

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Thank you, Towns Co. Sheriff's Department

Thank you, Sheriff Clinton, Towns County Sheriff's Department and Detention Center for your time and outstanding support during the loss of our mom. The department went above and beyond their call of duty. Our family wishes to express our sincere appreciation and respect to the entire department.

The family of Dennis Young

Dear Editor:

The Chatuge Hospital Auxiliary would like to thank all the people in our community that assisted with our Book Sale last week. We received generous donations of books and lots of people who took advantage of great buys at our book sale. Thanks to everyone's generous contributions and efforts we raised \$700 for Relay For Life. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you,
**Brenda Hunt, Chatuge Hospital Auxiliary
Book Sale Chairperson**

Why we need trauma centers in Georgia

Imagine that you died today in an abhorrent car accident. It is a very scary calamity. It's especially frightening if the reason you died was because the ambulance could not get you to a trauma center on time.

By time, I mean one life-threatening hour. This certain hour is widely known as "The Golden Hour". This amount of time is so valuable (like gold) because it is about how much time you have for a good chance of living in a serious car accident.

Let's face it: Georgia desperately needs more trauma centers in rural areas. Too many fatalities around the 'pocket-sized' population have been reported from lack of medical needs. Although there are some trauma facilities widely spread throughout south Georgia, unfortunately there aren't enough near north Georgia.

Car accidents happen everyday, everywhere, and very frequently. Especially in north Georgia from lack of stable road construction. Guard rails are seldom sighted near curvy mountains, which happens to be an area that's high risk for car wrecks. Also, poorly painted center lines are difficult for people to see during the night, which attract head-on collisions. And having no convenient trauma centers around, the chances of surviving in a fatal car accident is ...fatal!

As you can tell, car accidents are the number 1 killer of teens, and very high-risk for other age groups. However, funding is needed to provide such important facilities. But adding about \$5.00 to your taxes is all we need to save millions of innocent lives. On the brighter side of the sun, the thought of only donating small amounts of cash needed to fund and run the trauma centers would come more convincing to the people because of the utmost importance of these medical hubs.

In conclusion, I have convinced you reader(s) to supply or consider the idea for a trauma center...which we desperately need! Anyways, I hope you have truly grasped the concept of these medical life savers. It just goes hand-in-hand to create these centers, and if you don't know why, I suggest you get to one right away because you need medical help!

Christa Hamill

Why we need more trauma centers in Georgia

In Georgia, there are fifteen trauma centers. Yet, over 712 people each year die from trauma. Death is usually the case, though, when a trauma victim is not able to get to a trauma center in time. This problem could be easily fixed if we had one or more new trauma centers in Georgia.

Georgia has many trauma centers in the middle of the state. This is great for people who live within an hour of them. Yet, if unable to get to a specialized center in time after obtaining trauma, the consequence may be fatal. The hour in which a person needs to be in the total care of a specialized doctor after obtaining trauma is called the "golden hour". If not cared for appropriately, the trauma victim is even more likely to die.

The levels of trauma effect which trauma center you need to go to. The levels of trauma are: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4 traumas. The severity of who goes where is backwards on the levels. The most intensive unit is the Level 1 trauma centers. Even a Level 4 trauma center, though, is able to help a community by saving lives.

The trauma centers in Georgia would obviously have to be paid for. This problem could be fixed by raising a tax on a product or service. Some ideas for products that could have a tax increase on are: rental cars, registering a vehicle, or even an extra charge on getting a license plate. Raising the price by only a little can change the outcome of someone's life a lot.

In conclusion, I believe with all my heart that Georgia should invest in a new trauma center. With my dad being a doctor, I understand how fragile life is and how easily it can be taken. A trauma center would be the best thing that came to North Georgia in a very, very long time. So I'll just leave you with one question; What if it were your child's life on the line?

Eryn Cochran

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

There were many places in early 19th century America where it was a punishable crime to teach a slave to read. Literacy equals power. One reason that many of us are powerless during our ongoing financial crisis is that we are in many ways financially illiterate, particularly when it comes to our retirement accounts, where our future financial security has been placed in the hands of strangers beyond our reach and beyond our understanding. This is true in part by design and in part by an accumulation of circumstances which have developed since 401K's were first introduced in 1981.

One of the guiding principles behind the 401K is that a financial organization is more qualified to make investments than an individual. This may hold true in many situations. For an individual to invest effectively today, not only is knowledge of a company's fundamentals required, but also a modicum of computer literacy, a high speed Internet connection - and the time to use them. The individual investor without these tools is often left behind like a bicycle on an Interstate highway.

Most companies that offer 401K's have a menu of plans where most of the choices are mutual funds - baskets of equities - stocks. Most also offer an

alternative conservative choice where money is invested in money market funds or government securities with a guaranteed minimum rate of return. Without the background knowledge, tools or time to research the many choices available, most people choose from a narrow range of strategies. They pick one or two funds which are showing the greatest return for the year or they put a little bit of money into every fund. In any event, they are for the most part investing blindly, putting their future financial security on autopilot.

Here is a case in point from personal experience, with the following caveat: If I were an expert on financial investing I wouldn't be dodging bad drivers on the way to work every morning. But with a working knowledge of computers and a fading memory of Economics 101, I was able to decide two years ago to pull my retirement account out of equities and place it in lower yielding but much safer money market funds. As a result my modest retirement account has remained intact and made modest gains. Many of my co-workers were not so lucky.

I will never forget the advice given to me by the representative of the company which handles my retirement account when I was considering this decision. I was

encouraged to "diversify," to minimize risk. This was the same advice given to millions of investors who, like many of my co-workers, woke up to find that half of the retirement accounts they had built over ten or twenty years or longer, had simply evaporated.

Yale economics professor Robert Shiller asserts that one of the reasons the stock market has been so unnaturally inflated is the millions of automatic 401K investors who have continuously, blindly, and in good faith, dumped money into the market. That blind faith transfer of wealth continues largely unabated. The majority of Americans are a trusting people because we are an honest people. We were brought up to have faith in our government and in our institutions. It would never occur to us that the financial institutions charged with guaranteeing our financial security would not have our best interests at heart. Many of us assumed that the people we were told were much better financial navigators than we were - would certainly steer us away from hazardous waters. They did not. While billions of dollars evaporated from the stock market and from our retirement accounts, our money continued to be blindly, automatically and with the cold precision of computer software, poured into a black hole.

A frustrating irony of the devastating losses for so many Americans is the fact that much of it could have been avoided very simply. My own account was rescued by logging into to my retirement company's

all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Paul the apostle knew that only through the mercy of God's power could things be changed. But Paul was a man of faith that preached that miracles could happen and those that believed were able to receive the benefits of their faith. Even Jesus said that by your faith are you healed. So this thing called faith can make the difference of having prayers answered or ignored.

God doesn't move unless he gets the credit. He causes us to ask in order for him to be able to receive the glory of answering us. So that when we receive that which we ask him for, we know that he supplied it for us, therefore causing us to be thankful to him. A man must believe that God exists before he can receive anything from him.

God said in Isaiah 61:3,

Faith will see you through
By Dr. Steven Swisher, Pastor
Living Word Revival Center

Without the right attitude of faith in life, life could be quite a miserable experience. Without faith, first of all, you cannot please God. Secondly, you will not be able to even encourage yourself in tough situations. I have seen those who react with great sorrow having no hope at all for their situations to change and I have seen those who weather tough times with hope and faith, trusting that things will get better. Out of the two, I have been encouraged to believe in the latter way since I believe that God will reward them that walk in their faith towards him. (Hebrews 11:6)

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:1,2, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report." The elders were men who were matured in the ways of God and had had experiences with God. Their experiences of

faith prevailed with God and the good report came because God turned things around for their benefit. When one finds out the benefits of believing God, one would soon adopt the lifestyle of living by faith in God. It only makes sense that when something produces the results within your life that you are seeking for, that you will be more than happy to adopt those principles into your life.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for within your heart. I believe faith that is based upon God's promises, can be faith that will soon inherit those precious promises. You will never receive of God beyond your own faith. In 1 John 5:4 the bible says that, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." Faith has the ability to overcome this world, because our faith is based on what we believe that God can do for us, not what we can do for ourselves! Our strength is limited, while God's strength is unlimited to be able to do all things. Paul the Apostle said in Philippians 4:13, "I can do

website and clicking on a few boxes, but many Americans, even if they were alerted to the need for such an action, would not know where to begin. The obscene profits gathered by Wall Street elites depend on this kind of asymmetry of information. Even for the many Americans who do know now to navigate the technically murky waters of online investing, investment companies, like gambling casinos, know that the house always wins in the end. The "investment class" of ordinary citizens trumpeted by CNBC is in many ways a herd of sheep to be regularly sheared - because whether the individual investor wins or loses, the house, or the investment brokerage, always collects its percentage.

There is some satisfaction in knowing that many of the people who helped build this bonfire of the vanities also got their fingers burned, and badly, but this knowledge does nothing to bring back the billions already lost by hard working people or to compensate us for future losses in higher taxes. There is however another hazard which requires our research and vigilance, because our political independence is in many ways tied to our financial independence. As financial correspondent Matt Taibbi succinctly states, "By creating an urgent crisis that can only be solved by those fluent in a language too complex for ordinary people to understand, the Wall Street crowd has turned the vast majority of Americans into non-participants in their own political future."

"To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified." This scripture shows us that God wants to do something positive in our lives. So let not your hearts be troubled nor filled with the sound of a slow "Knell."

I would like to invite you to join us for our weekly services at Living Word Revival Center, "a Spirit filled church for Jesus Christ", in Hayesville, NC, on Sundays at 10:00am and on Wed. nites at 7:00pm. "Come taste and see that the Lord is Good!" For information 828-389-3444. Come join us to make a difference at home and on the mission field!



Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 4th Monday of each month at 7 pm in the TC Water Office Building.

AARP meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Senior Center

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 5pm-6pm Dinner at Daniels Steak House, 6pm - 7pm 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.

Hiwassee City Council 1st Tuesday of month 4 pm, at City Hall.

Young Harris City Council, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 pm,

meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiwassee. Refreshments at 6p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartscraftsguild.org, mtnregartscraftsguild@hotmail.com.

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 Hiwassee at 5 pm. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 932, Hiwassee, 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), Hiwassee. Refreshments at 6p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartscraftsguild.org, mtnregartscraftsguild@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

Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440

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