

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY**Straight Shooting**

When we write a news story, we give you the details of information that we have uncovered about any given subject.

Our story last week about an inquiry, or "probe" by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation regarding the debt by former BRMEMC President of the Board of Directors Terry Taylor was spot on.

A story in the *Clay County Progress* in Clay County, NC reported that EMC investigation is not confirmed.

That was the *Progress'* headline. I'm told they have as much information as our two newspapers. Why they finally chose to write something now, well, only they know the answer to that question.

If the *North Georgia News* and or *Towns County Herald* tells you that something is going on, believe it. We're not going to report something that isn't happening.

I received information once again from Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley last week.

He said: "I did not intend to communicate that either (GBI or the Attorney General's Office) was conducting any kind of full scale investigation of conduct by the EMC. I have spoken with the GBI about this matter. The GBI did what is often referred to as an assistance rendered response, which means a Special Agent with the GBI met with and interviewed a complaining witness and received documents about the allegations in this matter, but at this time they have not initiated a criminal investigation.

"Likewise, to my knowledge the Attorney General's Office has not opened their own investigation, but I have sought their advice regarding the matter. I have also requested a copy of the EMC's internal investigation upon it being completed.

"I rarely comment to the press about matters at this stage, but I understand the public's concern and interest. Therefore I want to be very accurate in explaining that steps are being taken to inquire into this situation, but these steps should not be taken to suggest any determination has been made as to any criminal action," Langley said.

We're not an alarmist news organization. Our stories are based on facts.

Once again, we're shooting straight and bringing you the news as we complete the gathering process. Thank you for your patience.

Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan

Letters to The Editor**Dear Editor,**

On Saturday, August 2, an urgent notice was issued to approximately 400,000 residents of Toledo and Lucas County in northwest Ohio who received treated drinking water from the City of Toledo. The message: DO NOT DRINK THE WATER. DO NOT BOIL THE WATER. The cause of the water crisis is what's known as a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) in Lake Erie and it's located right beside Toledo's water intake.

This is exactly the kind of thing that the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition is working to prevent in the future in Lake Chatuge! This crisis is happening because, in the words of one of my colleagues in Ohio, local governments and residents have been "kicking the can" for decades, refusing to do what needs to be done to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus levels draining into the lake for decades.

The algae blooms grow in warm temperatures on an excess of nutrients (phosphorus is the main concern) in the water and when the problem is bad enough, concentrations of a toxin called microcystin that is found naturally in algae increase to a level that makes us sick.

In 2007, the watershed coalition published a plan for the Lake Chatuge watershed that contains recommended strategies for reducing nutrient pollution draining into the lake. Using funds from a GA 319(h) Nonpoint Source Pollution Program grant, we have been working for the past three years to start reducing nutrient levels in the lake, but we must continue this work if we want to keep Lake Chatuge safe.

Installing best management practices (BMPs) to slow and treat runoff from all kinds of land uses (agricultural, commercial and residential areas), fixing leaking or failing septic systems (and maintaining your system regularly), supporting the City of Hiwassee in its efforts to add nutrient reduction to its wastewater treatment plant, and maintaining membership in the watershed coalition are all ways you can help!

Think you won't be affected because you have a well? Almost all of the businesses along US 76 rely on treated drinking water from the City of Hiwassee's intake in Lake Chatuge. Oh and by the way, they can't use Lake Erie for recreation while these blooms are happening either.

The Lake Chatuge Watershed Action Plan and more information about recommended nutrient reduction strategies are available on the watershed coalition's web site: www.hrwc.net/lakechatugeplan.htm.

Let's not have people 20 years from now saying of us, "Well, they just kicked the can down the road and now we can't drink the water."

*Callie D. Moore, Executive Director
Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition*

Dear Editor,
Management of BRMEMC

In theory, we 43,000 or so members own the BRMEMC. However, in practice our ownership is largely limited to paying debts incurred by the manager and a 9-member board of directors. The board hires the manager and members theoretically elect the board. Unfortunately, the system for selecting directors is so flawed they are in fact hand picked by management and we, the owners, have little choice in the matter.

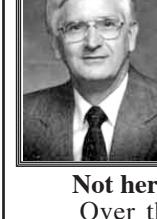
We expect push-back from a 10-year old and we are not disappointed. "I'm gonna get dehydrated," he warns, as if to instill terror in her heart and create a paralyzing fear that the Childrens' Hydration Police will instantly appear and force mom to relent and buy him a coke. She is wise to his strategy and not in the least intimidated by his appeal.

"Let me know when you're done..." she replies. She calls his bluff. It is as though she says, "I am the mother and your phony plea does not move me. If you are seriously thirsty there is a water fountain at the front of the store by the restrooms. We'll meet you there after we check out."

Leadership parenting. Jack has re-discovered who's in charge. The other kids will pick it up, too. Wish I had it on film.

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

This year we have a



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

Not here, but here

Over the years I have met some strong personalities, both men and women! (Most of them of Baptist background.)

Nearly all Baptists have strong personalities. That's the reason there are so many of them. One fellow from the mountains was caught moon shining and was sent to prison. After a few days

in prison he wrote his mom a letter saying, "Dear Ma, it's

here like it is down there, nearly all Baptists."

Some of these strong personalities have been preachers, staff members, politicians, teachers, con people and some ordinary folks from the market places of life. People with strong personalities make their presence known. Sometimes they get to be annoying, upsetting and just plain obnoxious. In fact, they

can become a thorn in the flesh. At the same time, they can be a motivating force, inspirational and a tremendous challenge.

Strong personalities are usually "take charge" people. A lot of them will rush in to

situations where angels fear to tread. But they get things done even if it is not always good. They are not passive people.

Peter had a strong personality. He didn't always say the right thing nor do the right thing but he couldn't be quiet and inactive. Once,

at the most holy moment, he wanted to start building three tabernacles. On another solemn occasion with our Lord,

he became an ear slicer. Strong personalities may at times mess up, but overall they are out front and on the cutting edge of great things that are successful. Many of them are pioneers. You can tell because

of the arrows in their backs. People with strong personalities die just like everyone else but even when they are gone they are still here.

I am sure that you have known individuals, maybe a family member, that even though they were dead they

still controlled what went on in the family. I have also known

churches that seemed to be influenced more by the dead than the living. I heard about

an aristocratic, antebellum middle Georgia woman who

was getting on in age. She was a classic steel magnolia who

controlled what went on in the "big house." Driven by the

fear that she would die before her rich husband she decided

to take charge of matters. She

hired one of the best artists

from Atlanta and brought him

to the plantation. She told the

artist that she wanted a portrait

of herself that looked like she

did when she first married. He

agreed and told her to dress in

her best. She decked herself in

her finest. The artist positioned

her in her best pose with her

hands gracefully holding a fan

so that her 5 carat diamond

ring was very prominent. She

instructed the artist to paint

her forty years younger and to

paint her ring 10 carats larger!

He agreed that he could do both

but he wanted to know why she

wanted him to paint a 15 carat

diamond that she never owned.

She explained to the artist that

when she died she knew her

husband would immediately

marry a younger woman and

that he would give the 5 carat

diamond ring to her. But she

said, "I want her to go crazy

searching the big house trying

to find this 15 carat diamond."

Certainly, we ought to

so live that we would be a

positive influence in this life.

Even when we are not here,

we will continue to be here if

we have lived our lives in the

will of God. Being dead, yet

speaking.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**LETTERS TO THE
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Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at

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Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

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