

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY
OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Was it you?

Was it you driving on Swallows Creek road Sunday morning December 27 2009? Was it you that hit our beloved 13 year old tiny Chihuahua? Was it you that didn't bother to stop to see if she was still alive? Was it you that just left her in the middle of the road? Was it you that didn't even care if you broke her owners heart? Was it you?

Sandra Royals

Thank you

The family of Kevin Welch would like to thank everyone for the calls, visits, cards, food, flowers, and especially, the prayers during the recent loss of our loved one. Many churches in our area prayed for Kevin during his long period of declining health.

We are extremely appreciative for the loving concern shown to Kevin by the Mountain Home Nursing Service and Phoenix Home Health Care. The assistance from these two services allowed Kevin to remain longer in his own home. We are also very grateful to his home health aide, Donna Gauthier, who worked diligently for nearly two years to make his life more pleasant and safe.

When Kevin could no longer be cared for at home when he entered Chatuge Regional Nursing Home. One again he received excellent care. We appreciate Dr. Tracy Edwards and the entire staff of the nursing home. Everyone made his time there as pleasant as possible. He enjoyed the friendly atmosphere, the activities, the food, and the very professional and loving care.

We wish to thank Rev. Danny Hollifield and Rev. Jim Payne for the comforting words at Kevin's service. Thanks also to Joyce Battle for the music and Heather Smith Waldroup for the beautiful singing. We are also grateful to Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church for the wonderful meal provided after the funeral service.

Janie Penland
 on behalf of the Kevin Welch family

Have something to sell?

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 706-896-4454

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



T.C. Herald Editor

Out with the old and in with the new

By Charles Duncan

As 2009 winds down, 2010 is ready to come to fruition. That being said, we must remember that 2010 also is a year to count heads in each community throughout the nation.

The 2010 Census is upon us and the U.S. Census Bureau is concerned that Towns County's homeless will go uncounted.

Needless to say, it is important that these residents be counted, as they draw upon county resources. According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics, there were nearly 50 homeless residents in Towns County in 2008-2009. The Bureau needs your help in locating these people.

It's important for everyone to stand up and be counted, even the homeless. Accurate head counts equal federal dollars that provide government assistance to people who are struggling to make ends meet. The real question is will there be a way to accurately count the homeless residents in Towns County.

Do you know of any

locations where the homeless gather or stay on a regular basis? If so, the U.S. Census Bureau needs your help. Juanita Crake, the partnership assistant for the Bureau is in charge of making sure all heads are counted. She asks that if anyone knows of the locations, including as close to a formal address as possible, and an estimate of the number of people who gather at each location.

With these figures, Crake will make sure that adequate federal dollars come to Towns County in means of government assistance.

She's also trying to determine where food ministry vans stop to deliver food to homeless residents. If there's anyone who can provide information on the location, days and times, and the number of people involved, those details will be most helpful. It also helps to have the information regarding the sponsor of each mobile food van.

If you can help, give Juanita a call at (770) 733-5052.



Now Lord, are you serious?

By Dr. Steven Swisher, Pastor
 Living Word Revival Center

Sometimes it is easy to think that God is all finished with you when you don't see much happening in your life. Many times this occurs because you have been let down or discouraged in by someone or something because of your personal expectations. Yet none of those things can change the fact that God remains faithful to all of us. One thing that you need to know is that God has plans for you and is ready at the appointed times to bring these plans into a reality.

There was a couple in the bible named Abraham and Sarah, who could not have children. But the Lord visited them when they became too old to have children and promised them that they would bear a child. We know that it took 25 years for this promise to be fulfilled by God unto them. That much time could cause a number of thoughts to go through our minds concerning his promise. But the time came when God showed up again and remembered his promise to them. God told them again that they would have a son named Isaac by the time of life the next year. The bible shows us Sarah's reaction in Genesis 18:12-14 that says, "Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

Many of us would react similar to Sarah, after all this time that I have been waiting for something to happen, now you're going to do it? Yes, because God can do anything for us even if he has to perform a miracle to make it happen. This is the lesson that I think

God wants us all to learn, that even when it is not expected or forgotten by us, God still remembers and knows how to make a way for us.

I think we can all realize that we are living in some trying times in this world. But I think that these times are allowed by God in order to try our faith and faithfulness to what he has promised us in his word. Jesus said that in this world we will have tribulation, but to be of good cheer because he has overcome this world. I think that Jesus was telling us to hang on to our faith, because God is not finished with us yet. Many times miracles seem bigger when they happen to us in our times of weakness. That's why I think that Sarah had to laugh and say, now Lord, are you serious? She could not hardly digest the things that were being said about her from the perspective of being ninety years old.

Friends, never think that your natural condition can hinder what God has promised to you. Some of you need to trust that even in the middle of a recession that God has something big planned for your life. It's times like these, that is, times where we may feel weak or intimidated by world reports when God is ready to show up and do what he has promised to you.

I think it all comes down to remembering those great promises given to us by God and knowing with expectation that at any time God can even do more than we are asking for. It is times like these that real optimism can resolve our most inner fears and give us the attitude of hope that something good is about to happen!

I would like to invite you to join us for our weekly services at Living Word Revival Center in Hayesville, NC, on Sundays at 10 a.m. and on Wed. nights at 7 p.m. We look forward to your visit, God Bless You! For information call: 828-389-3444.



The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Chances are that this week's message will find you somewhere between holidays and hopefully blessed by the warm afterglow of time well spent with family and friends. For those who can't wait for the yearly rituals of forced interaction with relatives to be over, patience; the routines of the forced pursuit of ever elusive financial security will return all too soon.

My own informal and unscientific straw poll of holiday cheer this season indicates that for many, the Christmas star lost some of its shine this year. Times are hard and the future seems uncertain for the rank and file among us, despite the best efforts of Washington and Madison Avenue to convince us otherwise. For almost two generations now, Americans have grown up expecting more and better, year after year, but for many this year the Christmas punch was diluted by the cold water of economic reality. Unemployment continues to grow along with the cost of living and for more Americans than ever this year the option to borrow and spend in bacchanalian revelry did not exist. In addition to economic worries, thousands of families waited and prayed through the holidays for relatives in Iraq and Afghanistan yet again.

As war drags on and the economy continues to unwind, many of us are experiencing unprecedented change. For

many years one of my personal holiday rituals has been to drive around certain neighborhoods at night to enjoy the lights and decorations. Many windows were darkened this year or the displays diminished - another sign of the times. Strong winds in our own area caused widespread power outages and darkened the spirits of many whom, according to friends who volunteered to work at the power company on Christmas day, substituted rudeness and hostility for good cheer. A holiday season of commercialism and largess has become iconic in our culture and we have come to look upon this celebration as a right, as opposed to a privilege. This year, many of us caught a glimpse of a new reality and it was unsettling.

Yet there are still many among us who would report having the best Christmas ever, and chief among these are the Christians who have never forgotten the "reason for the season," or the many who find reason for celebration in the many spiritual and historical traditions which have become attached to this time of year. These are the people who find reason for celebration in the refreshment of their beliefs or in the simple pleasure of spending time with loved ones. Something tells me that these are also people who will find peace and prosperity in the future, no matter what happens in the grand schemes of economics and politics.



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.

Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. 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 6:30 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 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 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 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 932, 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, mtntregarts-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/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.
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 every Monday at 6 p.m. at Pine Log Baptist Church in Brasstown, NC on Pine Log Rd. (in reception hall.) For more info call Lee at

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