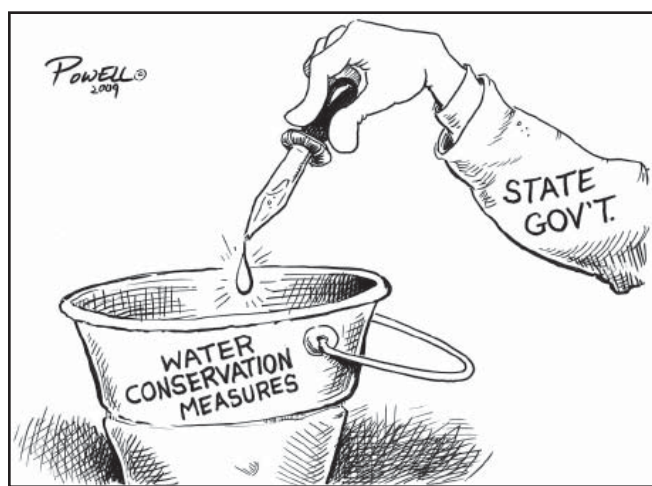


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY  
**OPINIONS & COMMENTARY**



**Letters to The Editor**

**Dear Friends:**

I want to express my thanks to the numerous citizens of the area who attended the recognition ceremony at Chatuge Regional Hospital naming the newly renovated nursing station in my honor. It was a humbling experience to have many old friends and former patients attend. I am forever grateful to each of you for making my years in Hiawassee so good.

Thanks again for coming  
 W. Lanier Nicholson, M.D.

**To the editor:**

This week we suffered a death in our family and the day of the funeral we suffered another tragic shock, the spot where my aunt was to be buried beside her late husband in our family plot at Old Union Cemetery in Young Harris had been used for a non-family member. Keeping with their beliefs the staff at Mountain View Funeral Home did a remarkable job in keeping a bad situation from becoming worse, they held tight to their professionalism and individual care and dedication to the family so our loved one could still be interred with dignity. Her child and grandchildren were very distraught as were the rest of the family, but through Mountain View's care and God working through them to minister to the family in time of need, it brought a more sense of calm to this double devastation to us all.

Towns County, you are fortunate to have ones who provide such service and ministry to your community, people who care, serve and answer God's call, who can handle such a crisis and bring care from the heart instead of concerns of financial or business service only.

May God bless Mountain View and their employees, and a special thanks to the Union and Towns County Sheriff's Departments for all their assistance with such professional escorts for the family and the respect displayed in their actions, may God bless you all!

Sincerely,  
 Danny Garland & Family

**Planning for the future of Towns County**

By Carl S. Schultz

In my past, I worked for large and small companies and state government in capacities of project - Environment, Project engineer, consultant, and as a small business owner in textiles. The one thing I learned as years went by was to plan, plan, plan. When times got tough with the business and the economy tanked, those were the times that everyone has to work harder and to look at future plans. These times served as one where everything was scrutinized. With the concerns for not only the company, but the future for the employees. When these tough times were good times where everyone came together and solved problems and created plans for the future. We, the people in Towns County are now in this time where we need to get involved and push out county toward a bright future with good ideas and planning.

In the past we have gone through the expansion of our jail requirements from a join Union-Towns County system which shared the cost of overhead planning with out neighbor county at a much lower cost, to one that is costing Towns County more than double, along with importing prisoners. We just recently settled another costly problem for the county

taxpayers with the loss of millions of dollars concerning the industrial park on NE 69. The park is now half the size and we inherited \$500,000 of liabilities.

We are now getting ready to expand the sewerage in Towns County unincorporated, with smaller sewer plants such as one for the industrial park by either a large septic system or another discharge to Lake Chatuge by the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority. This would be three sewer systems operating in a county of 11,000 people. Sounds like overkill and higher cost to the user along with concerns for the environment, particularly Lake Chatuge. This is another example of poor planning for the future.

I moved to this beautiful area nineteen years ago. I have been actively involved with all the local government entities, state and federal government, and community associations in attempt to keep this area as beautiful as it was, but looking at our lake and mountains, we have not done a good job. We are at the crossroads where we need to get a handle on our problems, and start to do a better Job of planning for now and the future.

I will write more editorials addressing some of the specifics that we need to address and hopefully resolve for a cleaner, brighter, and well planned future for Towns County.

**Extension Tips**



by  
**Robert Brewer**

**September monthly tips**

**Turf and ornamentals:** It is time to apply herbicides to your lawn for winter annual or perennial weeds that germinate or form rosettes in turf during the fall.

**Healthy green grass** outside the windows of your home can cool the breeze off hot pavement by as much as 10 degrees F.

Fall is a great time to plant and divide perennials and shrubs for next year's garden. By planting in the fall, your plants do not endure the stressful summer heat during establishment and have time to form sufficient root systems before the onset of winter dormancy.

To minimize the occurrence of black spot on roses, prune and remove infected areas. Be sure to destroy the clippings, as the disease will carry over from year to year.

Allow plants to finish the summer growth cycle in a normal manner. Never encourage growth with heavy applications of fertilizer or excessive pruning at this time as plants will quickly delay their hardening process that has already begun in anticipation of winter several months ahead. New growth can be easily injured by an early freeze.

As you select your flowering bulbs to plant this fall, keep in mind that larger caliber bulbs give big, showy displays, but cost more. Smaller caliber bulbs usually are less expensive, with a smaller show, but are great for brightening nooks and crannies in your yard.

Fall is a good time to invest in crocus, scilla, narcissus, glory-of-the-snow and other easy-to-naturalize, hardy bulbs.

If you are not sure which end of the bulb is the top, plant it on its side. The stem will always grow upright.

Place rooted cuttings in the cold frame. Unless frost threatens, ventilate frames freely to harden young plants in preparation for overwintering.

As the nights become cool, caladiums will begin to lose leaves. Dig them up, allow them to dry, and store them in a warm dry place. This space can be replanted with Christmas peppers or Jerusalem cherry plants that are easy to grow from seed in pots or with mum transplants that have been grown to flower size.

**Fruits and vegetables:** The small fruits offer definite advantages for home culture. They require a minimum of space for the amount of fruit

**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.*

produced and bear one or two years after planting. Also, pest control typically is easier than with most tree fruits.

Be sure not to store apples or pears with vegetables such as potatoes and squash. The fruits give off ethylene gas that speeds up the ripening process of vegetables and may cause them to develop off flavors.

Remove all 2-year-old canes from raspberry and blackberry plants to reduce overwintering of disease. Soil-applied fertilizers containing potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, or calcium can be applied, but do not cultivate or irrigate at this time of year.

Need a pollinator for your apple tree, but don't have lots of room, or need more apples? Try a crabapple instead of a regular apple. Select a variety that blooms at the same time as your fruiting tree and has white flowers. Bees are not as interested in those with other flower colors.

**Harvesting guidelines:** Pears should be picked at the hard stage and allowed to finish ripening off the tree. The base color of yellow pears should change from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity.

Check grapevines for mummified berries-victims of black rot. Pick them, and dispose of them before they can spread the disease. Do not put them in the compost pile.

Fall weed control around fruit trees is crucial because weeds act as hosts to overwintering insects. Be sure to turn the soil as the days grow cooler to destroy soil-burrowing larvae.

Harvest winter squash and pumpkins when fully mature, but before they are damaged by frost. Cut the fruits from the vine with a short piece of stem attached. They will keep for several months if stored in a cool, dry basement.

Just before frost, take cuttings of sweet potato vines and put them in water. When roots appear, transplant them into 6-inch pots and grow them in a south-facing window. By early spring, they will have developed into vines that also can be cut and rooted, allowing you to increase the number of starts for setting out in late spring.

Cucumber beetles, squash bugs, Colorado potato beetles, and European corn borers pass the winter in debris left in the garden. Remove dead plant material, and compost it or plow it under. This will limit your pest population next year to the insects that migrate into the garden.

Sweet potatoes will keep for several months in a fairly dry basement. Handle sweet potatoes very carefully to avoid bruising or cutting them. Cure the roots for about 10 days at 80 degrees F or for 20 days at 70 degrees F to dry and toughen the skin. This can be done near the furnace in your basement. Store under medium-dry condition at 60 degrees F or as close to this temperature as possible. Sort your sweet potatoes carefully every few weeks, and remove any that start to decay.

The gardening season can be extended well into the winter. Lettuce, cress, radish, endive, and spinach can all be grown in coldframes. In cooler weather, insulate the outer sides of the frame with banked soil or sawdust. Cover the top with sacks stuffed with straw or other insulation during cold nights.

The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences T(Sep.)Y4/TS

**The Middle Path**

by Don Perry

On August 14th, 2003, the largest electrical blackout in US history occurred, affecting 10 million people in Ontario and 45 million in 8 US states.

As with blackouts in other industrialized nations, the human response ranged from solidarity and selflessness to looting. This range of behavior has been observed in recent times during other catastrophic and disruptive events, and for many people images of the September 11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina will come to mind. The distribution and range of social disruption that occurs with any crisis situation is impossible to predict, but it is a given that social disruption will, in fact, occur when anything interrupts the routines of civilization.

"Herd mentality" has been observed and studied by ranchers, stock market analysts and government planners. Herd mentality is behavior of the lowest common denominator and it is prevalent in stampedes, stock market crashes and riots. A stampede of three hundred cows is not an insignificant event if you are alone and in its path, but it is not something that threatens to disrupt a society. A stampede of 300 million, on the other hand, is something that government, especially imperial government, fears.

History is full of examples of governments attempting to avoid stampedes, like Stalin's purges in the Soviet Union or the Cultural Revolution in China. It is a sad fact of human history that as a government is allowed to increase in power, government becomes an entity unto itself whose primary purpose is to perpetuate its own existence. Arguably, the government of the United States is no exception.

Over the last several years we have chronicled the rise of the mechanisms of totalitarianism in the former Republic of the United States. We have made the assertion on several occasions that while the shell game of two party partisan politics distracts us

with form, the substance of power that operates beyond the reach of the electorate has steadily increased both its reach and its grasp.

While most of us have been occupied with questions of democrat versus republican or conservative versus liberal, there has been a consistency to decisions behind the scenes which point to an increasing level of fear and concern within that part of the establishment which survives from one administration and one congress to the next. The Obama administration has reversed a few Bush executive orders concerning climate change and stem cell research, but the bulk of the executive orders and signing statements left by the Clinton and Bush regimes, those which concern martial law and the suspension of Constitutional rights during times of "emergency," have been largely untouched.

Senate Bill 773, the Cybersecurity Act of 2009, would, as it now stands, give the president control of the Internet during a "cybersecurity emergency" which, as is common among legislation and executive orders of the same vein, the president himself would have the authority to declare. Included in these powers would be the authority to disconnect private computers and networks. The Internet as it now stands in most western nations, with all of its flaws, is in fact the last and best free access to unfiltered and uncontrolled information that we have. A government which intends to maintain control over its population for whatever reason, whether that reason is to maintain order during a natural disaster or terrorist attack or whether it be to insure its own survival during political unrest - must maintain control over information its citizens are allowed to access. It seems that our government is learning from our good friends and business partners, the Chinese government.



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