

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



## Letters to The Editor

### Dear Editor:

I am a resident of Clayton, GA, Rabun County. On Feb. 2, 2013, when the unexpected snow storm hit, my 25 year old grandson with special needs, was stranded in his car on Highway 76 East about 5 p.m. A very nice couple stopped to help him and took him to safety. We were not able to get to him, but we have a very dear friend, Tommie Hancock, who lives in Hiawassee and they were able to get him to her house that night and he spent the night with her. My problem is that through all of the talking back and forth with the man on the phone (who we spoke with on our grandson's phone) we never got his name. We would like to try to locate him. Anyway we just want him to know how thankful we are for him and his wife.

Sincerely,  
Linda Carlton

### Letter to the Editor:

As is our custom, when we left for vacation recently, we filled out the Extra Patrol form at the Towns County Sheriff's Office. In the past, we have received cards that indicated an officer had checked the property several times and once, a deputy found one of our little-used doors unlocked. It is a service that is much appreciated by us.

This last time, it worked again, but with an unexpected twist for our neighbor. He is listed on the form as the person to call in an emergency, should there be a problem at the property. Having car problems with his own car, we gave him permission to borrow our other car which was in the garage. He entered the property with the key he was given, found our car keys, and was backing out of the garage at the same time that a deputy was pulling in to do his patrol. Not only did the deputy check the Extra Patrol form to make sure that our neighbor's name was on it but he asked our neighbor for an ID. At all times during this exchange was the officer professional, polite, and certainly efficient in doing his job - a model of a competent officer.

It reaffirmed to us that we are in good hands under Sheriff Clinton's watch and we thank the unknown officer who performed above and beyond. Our neighbor took it with good grace and humor.

Maureen Gustafson

### RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

I know I'm venturing onto a minefield here, but I feel I need to say something about the rash of events concerning elementary school students and discipline over weapons issues.

All of us were devastated by the insane killings at the Newtown, CT, school. No parent of an elementary student will ever feel the same about school safety. No family who lost a student or who was emotionally scarred by being close to the tragedy will ever truly get over it. But what do we do now?

First, we resist the urge to over-react. We know about the 6-year old in Maryland who was suspended for pointing his finger like a gun. We know about the Kindergarten in Pennsylvania who was suspended for "shooting" soap bubbles at a classmate. We know about the Oklahoma grade schooler who was suspended for making a gesture with his hand that resembled a gun. Over-reacting is like swatting a fly with a hammer; it does more harm than good. Think what might happen if these kids had been caught playing cops and robbers like most of us did.

My recommendations: First, school officials, you need to exercise calm good judgment - and most do. Those that don't, need to cool it. There are age-appropriate ways to

deal with undesirable student behavior short of swatting that fly with a hammer. We look to you to model wisely-measured common sense in tense times.

Hollywood, you need to stop glorifying violence as the solution to problems. "But Dr. Don, that's how it is in our world." No, it's not. That may be how it is in the part of the world you're watching, but why pick that part to emblazon on our big screens and pipe into our living rooms? By what stretch of common sense can you graphically portray crime and call it entertainment? Don't admit that you have no more creativity than that. "Well, that's what people want to watch..." Maybe, if they don't have better options. Can you help us learn to want the best rather than settling for the brutal?

Mom and dad, it really is our issue to confront. What do our kids watch us watch on television for instance? We can help them understand that we are changed by what we see so we are selective about what we watch, what we read, what we listen to. Starting early we can emphasize the noble, the caring, that we're here to help, not hurt...that problems are rarely best solved with violence. I know that's counter-cultural, but it also produces Rare Kids; Well Done.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

### T.C. Herald Editor

An ode to Roy Perren  
By Charles Duncan

We've known Roy Perren for quite a while.

He's been the astute principal of Towns County High School for nine years. Roy has been the face of the high school, traveling with sports teams, academic teams and just being his usual professional self every where he goes.

In March 2012, we learned a little bit more about the man we admire. Perren told a group of honor students a story about a young man who was his school's STAR Student.

Upon graduation, the young man joined the United States Marine Corps. Afterward, he attended the University of Georgia with the goal of becoming a lawyer.

A chat with his advisor broke the news to him that lawyers are a dime a dozen. He then lost interest in his education and left the university.

A few years later, after running restaurants, he decided to go back to college. He left his job as general manager of a Cracker Barrel and returned to the class-room in 1990 at the age of 34, this time at West Georgia University.

He graduated in 1992 with a Bachelor's Degree; a year later he had a master's degree and in 1994, he had earned a six-year Specialist Degree.

I'm sure by now that you've all figured out that person was Perren.

You're sitting here reading this thinking 'good story' but what does it mean?

Perren admitted that his biggest mistake after high school was that he didn't have a plan.

Years later, as an adult, Perren took responsibility for that.

As a teacher and a parent, Perren hopes that never happens to one of his prized Towns County students. He spends quite a bit of time talking students out of dropping out of school. Roy wants to be in a role to help support students in making their plans for tomorrow.

Obviously, Towns County Schools Superintendent Melissa Williams feels the same way. She created a position that fit Perren's skill set like a glove. He is the new Director of Student Services, an off shoot of the old graduation coach, but with more

### 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.*

responsibilities.

He's a perfect fit to keep kids in school. You see, Roy didn't get much advice following his graduation from high school. His parents both dropped out of school and were married at 14 and 15 years old respectively.

It was a different world back then.

When he talks with each student one-on-one, Roy always try to ask what each student is going to do when they graduate.

Each year, he challenges Towns County seniors to become leaders of tomorrow and to be ready for the future.

As Roy puts it best, "seek your dreams, don't be talked out of them as I was many years ago. There may be too many in a profession, but I guarantee you, there is always room for a good one. Always, be the best you can be."

For nine years, Roy Perren has led the Towns County Indians into athletic and academic battles. His Indians won the state championship in 2009, well, sort of, claiming the Governor's Cup for outstanding academic achievement.

Roy, I'll have to agree with Melissa Williams, you're going to be in a new job that perfectly fits your skill set.

The Towns County Herald congratulates you and believes you'll do what it takes to keep our children in the classroom and striving to be the best they can be. Oh, and we're glad you're staying in Towns County.

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### "IT'S ON MY MIND.."

Danny H. Parris

### What's that name?

Almost sixty years ago a three member staff of the Rocket Chemical Company was on a mission 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 Broad, East Ridge, etc. 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 pastored 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 Clio, 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 King 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.

"Wow, that's a lot like the legislature - they may not be there long, but sure can do a lot of damage!"

## Community Calendar

**American Legion Post 23** meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support!  
**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 at 5 PM at the Senior Center. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.  
**Towns County Republican Party** meets at 6:30 PM the 2nd Thursday of each month at Daniels Steak House. For more info call 706-379-1371.  
**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 in Murphy. Call Kit: 706-492-5253 or Peggy: 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.  
**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 Hi-

awassee at 5:30 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA. We do oral family histories of residents. 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org  
**Bridge Players** intermediate level meets at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Rec Center.  
**Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG)** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Call us by 706-896-0932 or mtnregartsandcraftsguild.org.  
**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/blueridgemountains.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous:** 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.  
**Mothers of Preschoolers** meets the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church at 706-745-2469.  
**Chatuge 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.  
**Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club** meets 3 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Jerry (828) 837-7658.  
**Prostate Cancer Support Group** meets the 3rd Monday of every

month from 5-6 PM in the Cancer Treatment Center Auditorium in Blairsville. For more info call Steve 706-896-1064.  
**The Humane Society Mountain Shelter** Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Cadence Bank in Blairsville.  
**The Towns County Alzheimer's Support Group** meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the Family Life Center of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church. Caregivers or family members are encouraged to attend. For more info call Carol at 706-896-6407.  
**The Appalachian Shrine Club** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Allegheny Lodge in Blairsville. For more info call William 706-994-6177.  
**Georgia Mountain Writers Club** meets at St. Francis of Assisi Church the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 AM.  
**GMREC Garden Tours** every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Shooting Creek Basket Weavers** meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreekbasketweavers.com.  
**Friendship Community Club** meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76, 706-896-3637.  
**Goldwing Road Riders** meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12.  
**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** meets every Wednesday evenings at 7 PM at the Red Cross building (up the hill from the chamber office on Jack Dayton Circle).  
**Caregiver support group** meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.  
**Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club.** Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Hiawassee Senior Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch. Call 706-379-2191.

## Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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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@windstream.net

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

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