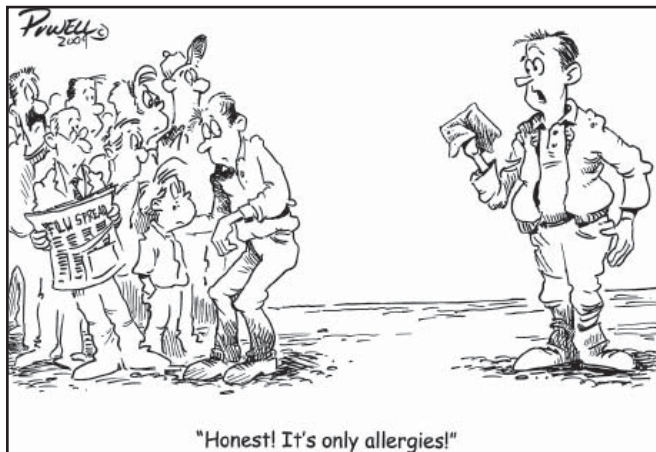


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY  
**OPINIONS & COMMENTARY**



**Letters to The Editor**

**Thank You Friends**

The family of Hal Herrin would like to thank our friends for the tremendous outpouring of love and support of Hal's passing on September 6. Remembrances and presence of the community helped us celebrate his life and remember his love for "the Enchanted Valley." We are so grateful to be accepted in this beautiful place we call home. Thank you, we really appreciate everything!

Maggie Herrin

**Where is Shiloh**

At some point after 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, our beloved black lab, Shiloh, disappeared from Pounding Mill Road in Shooting Creek (Hayesville), North Carolina. Shiloh was not one to roam, and even though he looked intimidating, he was a gentle, loving dog that wouldn't hurt a fly. He is an older dog and weighs around 125 to 150 pounds. He was wearing a chain collar when he disappeared.

I am appealing to anyone that may have seen something out of the ordinary or has any information whatsoever about the disappearance of Shiloh. A reward is being offered. All we want is the return of our pet, no questions asked. Please call 828-389-9866 or 828-389-2129 with any information

Sharon Green



**TALK of the TOWN**  
with *Tonisha Shook*  
This weeks question is...  
**What talent do you wish you had?**



Chris Evans, Hiawassee, GA  
A: "I am pretty satisfied with what talents I have."



Lyndie Coats, Blairsville, GA  
A: "I wish I could sing."



Karen Brown, Young Harris, GA  
A: "I am happy the way I am."



Kody Cook, Hiawassee, GA  
A: "I wish I could play the guitar."



Erinn Borwn, Blairsville, GA  
A: "I wish I were more organized."

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

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**The Middle Path**  
by Don Perry

"People who count on the government to feed them will soon want bread."  
 —Thomas Jefferson.

Last week we drove from the top of Georgia to the Florida state line, not along the Interstates but on the old US highways and back roads, through little towns and big ones. Nowhere did we see any of the signs of economic recovery that the pundits and politicians are trumpeting, or at least we didn't see any of the signs we have come to expect: bulldozers and cranes, construction crews at work, parking lots full of cars. What we did see was empty parking lots, shop space for rent and properties for sale that were for sale two years ago when we took the same route.

Prosperity in the 21st century has taken on a new form in the United States and much of the western world. It's not about building or producing or creating real wealth or assets. It's a much more subtle and selective form of prosperity which involves the electronic manipulation of numbers, skimming virtual dollars off the top of virtual transactions, and the creation of "wealth" by decree. It seems to be working inasmuch as the stock market has been going up. That's good news for retirement accounts growing fatter with more virtual dollars. We can worry later about how much those dollars will buy.

Where, we wonder, are the owners and proprietors of all those empty shops and their employees and where do they fit in the numbers game the government plays to keep us satiated? Are they represented in the unemployment statistics or have they been out of work so long that they are no longer counted? Where are the self-employed entrepreneurs who are never counted, who are living off their savings if they have any, unable to borrow any more money or squeeze anything else out of their second mortgage?

Where, we also wonder, is the impetus to change a government and its economic policies when so many currently depend on its continued expansion and "stimulus" threatens to add millions more to the list

of dependents? According to economist, Bill Bonner, about 20 million people currently work for the government; 45 million receive Social Security benefits and 34 million use food stamps – add to this number "the millions who get subsidies, bailouts, welfare payments (often masquerading as tax credits) [and] government contracts. That's 99 million people who have a direct interest in expanding government outlays..."

Devolution precedes evolution, and what we are witnessing is no less than change at a fundamental level. Government realizes this and will do almost anything to mitigate the fear and disruption which accompanies change. There is certainly an element that will attempt to preserve power at any cost, but there are always good people in every government, sometimes even presidents, who will do the best that they know how under the circumstances. Make no mistake – this "jobless recovery" is on as firm a foundation as Wiley Coyote walking on air, and like the hapless coyote, we will continue to remain aloft until enough people look down.

Already the fear mongers are gathering their followers, selling their books and pumping up their ratings. This has happened in some form or other throughout the history of the world whenever change has occurred. Conspiracy theories abound, but look for no conspiracy beyond human nature magnified by human institutions. Partisan politics elects, enriches and sustains the leaders of these divisive movements as does the efforts of those who continue to pick at the scabs of racism, but it all serves to distract us from the true culprit in the mirror.

We would like to think that 21st century Americans are savvy enough to acknowledge the true culprit, to own the consequences of our collective actions, to abandon partisan politics, political and even religious dogma. We would like to think that at some point we will have enough of being led and begin to choose for ourselves with choices based on logic. History reminds us that most of us will not be able to do this, but some of us will.

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**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 E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:**  
 Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@brmenc.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.

**Extension Tips**  
by *Robert Brewer*

**Make family mealtimes enjoyable**  
 The dinner table is the perfect place to learn new skills. Mealtimes are one of the best opportunities to help children grow and learn. Families can share conversations and time together, while teaching healthy eating habits in a relaxed environment.

Many families are so busy they, unfortunately, don't set regular times to eat together. Here are some easy steps to set a routine to make family mealtimes possible and enjoyable.

Pick consistent days and times. Reserve the time on your calendar and rearrange other commitments so everyone can be there. If schedules are too busy, start by choosing one or two evenings a week to have dinner as a family.

Eat at the table. Children tend to get distracted easily. Sitting down at the table helps children focus on their food and pay attention to the family conversation. Make a rule that distractions such as television and cell phones are not allowed at the dinner table.

Serve "family-style" whenever possible. Put the food in serving containers on the table, and encourage everyone, including young children, to use serving utensils to put food on their plates. Family-style service may seem like a lot of trouble, but it actually helps children practice motor skills and begins teaching them how to take control of the amount of food they eat.

Teach portions. Many children don't know what a portion looks like. You can guide children while still allowing them to serve themselves by saying things like, "Take just one piece of chicken for now. If you are still hungry after you eat that chicken, you can have more." A young child's portion is smaller than one for a teenage or an adult.

Handle spills casually. Eating with a fork or spoon is a skill that requires practice. Young children are still learning how to control their hand and finger muscles. They might spill or drop food. Putting a plastic mat under your child's chair can help contain the mess. When spills happen, stay calm. Acknowledge that everyone spills sometimes. Get your

child to help clean it up and continue with the meal. Keep a wet cloth handy to make spills less distracting.

Talk with your children. Mealtime is a great chance to share ideas and thoughts and to encourage children's language development by involving them in conversations. Ask children questions and encourage them to answer. You can also model conversations by including children – even infants and toddlers – in discussions. Even if you and your child are the only ones sharing the meal, be sure to spend some time talking.

Encourage children to try new foods, but don't force them. Many young children are reluctant to try new foods, and will eat familiar foods first. Help your children ease into accepting new foods step by step. Introduce only one new food at a meal. Pair a food they've never tried with one they like. Start with smooth-textured foods like corn, chicken or pears. Cut new food into bite-sized pieces to make them easier to handle. Describe the new food, teach children its name and talk about what it looks like. Encourage them to touch and smell it if they are not ready to taste it yet. Remember that children are more likely to try a new food if they see you enjoying it.

Be realistic about the length of the meal. Young children have very short attention spans. Don't be surprised if your toddler or four-year-old is finished eating after a few minutes. Encourage children to sit with the family for a few minutes if others are still eating, but allow them to get up and do another activity nearby when they get impatient or squirmy. Having a few simple toys close to the table will enable children to be near the rest of the family while they finish the meal.

Keep mealtime routines consistent. Children's brains develop best through repetition. Do the same things in the same order every time you eat a meal together. Over time, children will learn what to expect at mealtime. The predictable routine will help them feel comfortable and secure.

You don't have to serve gourmet food. Even a simple, healthy meal like chicken and rice can be an enjoyable family gathering if you take time to follow a consistent mealtime routine.

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**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 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.