

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY  
**OPINIONS & COMMENTARY**

**Letters to The Editor**

**Lost Camera**

On Tuesday, July 21, several members of my family and I attended the Georgia Mountain Fair in Hiawassee. We had a delightful afternoon enjoying the vendors, exhibits, rides, and other entertainment. Unfortunately our visit was marred by my loss of my camera while at the fair.

The lost camera was in a black cloth camera bag with a shoulder strap. The camera is a Canon Power Shot digital camera. The memory card in the camera has numerous family photo shots which have not been printed or saved and, therefore, cannot be retrieved. These photos include shots from my granddaughter's wedding and our family vacation. These are a huge loss to us personally.

If you found the camera or know someone else that did, I would be most grateful if you would contact me. My e-mail address is mawatson@bellsouth.net, and my phone number is 478-272-8625. My postal address is M.S. Watson, 727 Flanders Lane, Dublin, GA 31021. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely  
 Mary Alice Watson

**TALK of the TOWN**

with *Tonisha Shook*



**This weeks question is... What do you miss the most about being in school?**



**Name:** Belinda Mathis  
 Hiawassee, GA  
 "I miss my friends and the teachers."



**Name:** James Arrant  
 Blairsville, GA  
 "I miss going to the sporting events, especially football. I still go to the games now, but it was more fun when I was in school."



**Name:** Jim Elliot  
 Hiawassee, GA  
 "I don't miss anything but football."



**Name:** Colleen Corbin  
 Hiawassee, GA  
 "I miss having the freedom and the opportunity to pursue my dreams."



**Name:** Debbie Johnson  
 Hayesville, GA  
 "I miss having fun with all of my friends and just being young."

**Questions and Answers**

from the desk of  
**Commissioner Bill Kendall**



**State funding cuts for daycare.**

Daycare - We received notice of funding cuts by the State eliminating supplemental funding for Towns County Daycare. I had to make an unpleasant decision this past week of either passing these cuts on to the Towns County property taxpayers or to implement one day per month unpaid furloughs for the Daycare workers and increase the fees by \$10 per week for each child enrolled.

With no good option to solve this budgetary problem, I made the unpleasant decision to furlough the Daycare workers and increase the fees. Our Daycare program is an important part of our economy and is imperative to working moms. We will continue to closely monitor our spending and operate the Daycare as conservatively as possible. The \$10 weekly fee increase brings the total to \$85 per week per child (reduced for additional enrolled siblings), and is still the lowest fee of all Daycare Centers in the surrounding counties. I want to commend our Daycare employees as being very dedicated and for carrying out their duties in a professional manner. Parents, your child is left in good hands while you are at work.

I feel that as a local official elected with taxing powers we should look for every alternative before shifting state funding cuts on to the backs of the local property tax payers, especially in the midst

of this severe recession with decrease of property values, severe job losses, record home foreclosures and many empty commercial rental buildings.

**Notice of 23% health insurance increase for all insured county employees.**

23% Health Care Cost Increase - I received word this week that health insurance cost for Towns County employees would increase 23% beginning in Oct. 2009. This is in addition to a 16% increase last year making a total increase of 39% in a 2 year period. We are on track to seeing Towns County employees health insurance cost increase 100% in 5 years, instead of the TV reports that we keep hearing stating that if Congress does not put into place controls to curb the cost of health insurance, the cost increase will reach 100% over the next 10 years.

I will use every means at my disposal to solve this increase by restructuring a policy to offer the employees a choice of a quality basic health insurance option that will result in no extra cost to them or the taxpayers. However, at some point and quickly, Congress must address and help get a handle on these enormous healthcare cost increases.

It is a time when we must look for alternative funding other than property taxes, tighten our budgetary belts, restrain our spending and not keep reaching deeper into the pockets of the homeowner and property tax payers.

**Filling Up Empty Space**



By David Seckinger

Language is a peculiar thing, especially in the South. All of my life I have said *ya'll*, even though my grade school teachers said *ya'll* was not a real word. However, *ya'll* does seem to be an abbreviation of the phrase *you all*.

Here in the north Georgia mountains, the locals don't say *ya'll*. Instead, they say *you-uns*, which makes me wonder who in the world is *you-uns*? Is the word an abbreviation of *you ones*? Even more peculiar is the locals who have shortened the phrase to *yuns*.

The first time someone up here asked me: "What are *yuns* doing." I had to answer: "Who are you calling a *yuns*?"

And how come they

don't call them *thums* and us *us-ums*?

I can hear it now: "Us-ums are going to the store with thums. Do yums need anything while we-ums are gone?"

Like I said, language is a peculiar thing. Just to be on the safe side, I looked up *you-uns* in the dictionary to see whether or not it was a real word. The dictionary did not have a definition or a pronunciation for the word. All it said was "*See Ya'll*".

**The Towns County Herald wants your letters to the editor**

Submit your letters to [tcherald@brmemc.net](mailto:tcherald@brmemc.net)

**The Middle Path**

by Don Perry

As I was standing in line at a coffee shop the other day, it occurred to me that it would behoove us all to become accustomed to standing in lines; to accept this condition as normal and therefore perhaps to avoid the stress of impatience which results from believing otherwise. This acceptance of "lines" should also include sitting in traffic and being placed on hold on the telephone. America, like so much of the world, is a congested area.

Accepting this fact is challenging for Americans who, like your author, are encouraged to accelerate every aspect of life. My coffee maker produces an entire pot of caffeine in three minutes or less. My remote control fast-forwards and mutes the stuff I don't wish to endure. My computer is as souped-up as the neighbor's kid's car which will go from zero to sixty in about one ticket per month. Yet no matter how fast technology enables human beings to go, to do or to be, we continue to be limited by our very humanness.

The realization in the coffee shop queue was that this seemingly unnecessary wait shared a common denominator with a long sequence of other non-events. Let's see if you can guess what that common theme might be before I tell you. I'll start with an unusually long wait at the drive through window of one of our fine local fast food establishments waiting; you guessed it, for coffee. The manager was very apologetic when he said, "Nobody wanted to show up for work this morning," as he took the orders at one window, prepared the food and then served it at the other end of the building - all by his lonesome.

Fast forward to another unusually long wait in the pickup area of what used to be an American institution - Sears. Having purchased a top of the line Chinese made air conditioner, I was waiting with my receipt for the package to appear while I stood in an uncomfortably hot room with no seating, looking at a monitor which would announce the arrival of my order like an incoming flight at the airport. I'm not sure if the large beads of perspiration were visible through the surveillance camera, but having been instilled by parents and military service with a work

ethic, I halfway expected the first words out of the mouth of the twenty-something who finally rolled my package out the door to be something like, "I'm sorry for the wait, sir," instead of "How ya doin' Sport?"

"Sport indeed," I thought as I pictured this young man with a combat boot on the back of his neck while he did pushups in sand. I revisited this image later in the day when I unpacked the box to find that mice had nested in the packaging, shredding the Styrofoam, the instructions and the warranty documents. I can only imagine the condition of the warehouse, where the signs of rodent infestation would not be unnoticeable to anyone with a minimum of awareness or concern. Let us return briefly to the coffee house queue where the young lady behind the counter moved as if suspended in cold syrup, making the absolute minimum of effort to expedite any orders.

If you guessed "general malaise" as the common denominator in each of these stories, that's close enough for government work. There are certainly many factors contributing to the declining work ethic in America, but chief among them must certainly be a condition that psychologists call "Acquired Helplessness Syndrome." It is very human and very understandable for a customer to become annoyed while waiting. It is also very human for an employee working for a company which has been merged and re-merged, which has studied in minute detail how to downsize, how to reduce benefits and limit salaries in order to appear more profitable to stock holders - to lose interest in giving 100 percent effort for impatient and self centered customers. Marketing campaigners make a lot of noise about "service" as they attempt to evoke images of red carpets and fawning sycophants whose primary mission in life is to sacrifice themselves on the alter to the Great Consumer, but as oligarchy accelerates under Obama, "service" as rendered by millions of Americans is becoming more and more like "servitude." We cannot and should not reasonably expect economic slaves to render their services joyfully, no matter how "lucky they are to have a job in this economy."

**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



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

**"Our kids haven't even started back to school, and already we have homework!"**



**Elected Officials**

- Governor Sonny Perdue, Georgia State Capitol Atlanta, GA 30334, 404-656-1776
- Sen. Johnny Isakson, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-3643
- Sen. Saxby Chambliss, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-3521
- U.S. Congressman Paul Broun, 10th District, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-4101
- Rep. Stephen Allison, Georgia House of Representatives, 404-656-0177 or 0185
- Sen. Jim Butterworth, Georgia State Senate, 404-463-1367
- Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall, 706-896-2276
- Clerk of Superior Court Cecil Dye, 706-896-2130
- Tax Commissioner Bruce Rogers, 706-896-2267
- Magistrate/Probate Judge David Rogers, 706-896-3467
- Sheriff Chris Clinton, 706-896-4444
- Coroner Ricky Mathis, 706-896-6254
- Enotah Circuit District Attorney Stan Gunter, 706-896-6489
- Board of Education: 706-896-2279, Michael Anderson, Donna Hedden, Bob Gibby, Larry Kimsey, Emily Phillips. Superintendent: Dr. Richard Behrens
- Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis, 706-896-2202
- Hiawassee City Council: Janet Allen, Jay Chastain, Joan Crothers, Howard Cunningham, Annie Johnson
- Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, 706-379-3171
- Young Harris City Council: Terry Ingram, John Kelley, Donald Keys, Matthew Miller, Jennifer Mulkey, David Sellers

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

KENNETH WEST.....PUBLISHER  
 CHARLES DUNCAN.....EDITOR, ADVERTISING  
 DAVID SECKINGER.....STAFF WRITER, CLASSIFIEDS  
 TONISHA SHOOK.....STAFF WRITER, TYPESETTER  
 JIM BRYANT.....SPORTS WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER  
 LISA BRYANT.....SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER  
 LOWELL NICHOLSON.....PHOTOGRAPHER

OFFICE LOCATED AT 446 NORTH MAIN STREET  
 "THE MALL" HIAWASSEE (706) 896-4454

Publication Number 635540. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points.

EMAIL Address: [tcherald@brmemc.net](mailto:tcherald@brmemc.net)

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to:  
 TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
 P.O. BOX 365 HIAWASSEE, GEORGIA 30546

DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS COPY & ADVERTISING  
 Monday at 12 Noon

SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
 TOWNS COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$20  
 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.