

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

**Dear Editor:**  
The "Powers That Be," in their continuing efforts to beautify the Western entrance to Hiwassee have outdone themselves recently. Along with providing newcomers to our picturesque little town with wonderful scenes dominated by fifty foot steel electrical poles, ugly walls put up to protect condos built too close to the highway, (It's relaxing having cars and trucks whizzing by twenty feet from your couch) a trash hauling company (actually being cleaned up at this time), plus abandoned buildings beginning to fall apart, we have now been blessed with a metals recycling business with it's corresponding piles of rusty scrap situated approximately one hundred feet from Highway 76.  
This eyesore, along with a scale for weighing trucks, has been plunked down alongside a BBQ business so small, patrons will be forced to enjoy their meal outside while enjoying the dust raised by the vehicles running in and out of the adjacent, (dare I say,) ECO company?  
Many of us now calling Hiwassee home, that hail from other parts of the country where there are laws and codes that at the least attempt to keep the entrances to cities and towns attractive. With much of our economy here dependent on tourism, it seems a shame that we appear to be working hard trying to frighten newcomers away. In the years since 1999 when my wife and I settled here, I have witnessed a number of things that have disturbed me. This new business is not the worst, just the most recent, and would hope that my raising the issue will bring others forward to protest further degradation of the visual attractions of our "once" beautiful area.

Jack Gottlieb

### Letter to the Editor:

Recently, 18 community residents graduated from the first Towns County Citizens Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA). CLEA was established this year by Sheriff Clinton to bring together a cross section of community representatives for 10 weekly sessions of interactive instruction and discussion about the Sheriff's Office operations and policies which facilitate the delivery of law enforcement services in Towns County. This program is informational and does not train or promote citizens to act in a law enforcement capacity. Graduates of CLEA are not certified deputies. Rather our role, through increased awareness and understanding, is to more effectively involve ourselves in crime prevention and promote the Sheriff's Office and its partnerships throughout Towns County.  
As members of the first graduating class of CLEA in Towns County, we wish to publicly thank Sheriff Clinton and his staff for this opportunity allowing us as Citizens to become knowledgeable of the Sheriff's Office and its importance to our community. Our behind the scenes look at the Sheriff's Office operations through hands on participation and expert speakers included all aspects of the workings of the Sheriff's Office, its history, community services concepts, patrol, its specialized units, firearms familiarization, the jail, and the court system.

CLEA has been a learning experience for all of us not only broadening our knowledge of local law enforcement, but most importantly has heightened our respect for Sheriff Clinton, his officers and staff for the work they do every day to keep us safe. Towns County Sheriff's Office is one of only a select few to have achieved the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification. Everyone's professionalism and excellence throughout the entire department is reflective of their leadership under Sheriff Clinton.

Future CLEA classes are planned so anyone interested should contact the Towns County Sheriff's Office for dates and time.

Respectfully,  
The Inaugural CLEA Graduates  
B. Sorenson, B. Scott, D. Rich, G. Romero, M. Rivera, C. Shute, C. Langevin, E. Vickers, G. Vickers, S. Wruble, P. Beauchamp, S. Clinton, J. Papazian, P. Kastes, B. Powers, J. Rivers, M. Wolchko, C. Brown

### To The Editor:

**To Vote Or Not To Vote**  
Well, it is about that time when we decide to vote or to just avoid the whole issue. Although I am a faithful voter these days (and I consider myself to be a passable or decent citizen) there was a time not so long ago when I didn't vote. There -- I said it. Many folks will say that they are too busy to battle red tape. Many folks will cite the old standby reason for not voting, the looming prospect of being called for jury duty. I am not saying it won't happen. I was called for jury duty but I had a legitimate note from my doctor. I have a disability with back pain which prevents me from sitting up more than a few minutes. Then there is the feeling that our vote doesn't count. Add the icing on the cake that most elected officials are not so great anyway, so why bother? The problem with these classic reasons is that we live in a democracy and sometimes the race is decided by just a few votes. And when you think about it, politicians are what we make of them. Our tax dollars are spent and our bloody wars are fought with their vote in our city, county or national arenas. Okay, so you are thinking of voting but is it too late to register? Nope. The last day to register to vote in the general election is Monday, October 6. Call 706-896-4353 for more information. Early voting begins on Monday, October 13 and it ends Friday, October 31. Election day is officially Tuesday, November 4. As you've probably seen in television ads, Democrat Jason Carter is challenging incumbent Republican Governor Nathan Deal. Democrat Michelle Nunn and Republican David Perdue are locked in a close race for Senator Saxby Chambliss' seat. And there are quite a few local races to consider as well. I will vote and I hope you will too.

Jean Hall

### To the Editor:

Towns County has many attractions and events offered each year to entice tourists and potential renters and home buyers or builders. It seems odd that we would discourage them by allowing junk yards, recycle facilities, and used vehicle and boat lots to be built on the only highway through the county and not even a landscaping attempt. I first visited 25 years ago and became a full time home owner 18 years ago. The eye appeal of this county is certainly less now than it was then.

Michael Valinoti

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

There are veins of cool air in the afternoon breeze flowing down from the mountain, hinting at the changing of seasons. The sky has begun to take on that crystalline quality which brings the distant ridge lines more sharply into focus. Bees, birds and butterflies are almost frantic to finish the harvest, and yellow jackets, sensing perhaps their imminent doom, are more inclined to seek vengeance on anyone or anything that stumbles across their lair.

So begins one of my four favorite seasons of the year. I embrace the autumn and everything contained in it. It is a season of contentment and thanksgiving, but also one of reflection. Fall paints the cycles of life in vivid colors, and as the petals drop from flower to earth, we are reminded that all things must pass; that the old must fade away to be reborn as the new.

I think of my ancestors most, this time of year. My father's birthday was the first week of fall. He didn't care much about birthdays, but there was a twinkle in his eye when it was time to air out the hunting jacket and oil up the boots. I can still hear him singing to himself as we loaded up the station wagon for a trip across the mountain.

The majority of my waking hours were spent in school during those days, but the discoveries and dramas of the institutionalized part of growing up are a dim background to the bright and shining fall weekends spent in the country with my family. Buried under the quilts, I can still feel the heat from the old pot bellied stove on a chilly morning. I can hear Granny Cordie bustling in the kitchen before daybreak as I jumped out of bed and into my dad's old navy peacoat to walk with grandfather Albert down to the barn to milk the cow.

On the other side of the family, and the mountain, in the heart of central Georgia I remember those evenings stringing beans on the porch while my dad and grandfather Ernest told stories. Grandmother Nora was frying the fish we caught earlier in the day, and my dear mother, well, she lives in every memory, quiet and strong, making sure we were all properly fed and attired and cared for in every possible way; the binding force that held the family together.

Yes, my fondest memories are fall memories. There are autumn days when the

chill in the air is perfectly balanced by the warmth of the sun, and there are days when the warmth and fullness of memory mingles with a chill of sorrow, an emptiness, a yearning for days gone by and the people now departed.

I am not old, but spring has passed and my own summer is ripening more quickly than I would prefer. My parents and grandparents are all gone now, as well as a host of friends and family who were here and gone all too quickly. Perhaps the impatience of youth is an unavoidable foolishness, or perhaps it is a failure of our culture and our institutions that we are conditioned so well to become economic statistics, but we are rarely guided to learn to be in the now, to appreciate the moment. We remember too much of our lives in the same way we remember the scenery along the Interstate highway.

Very soon, the fall colors will provide that irresistible lure which draws so many visitors to our area. Many of us will grumble at the traffic, impatient and self important, focused on our destinations and tailgating destiny as we commute through the unique and irreplaceable moments of our lives. As for me, I will try to slow down. That vehicle ahead of me might be a family on its way to visit grandparents, a father and son on a hunting trip, or a grandmother and grandfather enjoying the fall weather, knowing that winter comes all too soon.



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

### Get over it

Life is filled with "getters." The whiners are always griping about the getters. They say things like: "Oh, they get the prettiest girls or the most handsome boys;" "They get the best jobs;" "They get all the breaks in life", etc. Most of the getters in life got what they have because of their "get up." My grandfather used to identify certain people by saying, "They don't have any "git up" in them." Well, there are all kinds of "getters" in life and not all of them are pleasant to be around. There are those "getters" who are constantly "getting under your skin" or "getting on your nerves." To keep these people from "getting to you" you have to pray a lot and practice patience or else they will succeed at "getting your goat." Because there are so many "getters" in this world, if you don't "get a grip on yourself" you may "get the short end of the stick." Occasionally, I chance to meet ole "getter up on the wrong side of the bed." Poor fella, his attitude is so bad, if he says good morning to you he makes you mad.

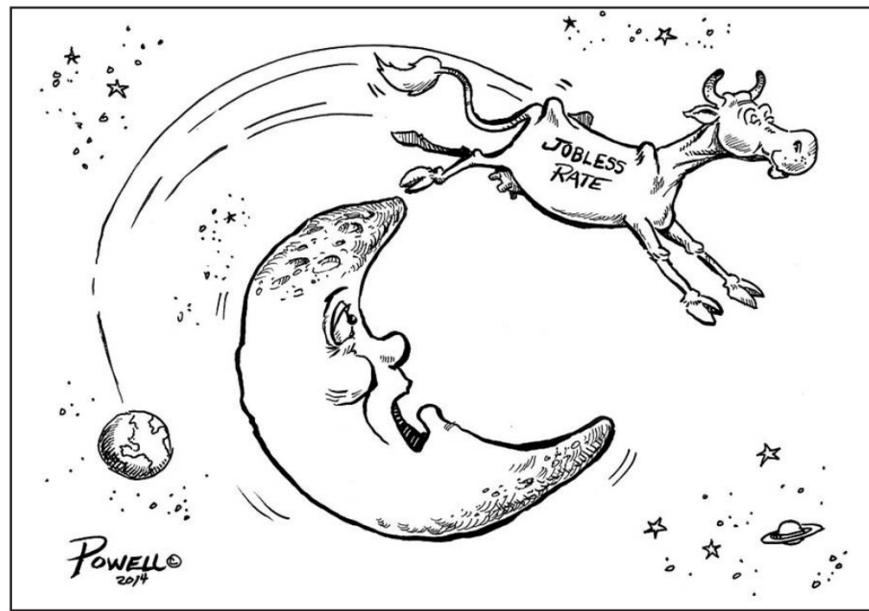
Sometimes, I run into ole "getter up with the chickens." He is always bragging about how early he

gets out of bed. I guess he wants to rob some chicken of the worm. Then there are the getters in life who seem to "get away with murder." They are never caught or punished for any unlawful acts they commit. However, don't let that "get your dander up." They are not "getting off easy," they will "get what's coming to them." Maybe not in this life but there is a great "get even day coming."

There are some getters that you "get off on the wrong foot" with and you just want to tell them to "get lost." Don't let the "bad getters" sour you on the "good getters." Well, if you have been sitting around talking about the getters in life - Get over it. Don't "get rattled."

The preacher said "There is a time to get and a time to lose" (Ecc. 3:6). This is the time to get. The preacher also said, "It is the time to get wisdom and understanding" (Proverbs 4:5). We need to get wise and get together as God's people. This nation needs to "get down to business" with God. We need to "get on the stick" and "get the ball rolling" and "get God's show on the road" if we "get the message" to the world while it is time to get.

So let's "get up" and "get at it" telling the world that to "get the best out of life" one must "get to the very heart" of life which is found in Christ Jesus. Now is the time to get life!



## Community Calendar

**American Legion Post 23** meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiwassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support!

**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 Hiwassee at 1 p.m.

**Towns County Republican Party** meets at 6:30 PM the 4th Thursday of each month at the new Senior Center. For more info call 706-994-3919.

**Democratic Party of Towns County** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5 PM at the new Senior Center.

**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.

**Hiwassee 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 in Murphy. Call Kit: 706-492-5253 or Peggy: 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.

**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 Hiwassee at 5:30 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiwassee, GA. We do oral family histories of residents. 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org

**Bridge Players** intermediate level meets at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Rec Center.

**Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG)** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, Hiwassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Call us by 706-896-0932 or artguild-store.com.

**Mountain Computer User Group** meets the 2nd Monday of each month in Young Harris. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. A "Q & A" session follows. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.

**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 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 the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church at 706-745-2469.

**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.

**Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club** meets 3 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Jerry (828) 837-7658.

**The Humane Society Mountain Shelter** Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Cadence Bank in Blairsville.

**The Towns County Alzheimer's Support Group** meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the

Family Life Center of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church. For more info call Carol at 706-896-6407.

**The Appalachian Shrine Club** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Allegheny Lodge in Blairsville. For more info call William 706-994-6177.

**Georgia Mountain Writers Club** meets at Cadence Bank the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 AM.

**GMREC Garden Tours** every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Shooting Creek Basket Weavers** meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreek-basketweavers.com.

**Friendship Community Club** meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76, 706-896-3637.

**Goldwing Road Riders** meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiwassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12.

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** meets every Wednesday evenings at 7 PM at the Red Cross building on Jack Dayton Circle.

**Caregiver support group** meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Church St., Hiwassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.

**Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club.** Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch.

**Brasstown Woodturners Guild** meets 1st Saturday of month at 9:30 AM in HHS shop. For more info call J. C. at 706-896-5711.

**VFW Post #7807** will be hosting a fish fry they 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month April - October. \$9. all you can eat from 4:30 - 7 PM.

**Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC)** meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiwassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.

**The Board of Directors of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce** meet the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.

## Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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