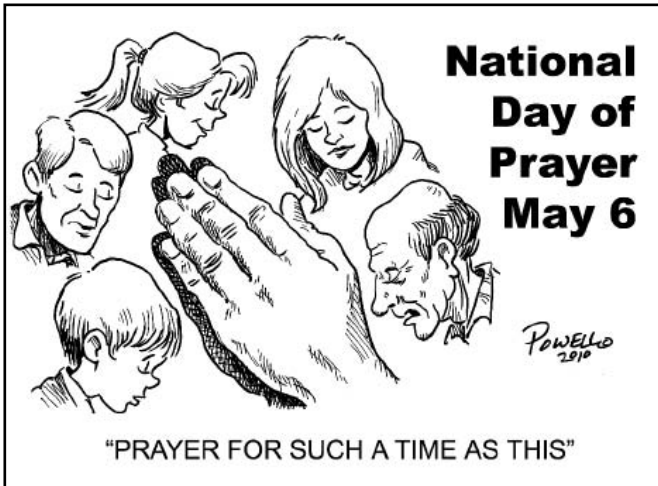


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Letters to The Editor

Dear Towns County residents,

Members of the Towns County Fire Corps support the Towns County Fire Department by raising funds in addition to undertaking tasks, i.e. station upkeep, equipment purchases, etc.

Our two major fund-raising events are Fire in the Mountain Chili Cook-Off & 5K Run scheduled for May 29th, 2010, and the Brasstown Big Band concert scheduled for Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9th at 3 PM. The concert is a benefit performance by members of the Brasstown Big Band under the leadership of Dr. Benny Ferguson, Dean of the College of Fine Arts at Young Harris College. All the money collected from ticket sales goes to support the Towns County Fire Rescue Department.

The concert will be held at the Anderson Music Hall at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Tickets are priced at \$5, \$10, \$15 and \$25. The \$25 tickets are considered "Patron Tickets" and entitle the holder to attend the "Meet the Band" reception at the conclusion of the concert, including refreshments.

How to purchase tickets: (1) Drive to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds office (Hwy. 76 W) and purchase a ticket (706-896-4191). (2) Go online to www.georgiamountainfairgrounds.com and purchase a ticket.

Regardless of how you obtain your ticket, I can assure you, your family and your friends will have a great time and enjoy themselves listening to the "Big Band Sound."

Please consider contacting your friends with this information and encourage them to attend the concert and support the Fire Rescue Department. For other information go to townscountyyfirecorps.org.

Sincerely,

Bill Wendel, Concert Chairperson
Vice President, Towns County Fire Corps

Thank you

The Towns County Lions Club would like to thank the citizens, businesses and visitors of Towns County. We recently held our White Cane Days and while we may have been somewhat disruptive to your schedule on those days, you gave generously and many people will be helped by this gesture. You have aided the Lions Club with our goal to give the gift of sight. We sincerely thank you.

Towns County Lions Club

Terry Rogers qualifies for Senate race



Terry Rogers

continue to spend our way out of the mess in which we find ourselves. I'm running for State Senate in order to take business sense to the capitol. A wise man once told me, 'If your out-go exceeds your income, it will lead to your downfall.' This is the position in which we now find ourselves."

Rogers specifically stated that the lack of a conservative voting record, no business experience, and ties to special interests by the incumbent Senator were the deciding factors in his entering the race. "When you realize that a first-term State Senator has taken over \$50,000 in contributions from corporate lobbyists and special interest groups in less than 15 months in office, as has the current 50 district Senator, it causes one to question where that Senator's loyalties are when it comes time to vote." Rogers continued, "An independent voice not beholden to big corporate money, is critical to protect northeast Georgia values and interests."

Rogers is founder and managing partner of Diversified Technologies. His company brokers recycled plastics throughout the United States. Rogers and his wife Laura have five children. They live on their farm north of Clarkesville, in Habersham County and attend Clarkesville Presbyterian Church where Rogers is an elder.

Extension Tips



by Robert Brewer

Tips for the landscape and garden

Some trees that are messy and weak-wooded include silver maple, hybrid poplar, mimosa, weeping willow, black cherry, and Eastern cottonwood. Better choices are Chinese elm, Japanese zelkova, pin oak, red maple, river birch, tulip poplar, and willow oak.

Prune out winter-killed wood on trees and shrubs by cutting back to green wood after new growth begins.

If you love to garden, but don't have a lot of time, choose plants that are easy to maintain. Plants that do not need a deadheading include begonia, Impatiens, coleus, alyssum, ageratum, lobelia, Vinca and salvia.

Caladiums need generous amounts of water and fertilizer to encourage continuous productions of new leaves during the summer. Apply a light, side dressing of 5-10-5 fertilizer every two weeks, and water thoroughly to encourage bright-colored foliage.

Pinch back annuals when 4 to 6 inches high to promote bushy growth. Some that require pinching are zinnias, petunias, and salvia.

Impatiens are the most satisfactory annual for use in shady areas. Begonias, coleus, ageratum, salvia, and Vinca prefer light shade (5 to 6 hours of sunlight).

To grow annuals in pots on the patio, use a light-weight soil mixture. Keep the plants well watered, as container-grown plants dry out fast. Apply water soluble fertilizer according to package directions every two weeks.

The Peace rose cultivar is the flower-of-choice for special Peace Gardens being built around the world. Introduced in the United States 50 years ago after being smuggled out of France in a brief case,

this rose stood as a symbol of hope and has become one of the world's most favorite roses.

Watch for and control black spot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.

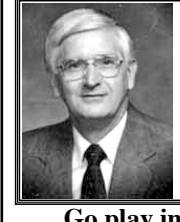
Lacebugs feed on azaleas, pyracantha and other woody plants, causing a gray, blached or stippled appearance on the upper surface of the leaves. Take steps to control them as soon as you notice the damage.

Mid- to late-June is an excellent time to take softwood cuttings of shrubs to start new plants. Some shrubs propagated in this manner are spirea, boxwood and azalea.

The use of milky spore disease (*Bacillus popilliae*) for Japanese beetle control is most effective in neighborhoods where most residents use it. Otherwise, Japanese beetle larvae hatching in other yards will reinfest your property.

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

Go play in the yard

It has been a mighty long time since I have heard a mother say, "You younguns go play in the yard." I hear mothers say, "Go to your room and study, watch TV, listen to music or play electronic games," but I never hear anyone say, "go play in the yard". "The yard" has been replaced with "your room." The yard used to be "the place." We really don't have yards anymore; we have lawns and gardens. Many of you will remember yards. Here in the mountains we had a plot of land around the house that was called a yard. Now most yards did not have grass. In fact, it was as smooth and hard as a concrete patio. The yard was the place for activities of all kinds. You swept the yard with a broom and kept all loose dirt off the yard. All games where you "threw it", "batted it", "bounced it", "pitched it", "kicked it" or "shot it" took place in the yard. Thus, all ball games, marble games, horseshoes, wrestling matches and boxing matches took place in the yard. The yard was the place where you drew off squares (blocks) and played hopscotch and jumped rope. The yard was a social place where "younguns" learned how to court. Mom and dad were usually inside watching from the window while listening to the radio, or sitting in the swing on the front porch. We no longer are "outsiders". We have become "insiders."

Boys and girls play nearly all their games indoors under roofs. They are in the arcades and game rooms in the malls. We have put roofs over our football and baseball fields. We have enclosed stadiums and gyms and have frozen ponds indoors where folks skate and play games. We have brought the outdoors indoors. As a result groups of neighbor children playing in the yard are no longer part of our landscape. It is rare to drive through a neighborhood and see a gang of kids playing a good ole-fashioned game of any kind. The only thing the yard is popular for anymore is "Yard sales." When you go out driving early on Saturday morning I would urge extreme caution. Those yard sale lookers may stop without warning, show up in your lane of traffic (they work both sides of the road from the middle) or sometimes they may jump out of their car and dart across the road in front of you. These people are very serious and very committed to getting ahead of the rest of the crowd. If you really want to have some activity in your yard, just advertise a yard sale. You don't hear too much about the barnyard or junkyard anymore but yard sales have captured the day. Most of the preachers I know wish folks would get up and out on Sunday morning like yard sale seekers do on Saturday morning. Our churches have a lot of treasures to offer on Sunday morning. You may find the "Pearl of great price" and the deed to your very own mansion in glory. If you are looking for old things, you won't be disappointed because we always tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love. "You younguns need to go play in the yard."



Community Calendar

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 Hiawassee at 2 p.m.
Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.
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 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.
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 Unicorn 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.
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 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org
Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. 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, mtnregartsandcraftsguild.org.
VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m., \$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 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.
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 Tyng - 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 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.
Chatuge 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.
Old Fashioned Square Dance Lessons each Mon. in Hiawassee, GA, 6 p.m. at the Senior Center (2 blocks south of the town square, beside the Courthouse) Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060
Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club meets 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.
Mended Hearts Support Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month at Chatuge Regional Hospital Cafeteria from 5:30-7 PM. For information contact 706-994-6988.
We do Family Oral History of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded ad would like to do so, Please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.

Towns County Herald
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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