

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor,
In its advertising, Blue Ridge Mountain E.M.C. joins the chorus of utilities and other corporations in declaring the conservation of scarce resources as a high priority. "Save Energy. Earn Cash. Case Closed," reads the blurb topping a recent BRMEMC advertisement.

But wait, there's this pesky announcement of rate hikes effective July 1 that are business-as-usual in that those homeowner-members who actually use less electricity will be hit with higher per-kilowatt-hour (kwh) charges than those using more. That's the way it has always been in the U.S. It's called quantity discounting.

Economics 101: If the goal is really to reduce power consumption, and thus conserve natural resources, then that pricing scheme should be reversed. Those members who use less electricity should be rewarded by being charged less per kwh than those who do not.

Sure, sure, I know, the "up to \$500 in energy efficiency rebates" the ad offers to those homeowners who sign up for a "home energy evaluation" is based on the economic principle of rewards for desired behavioral change.

But that's just cheap frosting on a dubious cake, as few homeowners likely are fully eligible and/or can or will make the sizeable investments necessary to qualify for the full \$500. It looks like a dog-and-pony-show to me. Rewarding people for actually using less electric power, day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year --- rather than rewarding those who don't --- now that's real cake for all of us, and the environment, too. No frosting needed.

Delmar R. Yoder

To the editor:

All Republican candidates running for governor are promising jobs. Other candidates spew talking points, but only Nathan Deal has presented a comprehensive plan that would give Georgia a competitive edge over other states in attracting new industry to the state and keeping the jobs we already have. Deal's "Real Prosperity" plan would reduce Georgia's tax burden from 29th to 16th in the nation, according to a Tax Foundation analysis. He'll lower taxes for job creators and for Georgia families.

Nathan Deal was the first Republican candidate to announce that he would implement an Arizona-type law in Georgia so that we can enforce our borders where Washington has failed. He's been a national leader on immigration reform and he'll bring that experience to the state level.

Ranked as one of the 10 most conservative members of the U.S. House, Nathan is committed to creating jobs, cutting waste, and ensuring a better future for Georgia's families. He's spent his life serving Georgians in the U.S. Army, as a prosecutor, state senator and congressman. He's the man with the experience we need during these tough times.

Michael Barrett

To the Editor,

Republican Doug McGinnitie is my candidate to be Georgia's next Secretary of State. If we're going to get our state going back in the right direction, we're going to need some new leaders. Doug is passionate about making sure that our overseas military men and women have an easier time voting by making sure they have better ballot access. Doug McGinnitie has shown leadership on this issue by launching the website www.HelpHerosVote.com. He has already formed a committee that includes some top ranking military officials and technology minds so Georgia can finally improve voting conditions for our most honorable citizens; our military personnel.

Doug has an impressive track record of leadership in both the non-profit and business community. He's been an entrepreneur and executive. He co-founded a company here in Georgia that today is a national organization with over 500 employees. He's also run an international non-profit that raises AIDS awareness among African youths. We need more of that kind of real-world experience in our elected officials.

Doug McGinnitie is a good conservative Republican who got his start in the Reagan White House. He is not a career politician. He has a strong business background that will bring fiscal responsibility back to Georgia's leadership. For these reasons and more, I will cast my vote in the Republican Primary for Doug McGinnitie, and I encourage my Towns County neighbors to do the same. We need a good conservative like him in office.

Esther Fullerton

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

From time to time I visit friends still living tucked away in our vanishing mountain coves, people trying to hang on to values and traditions sorely needed in our troubled times. This weekend I made one of those visits, and we sat out on the front porch surrounded by ancient oak and giant poplar trees, enjoying the cool breeze filtering through the mountain laurel and working hard to see who could spit a watermelon seed the farthest. I lost the contest but gained a fine afternoon and another window into our changing times. I'll let the conversation speak for itself. My friend's name isn't "Tom," of course, but we'll call him that to protect the privacy he values so much.

"Don you're starting to get more salt than pepper in that beard of yours," Tom said.

"It's not salt; it's thyme," I countered, but Tom shot right back with "Well, time is a good teacher. Too bad it kills all its pupils."

When the laughter died down I asked my friend how he had been faring. His face clouded for a moment and he said, "To tell you the truth, Don, we've had a little problem lately with the 'neighbors.'"

"Tom I thought you wouldn't be troubled by neighbors all the way up here," I said.

"Well that's what we thought too, but times have changed since I was a young man. Some folks have moved in who think that this is all a national park and they can just come and go as they please. When we were growing up, nobody had any posted signs, but everybody knew where their own land stopped and the neighbors' started --- and people respected that. If you wanted to hunt on your neighbor's land that was all right as long as you asked, but folks didn't need to trespass 'cause they had everything they wanted on their own place."

"Don I hate to tell it. It makes me so mad I know I've got to repent over it but there's some things you just can't hardly live and stand it." Tom stood up and walked over to the edge of the porch and lingered there for a moment looking up at the mountain that has been in his family since the Cherokee lived here. After a few moments he heaved a big sigh and sat back down. "Don you've been down to my bee yard and you know how snaky it gets down there. I usually take my old shotgun with me when I'm down there in hot weather 'cause chances are I'll see a copperhead. Well the other day I heard a swarm of bees rise up and I went down to look. I propped the gun against a tree and leaned back and watched that swarm to see if they might settle somewhere close enough to catch 'em."

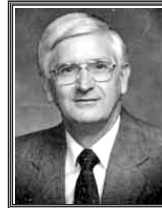
"Now down the road a ways we put up that sign that says 'private' back when we had all those real estate folks coming and going like everything that there was, was for sale. The wife came home one day and a bunch of

them had pulled up in the yard and got out and were tromping around in her herb garden. She says to them, 'Who are you folks' and real short like they say, 'We're here to look at this property. We might just decide to buy it.' Of course that property ain't for sale and it never will be. Well you know how Cindy can be when she gets her dander up and those folks didn't stay too long after she turned the dogs loose."

"Anyway Don, you know the road dead ends at our place but we had so many people riding the roads back then, we just left that sign up. It seemed to slow down the land lookers some so we put up another one. The good neighbors knew it didn't mean them, and in time with those private signs, but probably more the bad economy, it got quiet down our road again. That was until the other day when I'm standing down in the bee yard day dreaming about sourwood honey and up the road comes this sawed off runt on one of those four-wheelers. He slowed down at the first sign and looked and then just shot right past the second one. Well it kind of ticked me off so I just stood there and didn't say a thing. This fool sees me standing there looking at him and so he stops his contraption in the middle of my road and says, 'You got a problem?'"

"Now think about that Don. Some fool comes whiffing up on a strange road, stops right there on my property and asks me if I've got a problem! Well I just kept on looking at him so he says all loud and smart-alecky, 'I asked you if you got a problem!' Then he sits there all puffed up like a Banty Rooster and juts his chin out at me. Well mister I didn't say a word. Real slow like I picked up that 12 gauge from behind the tree and as God is my witness I didn't point it at him but I sure felt like it. Well buddy when he sees that shotgun he turns white as a sheet and then he revs that buggy up and down the road he goes, cussin' me and 'my kind' before he's even out of buckshot range."

Tom was quiet for a moment. Somewhere far overhead a jet plane came within hearing. Tom looked up and shook his head. "Don, I feel sorry for some of these folks from the city. Maybe they have to push and shout and swell up like a turkey gobbler to get by. Maybe that's just the way it is in places where there's more folks than there is elbow room. You'd think they would learn, though. If you're going to move into a place where there's been people and traditions for hundreds of years, seems like you'd want to learn about those ways and try to fit in. Then again, maybe there's so many folks crammed onto God's green earth now that the pushers and shovers outnumber us old timers. If that's so I guess I'll have to put me a gate across my road like those high dollar subdivisions they build where the farms used to be."



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

Digging pits or building bridges

A man talking with his neighbor across the fence said, "Very soon my family and I will be living in a better neighborhood." "So will we," his neighbor said. "Oh, are you moving?" "No," the neighbor replied, "We're staying." Is your neighborhood, city, county and state better or worse because of your presence? As Christians we are under a divine mandate to be salt and light in a dark world. True, we are here for only a short season, but while here we are full-fledged citizens of two countries: This one that is passing away and the new one coming. Our real citizenship is in heaven. We are just pilgrims and strangers who are in the world but not of the world. While citizens here on earth we are to use our influence to impact this world for good and not for evil. Our real concern should be what kind of world will we create and leave for those coming after us. Some Christians are Isolationists. They withdraw and have no relation with anyone except Christians. They refuse to be involved in any decision making processes. Jesus' prayer in John 17:15 reads, "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but thou shouldst keep them from the evil (one)." Other Christians are users of the world system but make no waves, nor try to improve or change it. They just go with the flow. Still others (like Abraham, who prayed for Sodom at a distance) faithfully intercede to God for their world. Only in Jesus do we find the perfect example to follow

as a citizen of two worlds. HE not only wept over the city of Jerusalem but He went everywhere preaching, teaching and ministering to the lives of individuals love, mercy and grace and condemning the hypocritical practices of those who took advantage of the poor and weak of society. May the following poem speak to us:

The Bridge Builder

"An old man going a lone highway, Came at evening, cold and gray, To a chasm vast and deep and wide, The old man crossed in the twilight dim; The sullen stream had no fear for him; But he turned when safe on the other side, And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old Man," said a fellow pilgrim near, "You are wasting your strength with your building here; Your journey will end with the ending day, You never again will pass this way. You've crossed the chasm deep and wide, Why build you this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head, "Good Friend, in the path I have come," he said, "There followeth after me today, A youth whose feet must pass this way. This chasm that has been as naught to me. To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be. He, too, must cross in the twilight dim, Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

Will Allen Dromgoole

On July 20, 2010 we have the opportunity to impact our city, county, and state by voting for persons and principles that we believe will build bridges rather than dig pits for those coming after us. For God's sake don't vote to provide liquor for that fair-haired youth coming after you. "Young people set their watches, for right time or wrong, by the watches of their elders." Anonymous



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 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 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, mtntregartsguild.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 Tying - 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.
Chattage 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 Chattage 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.

Have something to sell?
Let the Herald work for you!
Contact us at 706-896-4454
Deadline for the T.C. Herald is Monday by noon

Towns County Herald
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DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS COPY & ADVERTISING Monday at 12 Noon

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
TOWNS COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$15
OUT OF COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$25
The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All subscriptions must be paid in advance.

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. 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.