely overlooked by the same people. Never in my lifetime had an "us versus them" mentality been so prevalent in American politics. On the other hand, many republicans of my own acquaintance for a long time refused to question anything that the Bush Administration did; apparently believing that to do so was tantamount to treason. When questioned on specifics they would compartmentalize the problem, preferring instead to parrot the party line; choosing to value their continuing identification with the group which purported to reflect their

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@brmemc.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.

personal values – rather than to examine the overwhelming evidence that those values were not, in fact, being honored.

Many democrats have been no better at examining logically and dispassionately some of the decisions of the Obama Administration. When asked about historic deficits or failure to make good on campaign promises they will respond with "At least he's trying," or "At least he's intelligent" or repeat the slogan, "Change has come to America." So far I see little change and little indication that change is coming. Consider some recent headlines:

Financial Times reported this morning that banks stand to collect \$38 billion this year from overdrafts alone. Banks on corporate welfare, which owe their continuing existence to taxpayer dollars, are reaping huge benefits from our personal financial difficulties. Several financial pages have reported that part of the high price of gasoline is due, not to supply and demand – but to market manipulation by another bank we have rescued, Goldman Sachs, which, by the way, is "predicting" that the price of oil could rise to \$200 per barrel during the next 24 months, and while we are discussing obscenity, consider the following facts which illustrate better than a thousand pages of argument the unholy alliances that oligarchy represents.

The rise of pornography in a civilization has long been considered by many historians and sociologists as a sign of a declining civilization. That is a discussion for another time, but the fact remains that access to pornographic material has accelerated rapidly over the last decade. While attempting to make no judgments as to what is right or wrong in this case, I can tell you who the biggest supporters of the porn industry in this country are, and the answer may surprise you: you are. That's right; you, the taxpayer, are supporting the porn industry.

General (or "Government") Motors, which has recently become a ward of the state, is one of the biggest porn dealers in the country through its ownership of Hughes Electronics and Directv, which offer sexually explicit adult programming to over 9 million homes in America. The second biggest porn dealer in the country, by the way, is ATT through its Broadband services. "Reach out and touch someone," and while GM claims that they are "re-inventing the automobile and [their] company, it certainly appears that in Washington, it is business as usual.

Extension Tips



by **Robert Brewer**

Beat the heat with late-summer flowers

Don't settle for flowers that fade at summer's end.

The flowers are all gone. Cracks are forming in the ground. The landscape is looking a little baked at the end of a long, hot summer. This is a common problem in the Southern landscape.

Back in the spring, your yard was alive with dogwood and azalea blooms, which soon gave way to green and eventually brown. What can a gardener do to perk up the landscape at this time of year?

There are several solutions. The temporary answer is to plant some cheerful annuals to live things up a little. Garden centers often have a few things left from spring sales that could still bring some color back into the landscape.

Lantana and verbena are plants that can beat the heat and produce color well into the fall. Several varieties of repeat-bloom roses can still make a difference. And soon, fall mums will be available with their array of yellows, oranges and burgundies.

Just a few of these heat-tolerant bloomers, carefully placed in the landscape, can brighten up any yard worn down from the summer sun.

Next year

The best solution, however, is to plan ahead for next year and have your landscape looking alive all summer long. Many perennials, shrubs and even trees can provide color and excitement at a time when everything else is crying for water.

Plants in the salvia family are known for taking the heat. Mexican sage (Salvia leucantha) and blue anise sage (Salvia guaranitica) are two commonly found salvias, but there are many hybrids as well. Some are hardier than others, but all seem to take the heat and bloom on through a hot summer.

The perennial sunflow-

ers (Helianthus sp.) perform well at the end of the summer, as do asters and repeat-blooming daylilies. The common blanket flower (Gaillardia sp.) often seen growing along the coast is a great plant to beat the summer heat, and it's extremely drought-tolerant.

The many new shrub roses available today could be considered a perennial flower or tender shrub. But either way, these exciting flowering plants are great for keeping color alive.

Gardeners can pick from the knockout roses or some of the other hybrids like "Nearly Wild" or the butterfly rose (Rosa mutabilis). All of these will bloom throughout the summer and are resistant to the diseases that bring down the tea roses by early summer.

Other summer-flowering shrubs include the butterfly bush (Buddleia davidii) and the panicked hydrangea, which is often called Pee Gee Hydrangea (Hydrangea paniculata). These two shrubs alone could make any landscape look happier and more colorful when other plants have called it quits for the summer.

Think BIG

There are even some trees that will bloom well into the last summer days. The crape myrtle is a Southern classic whose name is synonymous with the heat of summer. The newer types offer attractive bark, too, and the latest dwarf varieties take up far less room and work well in planters. The chaste tree (Vitex agnus-castus) provides a long-lasting display that attracts butterflies and other insects. Most varieties have blue flowers, but there are pink- and white-flowering varieties as well.

And finally, a tree that really shines in late summer is the golden rain tree (Koeleria paniculata.) This otherwise common-looking tree stands out in late summer with its brilliant yellow flowers.

No matter how you choose to brighten up your summer days, select plants that are hardy in your area and suited to your site conditions. And remember, many plants bloom well after April showers have long been forgotten.

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!
Contact us at 706-896-4454

Deadline for the T.C. Herald is Monday by noon



Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 4th Monday of each month at 7 pm in the TC Water Office Building.

Towns County AARP Chapter 1859 meets the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 2 p.m. Luncheons are held at 1 p.m.

Towns County Democratic Party meets at 5:30 every 2nd Thursday of the month at Crossroads Restaurant. Meeting begins at 6. Please call Kim Bailey, 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747.

Towns County Republican Party meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 5 p.m.-6 p.m. Dinner at Daniels Steak House, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. meeting, 896-9021.

Towns County Planning Commission is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 pm in the Courthouse.

Towns County Commissioners meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 pm 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 pm, at City Hall.

Young Harris City Council, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 pm, 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.

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 pm. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 932, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 pm 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, mtnregartscraftsguild.org. mtnregartscraftsguild@hotmail.com.

VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 PM, \$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 pm, meeting at 7 pm.

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. 5pm Fly Tying - 7pm 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/blueridge-mountains.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.

Towns County Herald

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