

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

On behalf of the State Bar of Georgia, I offer congratulations to Georgia Prosecuting Attorneys Council Executive Director Stan Gunter and Dahlonega attorney Raymond George on their respective appointments by Gov. Nathan Deal as new Superior Court judges in the Enotah Judicial Circuit, which includes Lumpkin, Towns, Union and White counties.

Judge Gunter served 12 years as district attorney in the Enotah Circuit, and Judge George is a former chief assistant district attorney in the Northeastern Judicial Circuit.

Georgia's Superior Court judges fulfill a vital responsibility in the administration of justice in our state. We wish Judge George and Judge Gunter well in their new positions of public service.

Sincerely,
Kenneth L. Shigley

Editor:

A response to last week's Letter to the Editor: If the Board of Education has closed (i.e., secret) sessions in which the public community is not allowed to participate (or even attend), how do we know the BOE considers ALL the relevant matters? If a personnel decision is to be made by the BOE, is the affected party given an opportunity to be heard? If a personnel decision is already made in secret by the BOE, what's the sense/purpose of allowing the public to voice its opinion in an open session?

Shouldn't we be concerned when someone simply, and without explanation, says "Trust me"?

Claude G. Spears

Editor's Note: By Georgia law, the Towns County Board of Education, or any government entity is allowed to go into executive, or closed session. There are three reasons for going behind closed doors: personnel, real estate or litigation.

Once behind closed doors, they are allowed to discuss the matter among themselves. When they exit closed session they are required to disclose if any action will be made regarding the closed session. If action is required, the action must be made in public with a vote of the Board and become a part of the public record.

Dear Editor,

It is bad when we residents up on Scataway and Jack Creek have an emergency, and our phones are not working, and yet we still have to drive two miles to the forks of Scataway Road, just to get cell phone service. I have written and called Verizon as well as other cell phone organizations, to attempt to get a tower installed so we can have service. It is also bad for repair men or other people who come here, and need to call and can't get service. Someone needs to step forward and lease some land to these cell phone agencies so we can get a tower up in here in our area. If we needed to call 911 or the law or something and our phones were out say during a storm or something, it would be very sad indeed now wouldn't it?

I hope someone in reading this from our area, will be kind enough to get paid for leasing some land so we can get a much needed tower!

Thank You,
Delores Barnes



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

Question: Dr. Don, why are we hearing so much about bullying recently? Kids have been fighting on the playground ever since we've had schools. What's different now?

Answer: You're right; I've been there a few times myself. I remember a kid named Dale - I think we were in the 5th grade - who took me down at recess one day and got a headlock on me till I cried uncle. I don't recall that either of us knew the reason. I don't think I lost 'em all, but I remember I sure lost that one.

No one called the police. No one told Miss Myers, our principal; I tried to wash the blood off my shirt so no one else would know. It obviously wasn't a major event in a school with 400 kids. My ego was the only thing that was seriously injured and that was only temporary.

Today bullying and cyber-bullying have become front page news. I read a few days ago about a high level conference where a room-full of attorneys were sequestered for a week attempting to determine where the line is between free speech and bullying. For instance, if one youngster texts another and says, "If you believe in that religion you're

going to hell," is that one student exercising his right of free speech or another child being bullied?

I'm not wise enough to sort that all out, but this I know: The solution to bullying in any form lies in the heart of the bully (new word). A youngster who grows up in a home where she is taught to respect and appreciate others, even those who are different than themselves is less apt to find bullying acceptable. When dinner-time conversation is never disparaging of someone with different beliefs, different race, or different lifestyle, that attitude gets built into the youngsters in the home.

A child who lives with criticism learns to be judgmental. When Dad yells at another driver for making an unwise move in traffic, Jimmy in the back seat learns that you don't have to show respect to those who do things you don't like.

So, as a dad and granddad I want to set an example of respect and appreciation even toward those I don't agree with. The Good Book says, "Love your neighbor." I don't have to like them to love them.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net

Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition needs your help

As a member of the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition (HRWC), I want to ask as many of the residents of Towns and Union Counties in Ga and Clay and Cherokee in NC as possible that you consider helping keep the water(s) of the Hiwassee Watershed clean.

HRWC is a 16-year-old, local, non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining good water quality in streams, lakes and rivers that flow into the Hiwassee River. This includes almost all of Cherokee and Clay counties in North Carolina and Towns and Union counties in north Georgia. Lake Chatuge, Lake Nottely and Hiwassee Lake are all part of the Hiwassee River watershed.

The coalition works with local landowners, governments, schools and businesses to recognize and address threats to our water resources. The coalition has a staff of knowledgeable professionals who plan and implement volunteer-powered projects to solve problems before water quality is beyond reasonable recovery.

They also conduct education programs for all ages about water quality concerns and what individuals can do to help.

Due to many factors, first of which is the current economy, many of the coalition funds have been reduced or become unavailable. Lately there have been many public service ads on TV, and pop-up ads on the web, showing the concern for water quality and availability. There have been numerous books written over the past few years (most recently a well researched book titled The Ripple Effect, by Alex Prod'homme which I think EVERYONE should read) explaining the crises that exists not only locally but throughout the world.

For humans there are no needs as important as water. Most people use much more water than they think about. All beverages contain water whether they are water, sodas, alcohol, or pure fruit or vegetable drinks. We use water to bath, water our lawns and gardens. We use water to cool our vehicles, etc., etc., etc.. Agriculture is the largest user of water not only due to crop irrigation but even to produce a pound of beef studies show 2500 gallons of water are needed.

I've asked many people in the area if they refer to the lake(s), stream(s) or river(s) near their home as "our" lake/stream/river when first having visitors. Have you seen our lake or check out 'our lake' is something I often say when

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.

my wife and I have visitors/company that's new to the area. I've asked this question to many people all of which admit that they do in fact refer to the Lake as 'our Lake' and the stream and rivers as theirs as well.

In order to improve the quality, and maintain the availability, of water in our watershed a great deal of work is needed to fix existing environmental problems due to erosion, storm water runoff, faulty sewage systems, and pollution caused by overuse of chemicals. These solutions require money. HRWC has spent over 6 million dollars in the past. Most of this money benefits the local economy as the people, equipment, and materials used are mostly available from local sources. The projections for the future projects needed will continue to require millions of dollars. If this money is not available to HRWC I believe that many of these projects will eventually require local government resources and the money needed will undoubtedly come from taxes.

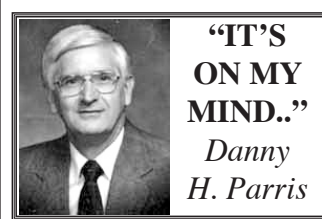
In my opinion, it's a pay now or pay later situation, the pay me later option of higher taxes has often proven that what goes up doesn't always come down!

If everyone in our watershed would join our organization or just send a tax deductible contribution they will be able to continue the work needed. Tax deductible contributions may be made by calling the HRWC office at 828-837-5414 or going on-line @ www.hrwc.net.

Dave Hering

Own a business?
Need to advertise?
Contact the
Towns County Herald
706-896-4454

HAVE SOMETHING
TO SELL?
Let the Herald work
for you!
706-896-4454



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

Weddings

June is the traditional month for marriages. I am not sure why, but it is the month that most couples plan their weddings. Before I marry a couple, I require them to attend several counseling sessions. One of the first questions I ask a couple is, "Why have you decided to get married?" Almost without exception the answer is, "We are in love!" That is the answer I hope to receive. Then, I ask that mystifying question of the ages, "Tell me what love is?" The couple looks at each other and they both say to each other, "You go first." They're already nervous and when you're nervous is not a good time to define love. After the couple has done their best to define love (most of the time they describe rather than define) I have the privilege to share the Bible's instruction about love. I know the Bible is old, but it is more up to date than this newspaper you are reading. A lot of things are old, but we still need them in this rip-roaring, revved up world. The sun is pretty old, but I don't believe we want to discard it. Well, what is love anyway? Is it just a four letter word made up of two consonants, L and V, and two vowels O and E, and two fools, you and me? Or, is it like someone has said, "Life is one fool thing after another, and love is two fools after each other?" Is love just a romantic idea perpetrated on us by Hollywood? No, love is a gift

from God revealed in His Holy Word. Forget Hollywood, read the Holy Word. Hollywood talks about reel love which is based on lust. The Holy Word reveals real love based on a commitment between two people who pledge themselves to each other - no matter what happens in the future. That is marriage which is sacred and is Holy Ground. This marriage is not a human contract, but a Divine Covenant. God is love, and any marriage that does not have God has only a horizontal type of love. A Christian marriage is a triangle - God, man and woman. Man did not originate the idea of marriage. God ordained marriage and performed that first wedding in the Garden of Eden. Any man that does not have a relationship with God can never love his wife to the fullest. The same is true for the woman. The highest kind of love is God's love, agape love. Christian marriage is one man, one woman for life. It is a lifelong commitment. Some couples stand at the marriage altar and say, "I do," meaning, "until I can do better." Sad to say it only takes some of them a few months or in some cases just a few weeks to do better. Our world is littered with the debris of broken homes, shattered dreams, crushed children, and bitter wives and husbands. When marriages fail, the toll on human life is beyond human calculations. My prayer for all you newly weds is that you will build your marriage on God's love revealed to us through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Leave all other relationships, cleave to each other and weave a life together. Remember you can't walk together through life going in opposite directions.



Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 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 7 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 Hiwassee River Valley Kennel Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 828-835-1082.
The Unicoy Mosaic 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.
Board of Voter Registrars meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.
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 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org
Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Recreation Dept.
Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartscraftsguild.org. mtnregartscraftsguild@hotmail.com.
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/blueridge-mountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.
Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information.
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 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.
We do Family Oral History of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded and would like to do so, please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.
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.
GMREC Native Plant Garden Tours: Mondays 9 AM-1 PM. May-Sept. (except holidays). 706-745-2655.
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 of those with dementia are encouraged to attend. For further information, 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.
VFW Post 7807 will have their all you can eat fish fry on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month from 4:30 to 7 PM. \$9 a plate. See you there!
GMREC Garden Tours every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Shooting Creek Basketweavers meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. All welcome. For more info www.shootingcreekbasketweavers.com.

Towns County Herald
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

KENNETH WEST.....PUBLISHER
CHARLES DUNCAN.....EDITOR, ADVERTISING
SHAWN HENRIKSON.....COPY EDITOR
JAMES REESE.....SPORTS WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER
LOWELL NICHOLSON.....NEWS, SPORTS 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@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) \$15
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.