

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY  
**OPINIONS & COMMENTARY**

## Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

Last month 138 people attended the Towns County Republican party's monthly meeting to hear gubernatorial candidate congressman Nathan Deal speak. Congressman Deal was introduced by former Georgia State Senator Guy Middleton. Like Governor Perdue, former president Ronald Reagan, and countless others, Congressman Deal and Guy Middleton are former Democrats that switched to the Republican Party. Or as they stated when then became Republicans, "We didn't leave the Democratic Party, the Democratic Party left us."

Many of you are still voting Democratic. However, when you compare the positions and platform of the Democratic Party with your own beliefs and values, I think most of you will find that your positions are much more in line with congressman Deal's and other Republicans than with Rep. Nancy Pelosi's or Rep Bamey Frank's. The Democratic Party of today is not the same Democratic Party of your parents which included great men and statesmen like Sens. Richard B. Russell and Henry "Scoop" Jackson.

President Obama keeps breaking all of his pre-election promises. For example: 1. He is not posting bills for review 5 days before he signs them like he said he would. Lobbyists hold positions throughout his staff and make up many of his appointments. 2. Health care. He promised bipartisanship. However, Republicans aren't given a voice on anything and the Heath Care Bill Of Rights that Republicans are pushing has been shot down along with an amendment to require proof of citizenship in order to receive benefits. He promised us that you could keep you present health care plan if you wish. But Medicare Advantage Plans which cover thousands of seniors here in Northeast Georgia are being phased/priced out of business by the Obama administration which will force these seniors to purchase new, much more expensive plans. 3. Obama promised to cut the deficit in half. However, the new 10 year budget estimate by the CBO forecasts the deficit to increase to 9 trillion. I am not even going to address him undercutting our national defense by cutting back on our missile defense development ad deployment in the face of new threats from North Korea and Iran or his helping support the Chavez positions in Latin American with respect to Honduras, 2nd amendment rights, partial birth, abortion, etc.'

I respectfully invite you to examine your options, choices and how they align with your values and get involved to make a difference. Join us the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Daniels Steakhouse. Chances are the Democratic Party has already left you.

Darrell Barrett  
 Chairman, Towns County Republican Party

## Planning for the future of Towns County

By Carl S. Schultz

The state of Georgia, through the Department of Community Affairs, is requiring Towns County, and the towns of Hiawassee and Young Harris to do the overall review of their comprehensive plan by 2010. Past Commissioners have formed committees of local citizens to participate in coming up with a revised plan. I participated in the last one, four years ago, and served as chairman for the Natural Resources section. We were fortunate to have several professionals, such as a geologist and an environmental planner. We had a series of eight meetings where we put together a well thought out part of the plan. Unfortunately the rest of the plan was not completed this way, with only recommended work programs without addressing the issues. We need to bring in people who have experience in professional planning to head up this endeavor, and still use the short committees to participate. We need long range planning. It's important to our future growth, along with planning for a better environment and hopefully produce more jobs for our people in Towns County.

One part of the comprehensive plan is the Strategic Services Delivery Agreement between the three government entities, Hiawassee, Young Harris, and Towns County. This agreement outlines who is responsible for

what in areas of fire, water, and sewage.

Fire. Towns County government furnishes the equipment and services for fire protection for all entities.

Water. The City of Hiawassee water plan supplies water from Lake Chatuge for the city and to the unincorporated areas of Towns County. Young Harris supplies the water for the city from wells.

Sewage. The City of Hiawassee sewer treatment plant services the City of Hiawassee and the unincorporated areas of Towns County. The City of Young Harris sewer treatment plan services the city of Young Harris along with the Brass-town Resort.

All parties must be in complete agreement for all areas of Towns County. There are some serious negotiations going on between the City of Hiawassee and Towns County government concerning the matter of the Towns County water and sewer authority planning to build a water treatment plant and a sewerage treatment plant and a sewerage treatment to service part or all of the water and sewer for Towns County unincorporated.

Water rights must be specifically addressed in the strategic services agreement. Whomever services the sewer should also have the water rights.

## Extension Tips



by  
**Robert  
 Brewer**

### Tool Storage Time

Clean gardening tools thoroughly to prepare for next season. Home gardeners who don't plan to plant fall crops should pack away their tools for the winter. Gardening tools and supplies are expensive. With a little care and forethought, you can help your tools last from season to season.

### Garden hoses

Irrigation is essential to growing the greenest grass or the biggest squash. To make sure your garden hoses are ready for next spring, drain all the water from hoses and sprinklers. Allow the hoses to thoroughly dry before storing them for the winter.

It's better not to leave your hoses outside on the ground over winter. If you live where the temperatures drop to freezing and below, any water left in the hoses can turn to ice, expand and crack or slit inexpensive hose.

To keep insects from hibernating in hoses, connect hoses end to end to close any openings.

You can buy hose hangers, but for eco-friendly people you can just nail an old tire rim, or a coffee can to the wall of your shed and wrap the hose around the form. You don't want to just hang the hose on a nail. The weight of the hose will cause the nail to create a permanent kink.

A fertilizer or pesticide sprayer should be cleaned before being stored. Triple-rinse the sprayer with water or a little ammonia and check the hose tip for debris before storing the sprayer for the season.

### Mower and tiller

When your mower has cut its last grass blade for the summer, it should be cleaned and drained of any

### 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.

The Towns County Herald wants your letters to the editor

Submit your letters to tcherald@brmemc.net or bring it by the Towns County Herald's office

remaining fuel.

It's best not to store gas in your mower over the winter. You can add a gasoline stabilizer, but just turn on the gas shutoff valve and run the mower until it quits.

Use a siphon pump to remove as much of the fuel as possible.

Next, take the spark plug out, add a little oil and replace the spark plug. Some people recommend replacing the spark plug every season, but just clean it. Why fix what isn't broken.

Before storing your mower, clean the underside of the deck with a pressure washer and scrape off any old grass or debris.

If you don't plan to use your tiller plow until the spring, drain the fuel from it and clean it, too.

### Simple gardening tools

Shovels, hoes, shears and rakes should be thoroughly cleaned with soap and water before being stored. Use steel wool to clean the metal portion of your tools, wipe dry and coat with linseed oil.

Run a little sandpaper over the rough edges of the wooden handles to smooth down any splintered spots. Cover the handles with a light coating of WD-40 or all-purpose machine oil to keep them from drying and splitting.

To save time in the spring, sharpen tool edges before storing.

Inventory. The end of the summer gardening season is also the perfect time to make an inventory of any tools you need to replace or wish you had. Then you have a head start on your Christmas list.

As a last reminder, be sure to store all rakes with the teeth pointing down. Stepping on an exposed rake can be very dangerous, especially for children.

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

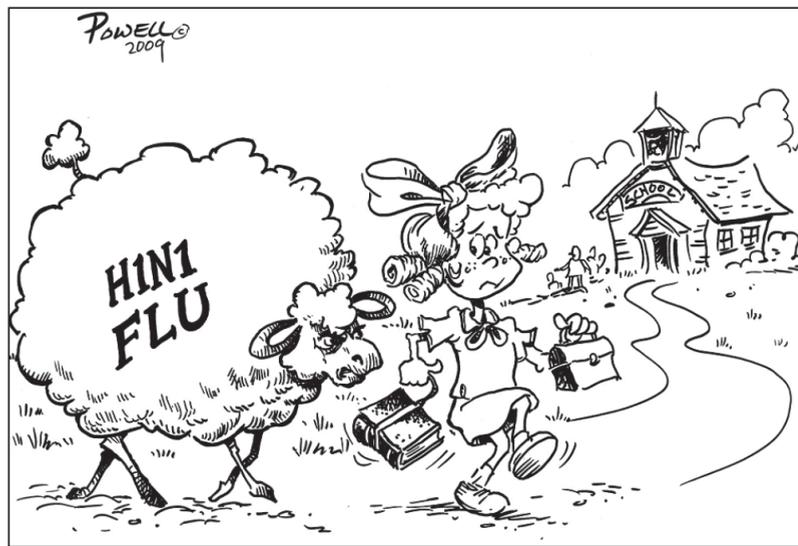
Human life is both resilient and fragile. Every day brings remarkable stories of endurance and survival but also tales of tragedy that turn on the slightest chance and the most unlikely coincidence. Recently I was wandering the woodlands where some of my own family stories of triumph and tragedy originated. Nature has reclaimed much of the land that was once worked from sunup to sundown in a struggle to survive that is uniquely Appalachian. Little remains of the fields that were carved out of the wilderness with backbreaking effort. A pile of rocks where a chimney once stood and a few chestnut rails are the only physical reminders of the lives that were once lived here, the hopes and dreams that brought a young family into this remote mountain cove and the faith that sustained them. Wandering the high country one can find scores of such places where entire family histories have been absorbed back into the land, leaving little behind but a pile of rocks or a fading headstone. This land has in fact absorbed hundreds of generations over time. If you scratch the soil in some places you will find quartz arrowheads and soapstone vessels that were last used thousands of years ago. One can only imagine the human stories attached to these objects, but no matter where you dig, from the coves of Appalachia to the sands

of Egypt, and no matter how deeply you excavate the ruins of civilizations long gone, all of human history occurs within a layer of our planet that is much thinner by comparison than the skin of a grape.

Scriptures encourage us to build something more permanent than this ephemeral human life, and there is truth in that urging, but the wisdom of ages also reminds us to embrace the moment, to seize the day, and to never forget how precious this life is. It is easy to forget the reasons behind all of our holidays, the struggles and sacrifices they represent and the human stories they impart, but if we can at least pause long enough in our accelerated lives to enjoy a few moments with our friends and family, and to realize that beyond our faith, these moments are the light that we hold against the unknown, then all the fears, the distractions and the confusion peddled to us by our rapidly changing world will fade into its proper perspective. Especially dear is the time we spend with our loved ones. Beyond the vanity and vexation of spirit these moments are the goal of all our efforts, and when our physical accomplishments begin to fade back into the earth along with our physical bodies, the memories of these times is what will remain, and that, my friends, is the message for this holiday weekend.

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 Towns County Herald  
 706-896-4454



## 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, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. meeting, 896-7281.

**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 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 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 6:30 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 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.

**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.

## Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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