

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

When, as a result of an emergency, I was asked by police for contact information regarding a neighbor, I realized I didn't have that information. This situation seems to be too common. We should always give a neighbor the name and phone number of a designated family member and close friend so it will be available in case of an emergency. We should also put our own information in a place that can be found easily, in our wallets, car, and kitchen counter or refrigerator.

Firefighters have recently suggested listing contacts in our cell phones under ICE (In Case of Emergency). Perhaps an organization or church we belong to would also keep that information. Being able to help police and EMS would be a kindness we could all do in dire circumstances.

Diana Gutenstein

To the Editor:

In the aftermath of the recently completed 2013 session of the Georgia General Assembly, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank my fellow attorney, Rep. Stephen Allison, who represents Rabun, Towns, Union and White counties in the House of Representatives.

Rep. Allison's acceptance of the professional and personal sacrifices that go along with serving in public office is inspiring to and appreciated by his fellow members of the State Bar of Georgia. The commendable efforts of Rep. Allison and other lawyer/legislators to shape public policy and make Georgia a better state serve to promote the cause of justice, uphold the rule of law and protect the rights of all citizens.

Sincerely,
Robin Frazer Clark
President, State Bar of Georgia



**RARE KIDS;
WELL DONE**
By Don Jacobsen

I'm not sure if what MSNBC reporter, Melissa Harris-Perry, said recently was what she intended to say, or if it just came out wrong. Either way, because it was aired on a major news channel, many will believe what she said and that is alarming. You perhaps heard it.

"We have to break through our private idea that children belong to their parents, or children belong to their families," she chided, "and recognize that children belong to whole communities. Once it's everybody's responsibility and not just the household's, we start making better investments."

I'm sorry, Ms. Harris-Perry, but you're mistaken. No, I misspoke: you're wrong.

God never intended that the state or the neighborhood should raise my children. They are my responsibility. I am not at liberty to decide that the values of the community shall determine the values of my family. We will not put it to a neighborhood vote to decide moral standards for my teens.

The school system is not responsible for the education of my children, I am. Parents were here first and we organized schools to help us. The church we attend is not responsible for the moral values of

my children, I am. The church is literally a God-send to help me, but ultimately the job is mine. I don't send my kids to a neighborhood collective to learn how to eat healthfully; I am duty-bound to see that they learn that at home.

Here's the deal: Kids do best when they're loved. And not by a faceless community, but by a mom and dad. A mom and dad who affirm them when they make good choices and who help them process the bad decision they've just made. A mom and dad who read them a story at bedtime and help them say their prayers. A mom and dad who teach them how to bathe the dog, ride a bike, sew on a button.

Kids do best when they're loved by a mom and dad who put a bandage on that skinned knee, who hurt when Molly's BFF moves away, who cry with Jeff when his girl friend runs off with another 5th grader. A mom and dad who feel Angie's pain when her softball team loses a key game, who know just what to say - or when to say nothing - when Mark's science project doesn't even make honorable mention. Sorry, Ms. Harris-Perry, but no healthy child is ever raised by a community.

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

The Vision is growing in our area

You are invited to World Harvest Church North on Thursday, April 25th at 7 p.m. for our monthly Women's Fellowship Meeting. This month we will be hearing from one of our own, a powerful woman of God, Doreen Landry.

Doreen is a wife of 40 years, she is a mother of 4 children, and is grandmother of 12. Doreen was nearly 30 years old when she started a personal relationship with Jesus. After 40, Doreen started walking in freedom and continues. She enjoys telling others that they can be free too. Doreen is active in jail and prison ministries. She will be bringing a powerful word for the women of this area.

We are encouraging all to attend this exciting event.



Doreen Landry

We will have food, fun, and fellowship. Be a part of the vision God has for the women of this area!

For more information go to www.whcnorth.org, or call 706-374-6175.

**STAGE YOUR HOME
FOR SALE**

By *Jeanne Mills, Realtor*



'Preparedness' is always impressive

Just as we have been so impressed with the preparedness of first responders and law enforcement in Boston last week, we are always impressed with people who are ready. Home staging is the act of preparing a home and its contents for sale, with a special emphasis on appeal to buyers. What is and how to stage your home effectively so that you will sell your home for its best price is a matter of being prepared.

It's important to realize that preparing a home for sale and staging a home can be the same thing. For example, as part of your pre-sale preparations, you might go through the home to make small repairs where needed. This is an essential step in preparing your home for the market, but staging goes further. Staging a home for sale normally involves things such as design, organization and overall appearance, not only mechanical or functional improvements.

Staging brings emotional responses. Think back to your own home buying experience. Try to recall the difference between the homes you thought were "just okay" and the homes that made you say "wow!" Staging can help you turn your "okay" house into a "wow" house. The goal of home staging then is to improve the home's appearance in the eyes of potential buyers, with the ultimate goal of selling the home more quickly and for the highest possible price.

I advise my selling clients to think of home staging as preparing your house in a way that appeals to the largest possible audience. This includes cleanliness. Each spring we begin the process of improvement and renewal. If you're selling your home you can use this time now on staging preparations. Over the next few weeks we'll help, step by step. Call with questions 706-745-3500.



Community Calendar

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. 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.**

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 2nd 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.

Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 4th Thursday of each month at the new Senior Center. For more info call 706-994-3919.

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 Hiwassee 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 Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA. We do oral family histories

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



Not what they used to be

I feel like the fellow who said, "Things are not what they used to be - and one of them is me." When I was a kid things were much slower. It took Christmas forever to come. School was much longer then. Summer took years to arrive. Birthdays were really slow, especially my sixteenth birthday (must have taken twenty years to get there). I thought I would never get out of high school. But something has happened. Back then I tried to speed things up. Now I am trying to slow things down. Not many days hence, I will have another birthday. I declare I must be having at least two birthdays a year. Time is certainly not what it used to be. Time seems to have accelerated and I have slowed down. Sometimes I feel like calling time out until I can catch up. When you get over sixty people say you are over the hill. I personally don't remember getting to the top. I feel like I am still climbing. If I were going down the other side I don't believe it would take so much energy. Not only has time changed, but also my looks have changed. I look in the mirror and see an entirely different person. Gone are the days of jet-black hair. It has become all silvery and white. I am looking more like my driver's license picture every-

day. You take a shower and notice that you are wrinkled, saggy, and lumpy and that's just your left leg. You get out of the shower and try to get the wrinkles out of your socks and discover you haven't put them on yet. You then think that you have finally gotten your head together, but your body is falling apart. As time marches on there is a gain and loss factor. I have discovered that I have gained weight, mostly around the waist. I still wear the same size pants that I have for the past several years - I just wear them lower. I thank God that so far my losses have been minimal. I have lost some hair, some hearing, some eyesight and a little memory. I believe I have gained some wisdom. I appreciate every day that I live. It is God's gift. I am thankful for children so beautiful and innocent. I am grateful for senior adults and their wisdom. I am thankful for my preacher brothers; for the intimate, joyful fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ. I thank God for a faithful companion that grows more beautiful each day and for my children and grandchildren's love that makes little changes seem insignificant. Come to think of it I am grateful that I am not what I used to be. I am a new creature in Christ. Praise God I am not what I will be. Someday I shall be like Him - totally conformed to the image of God's Son. When I become fully like Him I will change no more because He changes not. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Towns County Herald
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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**OFFICE LOCATED AT 446 NORTH MAIN STREET
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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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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. 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.shootingcreek-basketweavers.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 Brassstown 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.

Brasstown Woodturners Guild meets 1st Saturday of month at 9:30 AM in HHS shop. For more info call J. C. at 706-896-5711.

VFW Post #7807 will be hosting a fish fry their 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month April - October. \$9. all you can eat from 4:30 - 7 PM.