

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

**Thank you**  
I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to each person who prayed, called, came by to visit, or sent cards, flowers or food during my recent illness. Your actions will always be remembered. May God richly bless each of you.  
*Sincere thanks,*  
**Mayor Barbara Mathis**

**Extension Tips**



by **Robert Brewer**


**Fall tips**  
Fall is the time to control certain broadleaf weeds in the lawn including chickweed, white clover, dandelion, wild onion, plantain, poa annual and cudweed.  
Old fallen leaves contain the disease inoculum for next year's plant infections. If you have disease-infected plants, prune out infected branches in the late fall and winter when the disease-causing organism is inactive. Remove any infected debris from around the plant's base and dispose of it.  
When selecting trees for fall color, keep in mind that color is more strongly influenced by genes in the plant than by the environment. Trees selected in the fall when they are in full color can be expected to produce the same colors in future years. Red Maple cultivars that display outstanding colors include 'Red Sunset', 'October Glory', and 'Autumn Flame'.  
Transplant shrubs and trees safely, the professional way, by wrapping the root ball in a large piece of natural-fiber burlap. Secure the wrapping with 4-inch nails. Then move the balled and burlapped plant to its new location. Be sure to remove the wrapping from the root ball.  
The particular shade of orange, red, or purple fall color that is developed by the pigment anthocyanin in leaves is related to the acid or alkaline condition of the sap of the plant. If the sap is acidic, the color will be orange or red. With neutral sap, the pigment turns light purple. When the sap is alkaline, a dark purple or blue color is evident.  
Conifers that have poor color or weak growth may respond to fertilizer applied between mid-October and mid-March.  
It is too late this year to prune roses because they would become subject to winter injury.

However, the rose garden should be raked and cleaned to prevent black spot and other diseases. Additional mulch should be added.  
Pick bagworms from evergreen shrubs. This will eliminate the spring hatch from overwintered eggs.  
Small imperfections, such as nicks and loose skin, should not affect the quality of most bulbs. Store bulbs in a cool area (below 50F) if unable to plant immediately.  
According to Ohio State researchers, cold water can destroy the ability of root cells to take in water and nutrients. Water below 50F was found to reduce leaf size, cause leaf drop, and eventually contribute to the death of potted plants. Those requiring frequent watering, such as spathiphyllum and ficus, are especially prone to damage and should not be watered with water below 65F. Other tests show that warmer water (about 90F) actually stimulates growth.  
Ferns can be planted or transplanted in the fall.  
Be sure to clean up from around your perennial flowers, such as rose and peony. If left on the ground, leaves and stems can harbor diseases and provide convenient places for pests to spend the winter.  
Move and divide crowded perennials. Arrange for swaps with friends and neighbors.  
A variegated variety of Vinca minor with its evergreen foliage will provide colorful greenery in window boxes during the winter.  
Cut down stems and foliage of herbaceous perennials when the leaves begin to brown.  
Bring in cannas, dahlias, and gladioli, if not hardy in your area, after the tops are browned by frost. Allow to dry, clean off soil, and store in peat moss or vermiculite in a cool location free from frost.  
A lily bulb is never dormant; it must be planted as soon as it is received. Have beds prepared ahead of time.  
As you clean out the flower beds, mark the spots where the late starting perennials will come up next spring to avoid damaging them while working in the beds.

## The Middle Path

by **Don Perry**

Driving the old Golden Isles Parkway from Brunswick to McRae this weekend was a window into the depressed economy of rural Georgia. We saw more businesses closed than on the same trip this time last year; more windows shuttered, more for-sale signs and more properties simply abandoned. Billboards could be seen rotting on the side of the highway with the ghosts of ten year old advertisements fading in the hot South Georgia sun. Near Darien, Georgia we saw a very telling sign of the times: a thrift store in an outlet mall. The mall itself is under foreclosure with a third of the shops empty.  
This weekend also brought the kind of hard news that comes infrequently these days, when events that can be sensationalized are few and celebrities have provided no new debaucheries for us to feed upon. The Associated Press reported a statistic that many have known personally – almost one in seven Americans now live in poverty.  
We have reported these numbers for several years but there is little gratification in finding them now beginning to surface in the tidal pools of mainstream media. The income gap between the top 1% and the rest of us has not been this wide since the 1920's. The combined wealth of half of all Americans equals 2.5% of the whole. Half of the United States owns only .5% of all stocks and bonds. In 1972 the average hourly wage (in 2008 dollars) was \$20.08. In 2008 it was \$18.52.  
Now if you're new to this column and still distracted by partisan politics, skip over this next part because no matter what the numbers say you will not want to believe them: There is a positive correlation between the growth in the income gap and the Reagan and Bush tax cuts. In 1962 the richest 1% of Americans averaged 125 times the income of the median household. During the Reagan tax cuts the gap grew to 156X by 1989. Under Bush it grew to 190X by 2004. Don't start writing that angry Republican rebuttal just yet because hopefully I am about to offend some Democrats as well. I don't see anything wrong with tax cuts. In fact I think they should be lowered across the board for rich, poor, middle class, big and small businesses alike.  
The point I'm trying to make is that the stated goal of these tax cuts, to stimulate the economy, was never accomplished. The reason the tax cuts failed is that the government, instead of shrinking in proportion to size of the tax cuts, grew by multiples of that loss of revenue. Many were concerned about the growth of the deficit under Reagan but Obama Bush came to town, but Obama is on track to make Bush look like a champion of austerity. The bottom line is this – the bigger the government, the more resources are taken out of the more productive private sector and the slower the economic growth. We now have a bigger government than at any time in the history of the United States, and it continues to grow at a record pace under Obama.  
Much political hay will be made over the new poverty statistics. Few will stop to realize that they are simply the latest chapter in a story written by Republican and Democratic congresses; Democratic and Republican presidents alike. Empire and big government are the ultimate pyramid schemes and thus the top 1% have prospered while the rest of us load bearing bricks have sunk lower. The storyline will continue for as long as we are distracted by the illusion of political party.



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

**What's that Name?**  
Sometime ago I read an interesting article in Handy Magazine about WD-40. It outlined the process that a three member staff of the Rocket Chemical Company pursued to formulate a rust-prevention solvent and degreaser for the aerospace industry. Today, WD-40 is a worldwide product with a wide range of applications. In fact, most households would panic without a can of WD-40 and a roll of duct tape. The fascinating thing about the story was how it became known as WD-40. The WD stands for water displacement and the 40 stands for the number of attempts before the formula was right. Thus, the name Water Displacement perfected on the 40th try (WD-40). It could have been WD-20, WD-41, or another name according to the number of tries. That made me wonder where a lot of churches got (get) their names.  
Of course, a lot of names come directly from the Bible. For example, Bethel, Shiloh, Ebenezer and Canaan. Other churches derive their names from their geographical locations or from rivers or mountains. For example, Big River, Little River, West Branch, East Ridge, etc. Sometimes if churches resulted from a split, some of them would take the name Unity or Harmony.  
There seems to be no specific guideline for naming churches. Baptists have some great names for churches. Growing up in Fannin County, we had the Hothouse Baptist Church; I believe it was the first air-conditioned church in the county. A good friend pastors the Hanging Dog Baptist Church near Murphy, NC. The church was named after Hanging Dog Creek, but no

one seems to know how the creek got its name. I served the Alapaha Baptist Church in Alapaha, GA. Just a few miles from the Alapaha Baptist Church was the Enigma Baptist Church. Enigma means a puzzle, mystery or riddle. Then there is the Two-Mile Baptist Church. I don't know if that means they are two miles from any known sin or if they go the second mile.  
I have been by the Pee Dee Baptist Church in Clinch SC. As well as the Dug Gap Baptist Church in Dalton, GA. The Southern Baptist Convention Annual list these churches: Coal Fire Baptist in Reform, AL; Aimwell Baptist, Sweetwater, AL; Muddy First Baptist in Muddy, Illinois; Heavenbound Baptist in Kentucky; Disney First Baptist in Oklahoma; Big Lick Baptist in NC; Flintstone Baptist in GA; Cash Baptist in Mississippi; Occupy I Baptist in LA; Knob Noster Baptist in MO. And then there is Bugtussle Baptist in Oklahoma. I would like to know where that name originated. Over the years I have visited some Baptist churches that if named properly would have names like the "Unfriendly Baptist Church", "Only Kin Folk Baptist Church", "Don't Care What the Bible Says Baptist Church", the "Applause Baptist Church", the "Non-Appraise Baptist" and the "We've Never Done It That Way Baptist Church." Most churches do a wonderful job in representing Christ. The most important part of the name is "Church."  
Every member in every church needs to remember that Christ is the Head of the Church. As followers and Disciples of Christ we are called Christians who are to reflect the attributes of Christ. In this mixed up, dark, sinful and corrupting world, each church and each church member needs to be light and salt. No matter your church's name. Make sure that you demonstrate the love, mercy and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



**RARE KIDS; WELL DONE**  
**By Don Jacobsen**

**Q:** Dr. Don, we give our daughter (she's 8) a good allowance every Saturday, but by midway through the week, it's usually gone. When she wants more should we give her an advance on next week's allowance?  
**A:** No. An allowance is primarily to help kids learn how to manage money. Whether your definition of "a good allowance" is adequate for what you expect her to pay for is an issue you need to carefully consider. But whatever amount she gets, few things will help her learn how to manage it better than being broke. She will discover soon enough that in the real world, when it's gone, it's gone. If she can learn that at eight, she has a running start on some principles that will serve her well when she's

eighteen. And twenty-eight. And by the way, she's not too young to begin to understand the principle of the budget: save ten percent, give away ten percent, budget the rest.  
We were late in beginning to help our oldest son learn these basic money management skills. Now, as an adult, it seems that he is constantly struggling to keep his income and his outgo on speaking terms...like often there is quite a bit of month left over at the end of the money. Our youngest learned it early and makes it work. I encourage you to be intentional about helping your kids learn to save, give, and spend wisely. Eight is a great age to get that on the agenda.  
Send your parenting questions to: [DrDon@rarekids.net](mailto:DrDon@rarekids.net).

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Deadline for the T.C. Herald is Monday by noon




"You'll have to excuse all the mud... Harry insists on watching those campaign commercials!"

**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@windstream.net](mailto:tcherald@windstream.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.*

## Community Calendar

**Towns County Water Board Meeting** 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.  
**Towns County 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 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Daniels Steak House. Dinner at 6 p.m., 706-896-7281.  
**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 Unicoy 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 p.m. 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](http://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, [mtntregartsandcraftsguild@hotmail.com](mailto:mtntregartsandcraftsguild@hotmail.com).  
**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 Tying - 7 p.m. General

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

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