

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

**Letters to The Editor**

**In appreciation of our EMS**

Here in Towns County, we are blessed with so much - our magnificent mountain setting, wonderful communities and a fine network of first responders who dedicate their lives to protecting ours. In honor of EMS Week, and the average of 110 calls per month answered by a total team of less than two dozen members, we extend a gracious "Thank You" to the good people within our Towns County Emergency Services.

Committed to heavy concentrations of continued training, our teams go beyond a high level of professional expertise, in fact, they exhibit true kindness as they comfort, care for and transport citizens in some of the most stressful situations in life. These folks touch the lives of thousands of us each year, often saving lives that would otherwise have been lost.

Take an opportunity to thank our EMS team members, not just during EMS week, but anytime. They are always there for you.

Brenda Hunt, President, Towns County Fire Corps

**Land ready for planting**

I would like to announce that an acre and a half of land that was donated for use by the Towns County Food Pantry for a garden by Mrs. Jean Thomas is ready to be planted. The property will be used to plant corn and beans to help feed families in need.

I would like to sincerely thank Mr. Frank Riley for his help in plowing the property and getting it ready to plant, as well as thank him for his continued dedication toward getting the property fertilized and planted.

I want Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Riley to know we truly appreciate their generosity.

I also want to thank all of the wonderful donors and volunteers that have given so generously to this wonderful ministry.

I will need volunteers to help harvest when the time comes, so if you would like to help with this, please stop by the Towns County Food Pantry at 1294 Jack Dayton Circle or call 706-896-4783 and give us your name and phone number.

May God Bless you all.

Sincerely,  
James Hicks

**Letter to the Editor**

We are fighting two wars - one of which we are losing. North Korea and Iran are threatening to unleash atomic weapons on other countries.

The price of oil and gasoline is soaring DESPITE a global depression causing even more hardship for people driving to work or looking for work.

Banks that have received hundreds of billions of our money have increased their already outrageous rates, fees, and penalties just when homeowners on the brink of foreclosure might need a little credit to survive. Congress has passed legislation limiting this, but said we must wait nine months until it becomes law to allow the banks to squeeze out more blood.

Congress will pass some watered down version of a "health reform" bill the benefits of which will not even remotely approach their own benefits.

But some of the biggest noise out of Washington concerns speaker Pelosi and Senator Burns lying. Apparently voters are shocked that a politician would lie. Apparently they will continue to re-elect over 90% of incumbents. Apparently they are content to let lobbyists maintain complete control over Congress.

Michael Valinoti

**Thank you Towns County residents, visitors and friends:**

Last Saturday morning as I was sipping coffee on my front porch and watching the bright sun rise over the mountains and the fog rise from Lake Chatuge, I had no idea how great the day would be.

You see for the last several months I have committed my spare time to writing a grant request for the Towns County Fire and Rescue Department (TCFRD) and serving on the Towns County Fire Corps Chili Cook-off committee planning for an event to raise funds in support of that same department.

Since this was the first year for the event, there was much trepidation as to how the event would be received and whether it would be successful. As Saturday evening came and I looked back on the day, I asked myself why I ever had concerns.

Twenty seven chili cookers, including several from Florida, served up their chili delicacies, businesses offered up ad monies and goods, the local American Red Cross unit served up food and beverages, Gov. Zell Miller autographed his books, local residents made donations, community volunteers and the committee and volunteer firemen devoted their time. Cathy Cox was a great MC, the Color Guard unit honored our country and many local dignitaries participated in the opening ceremonies.

Most of all, you the residents, visitors and friends of Towns County showed your support for this worthy cause. So as I look back to that morning on the porch, I ask myself "why were you worried and concerned"? I guess that for a brief time "I FORGOT WHERE I LIVE."

Dewaine A. Olson



**T.C. Herald Editor**  
proud to be back  
By Charles Duncan

I feel so blessed to be back at work; I feel so humble and proud to live and work in such a giving community.

Yes, I'm once again talking and typing, walking and driving and thankful to be breathing. My brush with death was brief thanks to the multitude of prayers that kept me here on God's Green Earth as my heart continues to mend.

I feel like a new human being after spending 49 days at Northeast Georgia Medical Center and a month on the mend at home. I can't say enough good things about the professional folks at the Ronnie Green Heart Center in Gainesville, Dr. Alan Sanders, of Blairsville and the good folks at Appalachian Home Health Care. I must point out that my nursing team of Fran Kelley, Mary Puccio and Nancy Smith of Appalachian Home Health Care has been nothing short of wonderful in helping me recover from open-heart surgery. Together, this group has me back on my feet and winning a battle I never thought that I would have to fight.

Thanks to these outstanding medical professionals from Blairsville and Gainesville I got back to work just in time to see the seniors walk at graduation; witness an incredible and touching Memorial Day tribute and to learn that the governments in Towns County can work together to make progress a team effort.

Most of all, this community never ceases to amaze me when it comes to benevolence and this week was no exception. Mrs. Jean Thomas and Mr. Frank Riley rose to the top of the list of locals making a difference.

Mrs. Thomas donated almost two acres for garden use by the Towns County Food Pantry. Thanks to Mr. Riley plowing the food plot, the land is ready for planting corn and beans to help feed families in need. Mr. Riley also played a pivotal role in helping assure that the land was properly fertilized and planted.

When the time comes surely there will be a need to

help harvest the vegetables. I have no doubt that there will be enough volunteers to help this wonderful ministry with that chore.

Putting the needs of others ahead of our own personal needs is yet another example of how generous this community can be. I'm proud to be a part of it.

Once again I must thank you, our readers for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers during my illness. I also want to thank our team at the Towns County Herald for its continued dedication to our readers during my absence. Together, we remain dedicated to serving our readership and providing our community with the best newspaper experience in Northeast Georgia.

Thank you for being a part of our lives.

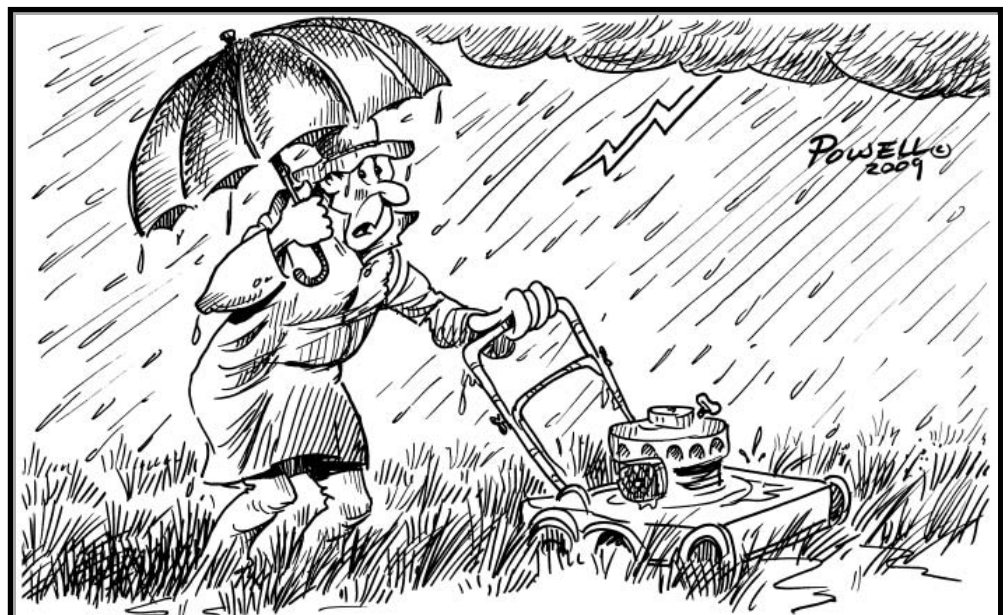
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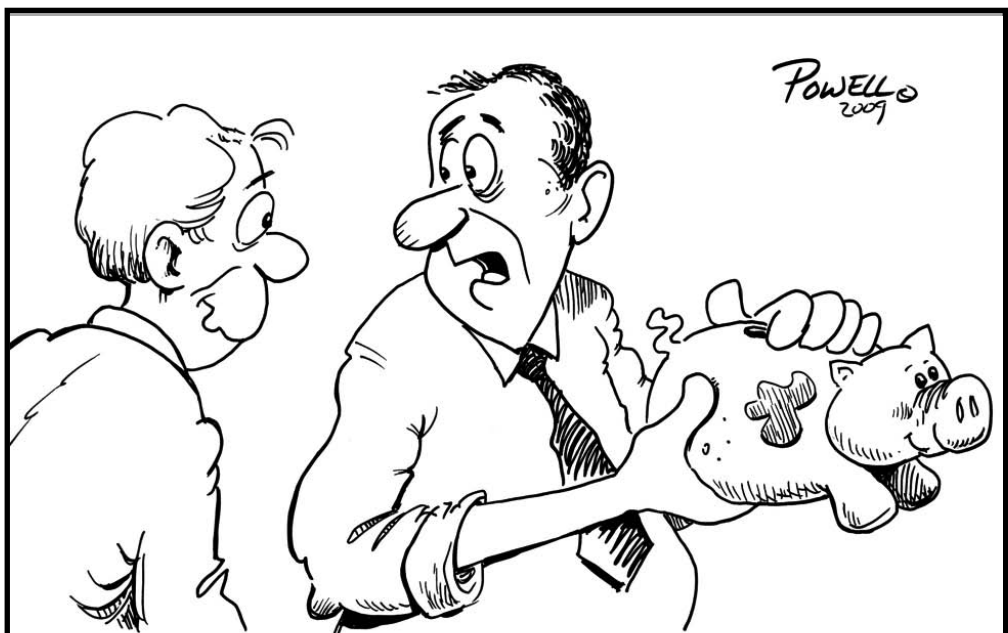
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Deadline for  
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"All this rain sure makes the grass grow, grow, grow.  
The trouble is it won't let me mow, mow, mow!"



"Don't laugh... it's out-performing my 401-K!"

**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, mtntregarts-craftsguild.org, mtntregarts-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.

**Towns County Herald**  
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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