

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to Editor

Welcome Sign at Hwy. 76/17-75S intersection

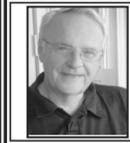
As a resident of Towns County, it embarrasses me to see the main entrance for visitors to Hiawassee look so trashy! I live east of Hiawassee so have to pass this sight 2-4 times a week. Election signs are not the problem. Yard sale and other "for sale" or event signs are the problem. There are always 20-30 signs stuck in the ground at this entrance.

With help from Commissioner Kendall, I contacted our DOT manager. All that happened was the signs were moved back behind the right-of-way from the road. I bring this to our residents' attention to see if we can come up with a permanent solution to this mess so that visitors to Hiawassee and Towns County experience a good first impression!

Please take up your sign and put it elsewhere. Thanks.

One concerned resident!

Judy Caines



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Q: Dr. Don, our son will soon be 16, and although he's basically a good kid, he has a really bad temper. He has lots of friends and has never given us much trouble but recently he seems to have a short fuse. If someone crosses him or he gets to feeling frustrated he can yell or storm out of the room and slam the door. Is there an easy cure?

A: Temper is an interesting critter. In toddlers we call it a tantrum. It's not pleasant then, either, but most tend to outgrow it. Little kids use temper outbursts to attempt to get their way, but if mom and dad are wise, the kids quickly figure out it doesn't work.

Beyond the toddler years some folks discover they can often use a volatile temper to get control of a situation where they feel they have no control. Temper is a way for the weak to feel strong. My dad (my step-dad, actually) had only eight grades of school but he ended up running a business with a dozen employees. Few of them knew he only had eight grades and that he couldn't spell, he couldn't do math, or that his grammar was atrocious. He often ended up doing battle with people much

better educated than himself. Frequently if an employee took issue with something he said or did, my dad would blow his cork and create a scene. The workers learned that you just didn't challenge him on anything because the fallout wasn't worth it. Like I said, temper is a way for the weak to feel strong.

Now, what about your 16-year-old Josh? If you fight back using the same kind of weapons, you both lose. So when he begins to raise his voice, cut your volume in half. You could say, I don't want to discuss this right now. Then turn and leave the room. He wants to be in control, but you've just taken it back. Later, when the time is right, here's the seed you want to plant: You know, Josh, mom and I are seeing something in you that makes us really happy. You're developing a maturity and judgment that makes us proud. When people lose their cool it's usually because they want to be in charge, but you're not feeling the need to do that so much these days. Good job; keep it up.

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

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

I once took a walk in the woods with a land developer. He wore wingtip shoes, lost his footing often and was highly annoyed by gnats and twigs. He stomped, swatted and slashed his way through the brambles and he never stopped talking. He was a visionary. He described to me how my land could look after it was "cleaned up," and it was quite a vision. By removing trees and under-groving, he said, we could highlight the rolling terrain of the hillsides, which, he insisted, is what people want to see when they drive through shopping for land. He pointed out several ridge top building sites that would afford spectacular views and therefore bring premium prices. If we removed ground level vegetation and sowed grass, we could make our land look like a park, he claimed, and sell it for a lot of money.

I took another walk with an ecologist in the same woods. She wore hiking boots and did not seem to notice the gnats and she moved silently through the underbrush like a cat. She was a visionary as well, and what she saw was enchanting. By the end of the day on our small tract of land she had "seen" over 200 species of plants, including several rare ones like pink and yellow ladyslippers, goldenseal, sedge and American Barbbery. In the creeks she found crayfish (The Hiwassee Headwaters Crayfish is found in our area and nowhere else in the world), salamanders, chubs and darters. Our land, she claimed, was absolutely beautiful and a fine example of a healthy ecosystem.

On a third walk in the woods I met another visionary, a man named Steven Apfelbaum, who runs Applied Ecological Services. AES is an ecological consulting firm out of Broadhead, Wisconsin, which works with landowners and developers who wish to use land without destroying its ecological benefits or, alternately, to restore ecological health to land that has been damaged. Steve has written several books on the subject and his firm consults with individual landowners and large municipalities alike.

Steve shared with me some insights into a growing trend in land management called "Conservation Development." Conservation Developments have more open space than traditional subdivisions. They utilize native species for landscaping rather than the same old fescue and leland

cypress. In ecologically sensitive areas, Conservation Developments preserve plant and animal habitat and corridors for wildlife. Developers are warming to the idea of Conservation Development because, while preserving habitat, they are also significantly reducing costs and raising the price they can get for lots developed to conservation standards.

This column in your local newspaper has not always been a source for warm and fuzzy feelings about the development of mountain land. Let's face it - Towns County has seen some of the most ill conceived, ham-handed, and just plain butt ugly abominations that could ever be visited upon a mountain and still be able to call it a "mountain." We have seen some of our mountains converted into tall piles of dirt and rock tortured into place to hold up row after row of houses with views.

We have also seen some of the most beautiful and well balanced developments that can be found anywhere in the world.

I think many of us who have lived through the boom and bust years of real estate development, who have seen what greed and short-sightedness can do as opposed to what love of the land can preserve, are quite clear on what we prefer for the future of our county. Commissioner Kendall and the county leaders who authored Towns County's Mountain Protection Ordinances are clear on what they want their grandchildren to see when they look at our high country.

On Thursday evening, May 1st, the Towns County Planning Commission will meet after an extended hiatus. I am confident that, with the lessons of the recent past in mind and their commitment to preserving the special character of our area, they will carefully consider any new subdivisions that are proposed. I encourage them, and any land developers working in our area, to become familiar with the cutting edge techniques of Conservation Development that promote ecological health without sacrificing profit.

If there is a middle path between the economic necessity of building homes for people and the ecological necessity of preserving habitat for plants and animals - and ultimately for people as well - then Conservation Development is that path.



"IT'S ON MY MIND.."

Danny H. Parris

Spring time memories

The last few days of 70-degree temperatures have brought back some childhood memories of springtime. Since I am no longer a spring chicken I have a tendency to gravitate back to days that seemed to be less hurried and stressful. Springtime and summer were always delightful times for me. I was fortunate to have both sets of grandparents within a hundred yards of my house. My grandmother and grandfather Pope had a lovely old home with a large front porch and back porch. The front porch had a large swing and chairs. The back porch always had a bucket of cold water with a dipper hanging nearby and a pan for washing your hands. The drying towel hung on a nail just beneath the pan. The dwelling house had a long hall down the middle of the house, which gave access to rooms on both side of the hall. The ceilings were ten or twelve feet high. All of the walls and ceiling were beaded ceiling. In the spring and summer I spent a lot of nights with my grandparents. I will never forget how high those ceilings were with a single light at the very center of the ceiling. In the bedrooms a string was attached to the light switch that hung down from the light. The other end of the string was tied to the bedpost. I bet some

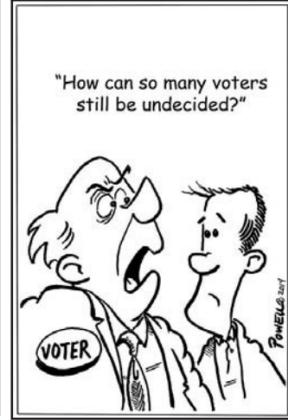
ingenious person thought of that after they fell off the ladder trying to turn out the lights. There was no problem turning off the light with that string unless the string broke. Beside the dwelling house, I enjoyed gathering eggs from the chicken house and getting butter and milk from the springhouse and helping my grandfather fetch meat from the smoke house. As a little boy, I made not a few trips to the outhouse. But some of my most memorable moments were helping my grandfather plant his garden. He was a quiet, gentle man who showed a lot of patience with his grandson. I still like springtime, but springtime seems to be different, as you get older. I guess it is because we don't have as much spring in our step as we once did. Then we have to "spring forward" with the time and that leaves a lot of us seniors feeling like we have sprung a leak energy wise.

These first sudden warm days fool you into thinking winter is over, but there are surely some more cold days to come. It is not quite time to develop spring fever. Blackberry winter is yet to come. However, we must remember that we have been visited by the Dayspring from on high.

The greatest springtime is yet in the future when God will spring a surprise and the resurrection bodies will spring forth from the graves and transformed believers will join them to enjoy heaven's springtime through all eternity. That will be springtime in glory!

OWN A BUSINESS? NEED TO ADVERTISE?

Contact the
Towns County Herald
706-896-4454



Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!

Contact us at 706-896-4454

Deadline for the T.C. Herald is Friday by 5 PM



Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

KENNETH WEST.....PUBLISHER
CHARLES DUNCAN.....EDITOR, ADVERTISING
SHAWN HENRIKSON.....COPY EDITOR
MASON MITCHAM.....STAFF & SPORTS WRITER
JOE COLLINS.....ADVERTISING SALES
LOWELL NICHOLSON.....NEWS, SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER

OFFICE LOCATED AT 518 N. MAIN ST. SUITE 7

"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

DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS COPY & ADVERTISING
Fridays at 5 PM

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

TOWNS COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$20

OUT OF COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$30

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.

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 1 p.m.

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 Unicy 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 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 mtregarts-craftsguild.org.

Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month in Young Harris. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. A "Q & A" session follows. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.

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.ngatuf92.com.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call John 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 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.

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. 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 Cadence Bank 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 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 Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch.

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.

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

Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC) meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiawassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.