

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter To The Editor:

On Thursday, July 23 there was a hearing of the Waite vs.

City of Hiawassee lawsuit at the Towns County Court House.

Winners and losers? It is difficult to tell as few issues were

completely resolved and the case remains open and ongoing.

The prevailing legal opinion of those present was "the City of Hiawassee failed to honor its intergovernmental agreement with the county, that was signed into law in November of 2000" by the Hiawassee City Council.

That same City Council then reversed itself and adopted the City of Hiawassee Comprehensive Plan. The exact date and proper notification of this action is unclear. The Council has been asked to justify this decision and has not offered any substantive answer. The City Attorney refused to discuss legal terms with "lay people" on the subject.

The hearing determined the Towns County Comprehensive Plan are the rules in effect. It should be noted that the property (6/10 acre) in question violates the basic minimum area requirements of both the County (7 acres) and City (2 acres) rules.

Mr. Stines logically approached the City seeking permission to build his RV park. He was granted water and sewer hook up, giving him de-facto permission to proceed with his project. This is especially true when he was told there were no other restrictions on the property other than an electrical inspection at a later date.

The City Council and the City Executives have all been in office long enough to be familiar with all of the ordinances and procedures. However, they continue to operate with disregard to the ordinances they formulated, discussed and placed on the books and even the State Laws that govern their performance.

Was Mr. Stines grossly misled or flat out lied to? You be the judge.

John L. Holmes
Taxpayer
Property Owner
Hiawassee Resident

To the Editor:

This past Saturday morning a very important meeting was held at First Baptist Church - Blairsville. The topic of the day was discussion of the Biblical duty of standing up to escalating unconstitutional federal tyranny being foisted upon America, especially in areas of prime concern to Christians such as same-sex marriage and abortion.

The sponsors of this event sent letters of invitation to every pastor/minister in Towns and Union counties, enclosing with this letter information about the subject and a book entitled "The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates."

Less than six of these men, who are charged by their position of pastor with the responsibility of teaching the tenets of the Bible to their flock, attended.

Perhaps the concern of Saturday's meeting in addressing the immorality within our nation was misplaced. With demonstrated apathy and failing to lead on the part of these pastors, it seems the focus of this meeting should have been directed to the sad state of the Christian Church in Towns and Union counties.

Chuck Luca
Gary Meier

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Q: Dr. Don, We have a girl and a boy, both preschoolers. Our family runs quite well, really. Except when the kids' grandmother, my mother, comes to visit. She only comes three or four times a year and stays about a week each time. But she always brings a supply of little gifts, as she calls them. Every morning she gives the kids a hug and then some trinket or toy. At night she does the same thing. They have come to expect it and that's what worries me. Do you think they will develop expectations so every time she's around they want something from her?

A: Oh, cool it, mom. When I was little there was a man in our church who brought a pocketful of mints every week to give to the kids. I don't recall that any of us developed a fixation of expecting a piece of candy from every bald-headed man we met who was wearing suspenders. When I was between about 5 and 10 my grandmother gave me a dollar bill every year on my birthday. I don't recall that I developed any warped sense of entitlement.

Kids love to get gifts, even little ones. Grandmas love to give gifts. What a great combination. Why would you

rain on that parade? Sometimes grandmas have a difficult time finding ways to tell the grands that she loves them. Especially if she lives a long ways away and doesn't get to see them often. She has found this little way that works for her. She loves to see the eagerness in the kids, the way their eyes light up when they see her little love gift. She isn't giving them just a cheap toy, she's giving them the rich gift of a grandma's love. That's big.

Whatever you do, please don't take grandma aside and try to talk her out of it. It just might break her heart. Rejoice in her love for your children.

There are trainloads of kids all across the nation whose moms would celebrate if grandma showed up occasionally and loved on her kids. And right behind that trainload of kids are busloads of grandmas who would give anything they own if they could hug their grandkids even occasionally. Rejoice that your kids can grow up knowing grandma loves them. Delight in knowing that you're giving your mom those kinds of memories. You're blessed.

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

It can happen here!

Wildfire seems to be one of my favorite topics but it's not that I like fires; I just want to help educate all of you of the dangers all around where we live. I don't want to run the topic in the ground, but we all need to realize that even though our fires are not usually as big and spectacular as the ones going on in the west right now, that we do have more fires in the southeast than out west and even a small fire at one of our homes can be just as devastating to the people involved. A wildfire can happen here and we can take simple measures to help lessen our risk before conditions become right for a wildfire.

We have been blessed for several years with wet weather which keeps the wildfire danger in check but our turn is coming and when we get a dry spell conditions will change quickly for the "Big One". Our Firewise program is a state and national leader and our fire numbers prove that it works since we have a fraction of the fires that other counties up here have. Wildfires are devastating western forests, forcing hundreds of evacuations and keeping thousands of firefighters working overtime.

Last week's blistering heatwave gave the fires an upper hand, but cooler weather since the weekend in the Pacific Northwest has given firefighters a slight advantage. The majority of the fire activity continues in California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska is having the worst fire season on record where hot and dry weather conditions continue to hamper firefighting efforts. Eight new large fires were reported last week with only one contained. At least 465,991 acres are ablaze, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise. Four MAFFS C-130 air tankers and support personnel from the California Air National Guard and the Colorado Springs Air Force Reserve have been deployed to McClellan, CA to support wildland fire suppression operations on the Rocky Fire, which is burning in dried out wine country and within the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. To date the Rocky Fire has consumed 68,300 acres and is 20 percent contained. Fire officials say 39 residences have been destroyed, and 6,959 structures are threatened. Evacuations have been ordered for a wide area around the blaze. Firefighters continue to work aggressively to build control lines and sustain perimeter control, officials report. The terrain is steep and rugged with limited access.

The Rocky Fire is one of nearly two dozen wildfires burning across the state of California last week. A South Dakota firefighter died while

protecting our stuff every day.

For more information on the Firewise program contact Frank Riley Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council frank.crcd@gmail.com.

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.

Executive Director of RC&D

Frank Riley

assisting the U.S. Forest Service in fighting the Frog Fire in nearby Adin, in Modoc County. California has been gripped by a severe drought since 2011, which has raised the wildfire risk.

In Oregon, good progress was made on the 17,166-acre Stouts Creek Fire, burning in rugged, densely forested country 16 miles east of Canyonville in Douglas County, OR.

Hoses were being strung down the miles-long western flank of the fire and mop-up was underway in that part of the fire and along the northern edge. Crews on the east and south flanks were punching in fire line with bulldozers and other heavy equipment. In areas where equipment could not be used, fire line was being dug by hand crews and there are 21+ Georgia firefighters working on these lines.

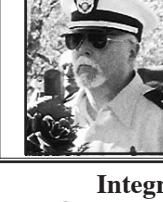
The Stouts Creek Fire is burning on private timberlands, Bureau of Land Management and Umpqua National Forest lands. The fire is 10 percent contained. Nearly 1,600 personnel are assigned to the fire, and crews are working day and night shifts. The cost of the fire suppression effort to date is \$4.4 million.

In Washington State, an entire small town in the path of a wildfire was evacuated. About 300 people from Roosevelt on the banks of the Columbia River were forced to flee. State Routes are closed as the fire jumps the roads.

These news reports seem a long way from us so we feel safe and assume it can't happen here so we put off cleaning the leaves from our roof or raking the leaves away from the house but one day as we are fleeing the oncoming flames rushing up the hill, we will wish that we had taken the time to do the little things that could help save our home. These people who have lost their homes in the current fires or have been forced to evacuate also thought that it could not happen to them, but it did! Please thank your local, state, and federal, firefighters for the work they do to protect our stuff every day.

Fraser Sanders, born 3/1/1927, served in WWII, US Army, and two years in Austria, was honorably discharged and lo and behold, was illegally drafted to serve again in the Korean War! He could have challenged this typical bureaucratic foul up, but served honorably again anyway. Fraser currently lives near Greenville, SC.

Cecil C. Sanders, Jr., born 2/6/1931 served in the First Division, USMC for four years, two years of which were spent in the Korean con-



The Veterans' Corner

By
Scott Drummond,
USCG Veteran

Integrity!

One extremely important human characteristic, often AWOL today, is ultimately important to the survival of our precious America, our people, family structure, and integral to many who serve and have served our nation.

We, of Towns County and America, are blessed to have a family of Patriots, several generations, who served honorably and who have passed along Integrity, Patriotism, wisdom, humility, and Christianity to their children, grandchildren as well as our mountain community from which they all were born, reared and lived. A family tradition, if you will. Let's begin:

Cecil Charles Sanders, of Hayesville, NC born 7/15/1902 enlisted in the USMC, 3 years 1920-1923 in Dominican Republic campaign. His Supreme Commander called him home on 5/9/1977.

PFC Sherlock Henry Sanders, born 12/1/1924, served in 137th Infantry, US Army, WWII in Saint Lo, France. He was a member of a replacement company and gave his life at a very young age, for America along with many others to a NAZI ambush, after 6 months in service on August 3, 1944.

Fraser Sanders, born 3/1/1927, served in WWII, US Army, and two years in Austria, was honorably discharged and lo and behold, was illegally drafted to serve again in the Korean War! He could have challenged this typical bureaucratic foul up, but served honorably again anyway. Fraser currently lives near Greenville, SC.

Jerry Sanders, of Hiawassee, the youngest of the Sanders brothers, born 3/19/1943, suffered a car crash and permanently altered right arm from a severe break. He tried to enlist in the USMC was declared ineligible due to this injury. Jerry got a promotion anyway and went on to serve permanent duty alongside our Lord at age 70, on June 1, 2013.

A very wise and Godly man told me "integrity" is perhaps the most important word in our language.

Semper Paratus

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