

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## M-E-O-W

She had never laid eyes on me before. To fondly recall an old saying used by my mother, she didn't know me from Adam's house cat.

I wasn't there to browse. I was on a mission. I'd stopped to buy stencils for a project at our newly purchased bed and breakfast inn in Hiawassee, the county seat of Towns County, GA.

She greeted me warmly and when asked, told me exactly where to find the object of my desire. After selecting, I placed the stencils on the counter to begin our transaction.

Obedient the edict from the never leave home without it credit card company, I proceeded. "We don't take credit cards" she politely said. I had, however, left home without money. I had not a penny to my name. "I'll dash home for the money and be right back" said I. "Just take them with you and pay me when you're back this way".

Did I hear that correctly? Yes. I had. I drove home in a state of shock with the stencils, but it was a good shock. I promptly took the money for the items to Noblet's 5&10. Now, those stencils didn't cost much but the kindness and trust extended to me, a total stranger, made me feel like a million bucks.

I don't know a thing about Adam's cat but I was the cat with the cream. What a great place John and I had chosen to live. Purr, purr.

See you around Towns.

**Around Towns**  
Dale Harmon



## Two Views

"Are you going to the (Georgia Mountain) Fair this year?" I asked a woman at a local restaurant. She shook her head and said, "No. I haven't been in four or five years. It's too hot; I don't like the traffic, and I don't need another gourd with a flag painted on it."

"Did you enjoy the Fair this year?" I asked a couple from out of town. "Oh, the kids had a wonderful time! They loved the rides, the "Old Ways" display and the Pioneer Village. My wife enjoyed the photography exhibit, and we got to see Ricky Skaggs. We ended up going back again the next day, and we're planning to come back next year. You've got a really nice little town here. We wish we lived in the mountains!"

"The mountains have been really green this year," I said to a neighbor. "And miserable," he replied. "Rains all the time, or just enough to make it steamy when the sun comes out. Can't go from the house to the car without breaking into a sweat, and the grass grows faster than I can mow it."

"You've got a short memory," said another neighbor. "Don't you remember this time of year about three years ago when the ground was so dry it was cracking open? And a few months later we were between those two big fires and the air was full of smoke? Remember the ashes falling out of the sky and getting all over everything? I had a friend who had to leave his house when they evacuated the neighborhood when the fire got too close. You should be thankful for the rain."

"I really hate the traffic this time of year," said a local resident in the grocery checkout line. "It takes ten minutes just to get from one side of town to the other, and the restaurant was so busy we had to wait twenty minutes to get our food."

"Come on down to Atlanta if you think that's bad," said a visitor to town. "It can take ten minutes just to go a block and a half, and every day the Interstate is just like a parking lot. I live only ten miles from work, but I'm in my car an hour each way and sometimes a lot more. And twenty minutes to get served is fast food! Try waiting an hour just to get a table!"

An old man sat outside a country store and gazed at the mountains across the valley. A young visitor pulled up and got out of his car. "What a miserable hot day this is!" He said to the old man.

"Not too bad in the shade," the old gentleman replied. "Where you from, young man?"

"From the city," the young man replied. "We're planning on leaving soon, though, and finding a small town somewhere to settle in. This seems like a nice little town. What kind of people live around here?"

"What kind of people live where you come from?" Asked the old man.

"Not very nice. In fact, not nice at all. They're arrogant, judgmental and downright mean. That's the main reason we're leaving."

"That's a shame," said the old man, "but you'll find that folks are just the same around here. I guess you'll have to keep looking. Good luck to you, young man."

Later on another visitor pulled up next to the store. A young man got out of the car and said, "Good afternoon sir. Nice sunny day today, isn't it?" "I was just thinking the same thing myself," said the old man. "Where you from, young fellow?"

"We live in the city, but we're thinking about moving here. What kind of people live around here, if you don't mind me asking?"

"What kind of people live where you come from?" "Oh, people are very nice for the most part. They're friendly and very supportive of each other. We're really going to miss our neighbors."

"Well that's exactly the kind of people you'll find around here," said the old man. Welcome to the community, young fellow. We'll be proud to have you as a neighbor!"

## The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

## Not the Bees!

Honeybees are a huge resource and are very important in agriculture. The pollination that they do is worth over \$14 million dollars annually in the U.S. However, there are times when honeybees get a little too close for comfort. I have gotten several calls from people saying that a beehive has moved into a rock wall on the side of their house, or perhaps under a deck. Let's talk about why bees do that, and what your options for management are in that situation.

Honeybee colonies reproduce by swarming. In the mid-winter, the queen will begin laying eggs. In the springtime, the hive will be filled with new bees. The colony will then raise a new queen. The new queen will remain in the hive and the old queen will leave with more than half of the bees. They will usually find a branch to temporarily cluster on while they send out scouts to find a new location for a hive. This stage is called a honeybee swarm. Swarms are usually not very dangerous so long as you don't provoke the bees. Honeybees will generally swarm for about 24 hours before finding a new permanent home. That permanent home could be an abandoned hive, a hollow tree, or unfortunately a hollow spot on your house.

Having a beehive inside your house can be problematic. They can pose a sting hazard, the buzzing noise they make can be audible inside the house, and if the colony dies you can be left with a mess from melting and rotting combs that may attract other critters and start to smell bad.

If you find a colony has moved into your house quick removal will be the best option. If you are able to find the nest within a day or two an exterminator can use an insecticide to kill the bees before they make combs and are established. If the colony is already established then the entire nest must be removed. Often times pest control companies will avoid these kinds of jobs because they involve unusual expertise and liability. The best option may be to hire a local beekeeper to remove the nest. That beekeeper may be able to salvage the nest for their own collection. They may need to work in conjunction with a carpenter or mason to get to the cavity where the bees are nesting. Typically this is done in the evening because the bees are all back in the hive.

Sometimes the beekeeper is able to trap the bees and remove them. This process is not always practical. Other times people and bees are able to live harmoniously and removal may not be necessary. This may be the case if the hive is in an area away from human and animal traffic such as the peak of a roof.

Honeybees are a very important nativized part of our ecosystem. We certainly want to do what we can to protect pollinators, but if they are inside your home, they can present a hazard. If you have questions about honeybees inside your home contact your county Extension Office or send me an email at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu).



## Letters to The Editor

### Conscientious Citizen

Dear Editor,

USC Art. I, Sec. 2. "Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, . . . ." Count Numbers, period!

Note that this was later amended by the 14th to delete reference to "free", "excluded", and "partial" persons. Specificity was added to the 14th by the XIXth (suffrage) to delineate "all" as including both sexes.

But the census expanded to accommodate commercial interests (in the aggregate). In 2000 the "long" form included 107 questions ranging from how many toilets the "dwelling unit" contained to how much rental payments were made, etc., etc.

And this, in my experience as an "enumerator" that year and the complaints received from those whom I counted (interrogated), bordered on invasion of privacy and a violation of the 4th Amendment.

And could this "invasion" not be the root cause of non-compliance with the census?

Representative Deal (at that time), on one of his constituent days in his Gainesville, office agreed. The census questions expanded for the 2010 census, but excluded the citizenship question.

What persons are to be counted and the citizenship question of who the "respective Numbers" are is answered in the text of the 14th: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction there of are citizens of the United States, . . .", i.e. count citizens.

Representation is actually accomplished by gerrymandering and taxes returned to the states is in total control of the central government bureaucrats; neither of which is really based on the apportionment gained from the census.

But the commercial interests get a virtual windfall of data from the "census", at tax payer expense (\$4.5 B 2000, \$13 B 2010).

But be a conscientious citizen and comply with the Law of the Constitution to provide the "number of persons residing in your dwelling unit" as there will be benefits to the community in doing so. The "rules and guidelines" of the Census Bureau have never been tried in a court of law, for obvious reasons.

Zeb Blanchard

### Seaplane Pays no Towns County Taxes

Dear Editor,

The county tax office confirms that the for-hire seaplane tour company operating out of The Ridges pays no taxes to Towns County and has never paid any during the three years it has been giving tours here.

Whatever the reason for this, whether an oversight or a loophole, it should pay its fair share. The operator benefits from our infrastructure and the tourist draw of the county to bring customers right to its dock. Who pays for all that? Towns County taxpayers do.

The tour operator runs a for-profit business with revenues generated right here in Towns County. But the company is based in Gainesville and the plane commutes in from there each day on weekends.

It has turned the busy channel by The Ridges into a commercial runway.

The owners ignore Towns County citizens' concerns on the safety and nuisance impacts, not even showing enough respect to respond to a letter addressed directly to them with a noise study by an aviation expert at Georgia Tech showing the operation creates over 90 dB of noise on takeoff even from 500 feet.

They have 15,000 acres of lakes in the area to use to give their passengers a seaplane experience and still insist on concentrating on one single portion of Lake Chatuge.

The operators use Lake Chatuge, then pocket all the profits and return to Gainesville each evening without paying their fair share. So next time you're enjoying the lake and you see the plane bearing down and making so much noise you can't speak to the person next to you, consider that it is also taking advantage of our county without paying taxes.

Please join the fight against this nuisance. [respectlakechatuge@gmail.com](mailto:respectlakechatuge@gmail.com).

Signed,  
Vicki and Charles Butler  
Robert Lew  
Christina and Douglas Nelson

\*Editor's Note: The authors of this letter and several of their neighbors attended the July 16 Towns County Community Meeting to air their concerns about the operation of the seaplane.

### 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 E-MAILED 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.*

### Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!

Contact us at 706-896-4454

Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM



## Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	<b>Every Monday:</b> All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	<b>Every Tuesday:</b> Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	<b>Every Wednesday:</b> Red Cross Building	7 pm
Bridge Players	<b>Every Thursday:</b> All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Movers & Shakers	<b>Every Friday:</b> Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	<b>Every Sunday:</b> Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	<b>First Tuesday of each month:</b> 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	<b>First Wednesday of each month:</b> McConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge	<b>First Thursday of each month:</b> Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Quilting Bee	<b>Third Wednesday of each month:</b> McConnell Church	10 am
Book Bunch & Lunch	Daniels Steakhouse	11:30 am
Friendship Comm.	<b>Third Thursday of each month:</b> Clubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party	Civic Center	5:30 pm
Goldwing Riders	<b>Third Saturday of each month:</b> Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
Red Cross DAT	<b>Fourth Monday of each month:</b> 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Lions Club	<b>Fourth Tuesday of each month:</b> Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Hiaw. Writers	<b>Fourth Thursday</b> Hiaw. Pk. Comm. Rm.	10:30
Hiaw. Garden Club	Clubhouse	12:45 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	<b>Last Thursday of each month:</b> Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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## Towns County Herald

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