

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Inspiration Times Nine

Requested by community leaders as a follow up on FEB 18th Iwo Jima Memorial event was all it took to pen this. Just like the last eight years, this year's event was more inspiring than previous. Scuttlebutt throughout our tri-county mountain community has it that it was "fantastic" and those who missed it now wished they'd attended. Now just as seventy-four years ago, with our Marine flag raising on Suribachi, an acutely needed sometimes overlooked inspiration was sorely needed for our war effort. I won't go into tactics or strategy here, as we all SHOULD know that history by now. However the psychological effect of this costly victory provided by all those heroes provided that little extra boost for every American and our armed forces to complete the task of defeating a horrible ideology, hell bent upon destroying civilization.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



It worked as our "island hopping" strategy, even with losses lead the way to defeating the fascist Japanese. Who, today, once again thanks to Americans of our WWII generation are amongst our wonderful allies.

The fully integrated inspirational tone for our ninth Iwo Jima memorial event was set Monday by a wonderful young lady, Summer Rahn who stepped up and with her amazingly beautiful voice sang our National Anthem as the conclusion of Posting of the Colors. Richard Hoibraten then gave us our opening prayer.

From that point forward there was so much positive energy from every corner of the packed assembly. Our WWII Veterans, as usual had their special seating assignments and were thrilled to be honored along side several of our Iwo Jima survivors. Prior to and still planning this year's event Todd Kimsey's wife, Hellen insisted upon donating a cash contribution uttering something like "You guys aren't doing this without our help!" This spirit of unity and Americanism was exhibited here, during and after this Memorial service. And of course, as always the leadership of Bud Johnson was imperative to make this happen. One anonymous lady (I think I know her!) donated \$200 out of her purse, who right at the door to our American Legion/VFW ladies who were greeters and offering patriotic bracelets and poppies. This type of Americanism and spirit of unity is what makes America great! Jim McKeral, USMC (ret) and Lt. Col. Raul "Art" Sifuentes, USMC (ret), Iwo Jima Association of America topped off this year's event with rousing speeches rarely heard, much needed throughout America.

Kudos to the many who volunteered their time and money for this wonderful Memorial Service for each and every Veteran who ever served our United States of America. Never Forget!

Including every VSO from the tri-county area, including our American Legion family, Post #23, Auxiliary, Riders and SAL. Our VFW post #7807 and Auxiliary. USMC League Unicoi Det. #783. All visiting Veterans and associations from Union County, North Georgia and North Carolina. God bless our community leaders, Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw, county employees and Liz Ordiales, Mayor of Hiwassee, who without their never yielding support for Veterans and our mountain community these much needed events simply couldn't happen.

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

Lost Faith

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to say how very displeased we've become with your paper and that we will no longer be readers. It is sad and honestly quite scary to see how misleading your paper has become. It began with reaching concern over your murky take on the Hiwassee tax increases that was portrayed by your "news" as not an increase at all. It continued on and most recent with silly excuses for their fast pitched ordinances that out of which would come anything but good. People are much wiser than you may believe. Believe me when I say we are not alone in our view as it is a topic of discussion we encounter often. I can see why it was necessary to raise the cost of your paper as others too have surely lost faith.

Ken and Carolyn White

Before I Formed You In The Belly

Dear Editor,

Abraham Lincoln said: "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." He asked the question: "How many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg?" Four, calling a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg."

Adding all American war casualties since the founding of our country and, compare the number to deaths occurring in a mother's womb since the passage of Roe v. Wade and they pale in comparison. To the abortionist this new life is called a Fetus. Does that make it less human? How many potential Henry Fords, Thomas Edison's, or Steve Jobs have befallen this fate? How many cures for cancer or inventors of polio vaccine have died before working the first day in the lab?

America is traveling down a road of destruction today and we're destroying ourselves. We're so blinded by prosperity we call a Baby a Fetus and now have laws passed in New York that make it legal to murder the innocent after it's born. Murder is now a legal form of birth control.

To the government of New York, and America, how long until a Sodom and Gomorrah judgment befalls our once great country?

Ed Huber

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Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM • 706-896-4454

Plan for the Great Escape!

The two main wildfire seasons here in the North Georgia mountains are November and March-April. In November the weather is typically dry with leaves falling creating fuel. Adding to the danger, many of our residents flee back to warmer parts in the fall so their homes are left unattended and unprotected. March & April are the end of Winter when the plants have not grown, the fall leaves are still piled up on the unprotected homes, and the spring winds are blowing all of which makes for a volatile fuel mixture just waiting for a small spark to start a wildfire in your backyard or worse down the slope coming up to your house. Do you know that fire moves up slope 16 times faster than on a flat surface? Imagine what it would be like trying to get out of the way of an out-of-control wildfire racing up slope towards your house! The local Firewise Citizens Coalition and the County Fire Rescue want to make sure you know what to do in the event of a wildfire. Do you have an early warning system to alert you of a fire in your home? If your smoke alarm goes off do you know what to do? What if you have a fire in your home? Will you have time to get out? You should have a working smoke detector, a minimum of one on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms. This will give you the time you need to get out. Remember to change your smoke detector batteries twice a year. A good rule of thumb is to change your batteries when you change your clocks, for daylight savings time.

Have a home escape plan: Know two ways out of every bedroom. Have an escape ladder for bedrooms on the second floor. Plan a special meeting place for family members outside your home; mail box or a large tree. Never go back inside a burning building. Once you're out stay out! Call the fire department from a neighbor's house or cell phone, never call from inside your home; the time it takes for you to call may be the time you need to get out. Know your address to ensure emergency responders can find your home quickly. Make sure address numbers are visible for emergency responders to find your house. Have a family fire drill and practice an escape plan. This will help your family in the event a fire starts in or around your home.

The Firewise Citizens Coalition works hard to make your community safer from a wildfire by encouraging all residents to reduce the fuel around their homes and by educating them about the risks where they live and the measures they can take to reduce those risks. There are now 21 official Firewise Communities in Towns County out of the total of 93 in all of Georgia. Soon after the Firewise program started in Towns in 2009 there were 3 Firewise communities in the county, but things changed in 2013 when the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council received a Fire Adapted Communities grant to develop a pilot project here and since have added 18 communities for a total of 21 recognized Firewise USA communities with more to come. During this time wildfire calls have dropped by 75%. Coincidence? I don't think so! Residents of these 21 communities have taken actions to reduce the fuel around their homes and are recognized for their efforts by NFPA's Firewise USA program, but most important residents can rest knowing that their homes are safer from wildfires like we had in the Fall of 2016. During that extreme dry spell a wildfire nearby burned 28,000 acres of National Forest land. Towns County only had 1 wildfire during that time which is a credit to our citizens for their efforts to reduce risk.

Members of the Firewise Coalition are available to talk to any group of homeowners who want to join this Firewise USA group and help keep their homes safer from a out of control wildfire. It doesn't have to be a big fire either, a fire in a small leaf pile with a puff of wind can escape and consume your house. Those huge fires in California started small from a match or spark and it can happen here. Firewise USA is free, easy, and the right thing to do for our county, our community, our homes and even our family's lives!

For additional fire prevention information please contact: Towns County Fire Rescue at 706-896-2090 or Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council at 706-894-1591; or visit our website at www.appcofac.org or www.firewise.org.

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, Hiwassee, GA 30546. Our email address: 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.

RC&D
Frank Riley
 Executive Director



Green in Winter

Most of the landscape around is brown and has been for months now. Some weeds have been coming up since the fall that make the ground dotted with green. Let's talk about these weeds and how to identify them. We'll also discuss different ways to control them.

Henbit, common chickweed, and speedwell are all annual weeds. The issue with winter weeds is that they can slow down the growth of desirable plants in the spring. The winter weeds are bigger and stronger than other low growing plants early in the spring. This size advantage means they shade desirable plants around them and use the nutrients that are in the soil. This can lead to difficulties with summer weeds, because the winter annuals reduce the competitiveness of your desirable plants.

Henbit is a weed that is in the mint family, Lamiaceae. You can easily tell the mint family because the plants have opposite leaves and a four-sided stem. If you roll the stem between your fingers, you can feel the ridges on each side. The leaves for henbit attach directly to the stem. It has small pinkish-purple flowers at the top of the plant that are in a tube shape.

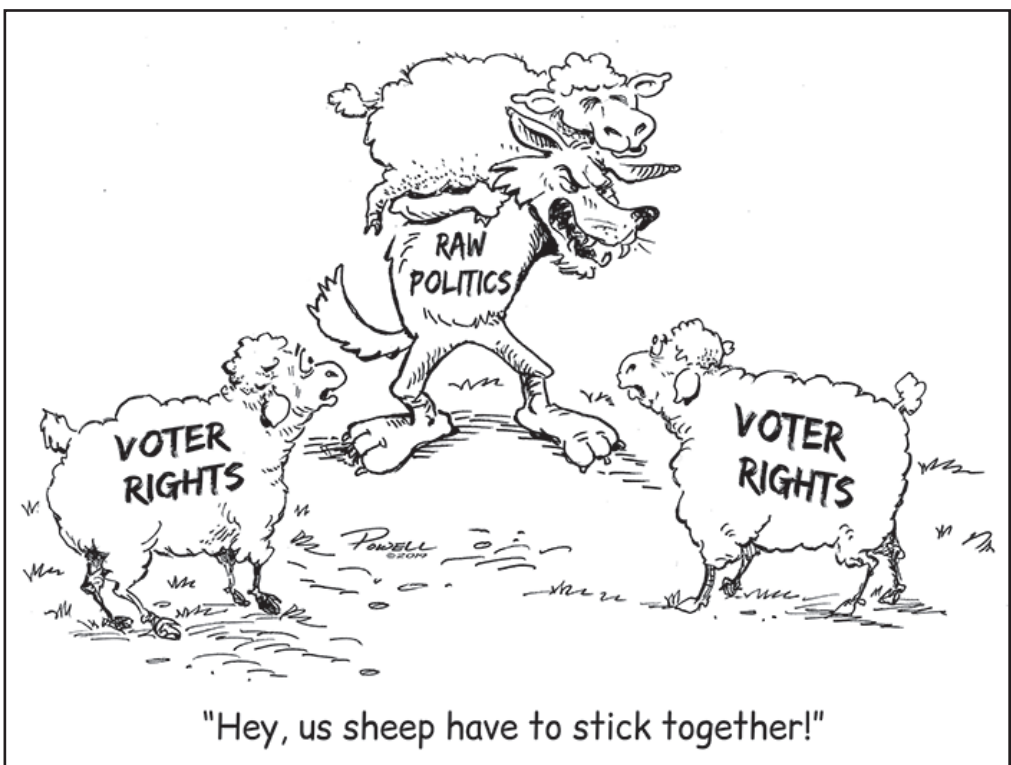
Common chickweed is another plant that has opposite leaves. Chickweed has small white flowers and is in the Caryophyllaceae family, commonly called the carnation family. It usually grows about 3-6 inches tall. The seeds from chickweed can remain viable for up to 10 years. There are a couple of different species of chickweed out there. Mouseear chickweed has hairy leaves and stems.

Speedwell is a plant that has very small purple flowers. It grows in patches up to one foot in size. The upper leaves on speedwell are narrow, while the lower leaves are more rounded. It is in the Scrophulariaceae family, which is also the family that has weedy plantains. There are several different species of speedwell, but they all have the same general characteristics.

When controlling weeds it's best to start by looking at your site. Knowing the pH and nutrients that are in your soil by taking a soil test through your local extension office is a good place to start. Then think about the drainage of your site. Sloped sites will drain more quickly. Does the soil need mulch to maintain soil moisture and add organic matter? If your site is in good condition and properly cared for and you are still having weed issues, then it might be time to start thinking about using an herbicide to control weeds.

It's best to control Annual weeds in October with a pre-emergent herbicide. A pre-emergent herbicide is put down before weeds begin popping up. Post-emergent herbicides are used once the plant is already present and growing. Post-emergent herbicides can be effective if used when problems are noticed early. They become less effective as weeds grow in size. Pre-emergent herbicides containing the active ingredient benfen will be effective on henbit, chickweed, and speedwell. Benfen can be applied on established fescue and zoysiagrass lawns. Post-emergent herbicides containing 2,4-D + MCPP + dicamba can be sprayed on established fescue and zoysiagrass lawns as well. Whenever you apply an herbicide, make sure to read and follow the label before making the application.

If you have questions about winter weeds and how to control them contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.



Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Bridge Players	Every Thursday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Movers & Shakers	Every Friday: Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
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Alzheimer's Supp.	First Tuesday of each month: McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	6 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
Quilting Bee	First Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge	First Thursday of each month: Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Red Cross DAT	Fourth Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Fourth Tuesday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Hiaw. Writers	Fourth Thursday: Hiaw. Pk. Comm. Rm.	10:30
Hiaw. Garden Club	Clubhouse	12:45 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Last Thursday of each month: Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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Towns County Herald

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