

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:
As a concerned citizen and animal lover, I'm writing this in hopes to bring awareness to the feral cat over population! A feral female just brought her 3 starving kittens under my porch, her pleading eyes gave me no choice but to start feeding them. It broke my heart, as they have never had a loving home. A pair of breeding cats and all of their kittens and so on, if never spayed or neutered add up to 80,399,290 in 10 years. That's why I'm making my plea to everyone to please spay and neuter.

There is a great group called Logan's Run that can provide assistance 828-837-4944 (push option 1 and leave a message they will get back to you in a timely fashion). Other great resources are North GA SPCA for people that need assistance to spay and neuter their pet: 706-745-7222

Another great group is Operation PUP they also provide assistance: 1-888-496-2387.

Hopefully we can all do our part, with winter coming I can't bear to think of all those poor starving animals out there!

*Sincerely Concerned,
Trish Chapin*

Dear Editor:
Solving Climate Change Would Boost Economy, Not Harm It

Though there are fears of economic disaster if our country invests in the infrastructure to deal with climate change, the reverse is actually true. A report by the World Bank in June of 2014 stated "policies to cut carbon pollution might actually boost the global economy by up to \$2.6 trillion a year."

Wall Street agrees with these findings. A recent report by Citigroup states, "The incremental costs of following a low carbon path are in context limited and seem affordable, the 'return' on that investment is acceptable and moreover the likely avoided liabilities are enormous - actually savings trillions of dollars." They go on to say, "And down the line, a low carbon energy mix could account for \$30-50 trillion in savings from avoiding climate damage."

The risks of not acting on climate change are unacceptable. All the definitive studies ask the question- "Why not act on climate change?" Citizens Climate Lobby has a simple plan for putting a steadily increasing price on carbon and returning all the dividends to us, the people of the United States. Their well respected Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. (REM) study found that this would decrease greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% over the next 20 years as well as adding 2.8 million American jobs and increasing the GDP by \$1.3 trillion over that time frame. The price of alternative energy is now almost competitive with the price of energy from fossil fuels. Numerous studies show that electric bills would ultimately be lowered, not raised, by the switch to alternative fuels. There is no good reason not to act.

Vernon Dixon, MD

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
By Don Jacobsen

If you follow this column you know that every once in a while we come across something so off-the-charts that it merits special mention. When that happens we confer the Dr. Don THIRST Award. That stands for This Is Really Stupid. Well, I've got one for you today.

At the Mercer Island School District, near Seattle, the educators have decided that it's not good for any of the children on the playground to be designated as "it." Therefore they have outlawed the playing of tag. Tag. You remember tag, right? One kid is chosen as "it," and then he/she has to touch one of the other kids and they become "it." You pass "it" around and eventually just about everybody at some time becomes "it." Sounds pretty violent to me. The fact that I played, by conservative estimate, 5,000 games of tag while I was growing up, with minimal personal injury, demonstrates that I enjoyed a wondrously sheltered youth.

Please forgive the sarcasm, but this kind of thing really distresses me. I get the sense that some of today's adults are deeply committed to developing a generation of certifiable wimps. We're not talking about authorized knife

fighters here, or bare-knuckle brawls. We're talking about children running around the playground, touching each other. Oh, good grief. Next we'll hear they've outlawed paper airplanes for fear they might hit someone in the eye. Maybe the school should issue safety goggles for recess.

Part of my role as the parent of an infant or toddler is to take away those things that are harmful. We don't let them play with scissors, don't run with a spoon in your mouth, don't touch the hot stove. But part of getting wiser as a mom or dad is beginning to stop taking stuff away. If we remove every possibility of their ever getting a bruise or a scrape we don't prepare them for what life will bring. If we let them run they will likely fall. Part of our role is to teach them to jump up and proceed with the chase. If they slide into a second base they will likely get a bad scrape. Part of our role is to teach them to jump up and run for third. If they are going to change the world they are going to get some bruises. Note to the faculty of Mercer Island School District: It's time to de-wimp your playground.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net. N10Oct14A15H

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Just in time, October comes. Unlike the warmer, greener months of summer, no calendar is needed to announce its arrival. October air is brighter; the colors are richer. There is a fragrance of fall in the breeze, a memory of what was and a reminder of what is to come.

The hummingbirds knew October was coming. Most of them have gone south now, except for a few stragglers, just passing through. The yellow jackets know. Their idle curiosity has turned to aggression, and resentment for the doom they sense in the cooler nights.

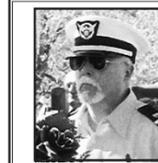
The mist hangs heavy on the mountain again this morning, and as it lifts to reveal new hints of color in the hillside canvas, I consider hot chocolate instead of coffee, for a moment, but there is still too much summer left over for that, and I certainly don't want to hurry the onslaught of cold weather. The bottle of creamer is empty, so I open the spare refrigerator in the garage for a replacement and see the last of the late summer September peaches huddled and wrinkled in the corner. It's time for a trip to the orchard to fill the empty space with fall apples.

Down in the meadow, every blossom that has survived the cool nights and rainy weather is thrice visited by frantic butterflies. Honey-

bees stream out of their hives intent on the tasks at hand, and return with their baskets filled with orange and yellow pollen. Squirrels lay claim to every acorn, hickory nut and walnut that falls and our bear has been leaving a history of his persimmon binges on the trail. The evening chorus of all things that chirped and clicked their primeval love songs strepitoso in the summer is now smorzando with the sound of lonely males who find themselves without a mate late in life. It is one of Nature's saddest songs.

October reminds us that the summer wine is meant to be savored, not stored. Some things, like apples and pumpkins, can be harvested and kept for the winter months, but others, like those peaches in the corner of my refrigerator, must be enjoyed in the moment. The ancient cycle of change mirrors the seasons of our own lives. If we cling to the summer and dread the winter, we can miss so much of the beauty of the year that is fall.

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The Veterans' Corner

By Scott Drummond, USCG Veteran

It's good to give!

This column, dedicated to all our Veterans, those who give a portion of their lives to our nation, and those who have given their all, has been and will continue to be a learning curve for me. (Some might say "too steep", ha!) Our Lions Clubs are one of these lessons, the world's largest, most effective community service organization. Begun in 1917, volunteering, fundraising, and social activities are all a part of the Lions giving to the community. Did you know that our Towns County Lions volunteer for the Georgia Mountain Fair and all activities on fair property? They also lend guidance to the GA Board of Directors who manage the property, finances, etc. The Lions is an all-volunteer organization with a large membership of Veterans, various church members, other Community Service Organizations, and an assortment of community "givers". The Lions would love to have your helping hands as another worthwhile "giver". Other than heartfelt fellowship and satisfaction of meeting all the wonderful folks who visit our mountain fairgrounds, as a volunteer, you'll also receive a meal and gate passes on the days (or weeks) that you give to our beautiful mountain community.

A fine dedicated Lion, who came to Towns County in 2005 and joined the Lions in 2008, has given to our community at the fairground by: cooking burgers, working the gate, managing the bookstore, the snack-shack, the funnel cake store, as well as his wife, Marti

servicing as cashier in various venues. Marti, also a Veteran, has given to our mountain community hospital as an auxiliary member. So many of our nation's Veterans of all branches of our military just seem to keep on giving, and would love to have you join them. Lots of work and fun too!

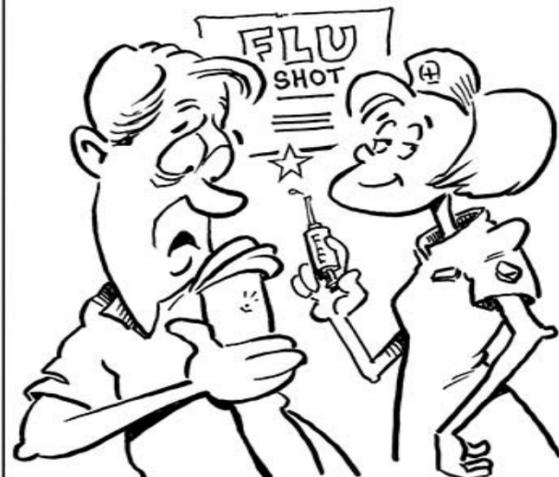
A little snippet on this Lion, Gene LaJeunesse, born August 12, 1930 in Patterson, NJ, enlisted in our Army 6 months prior to HS graduation. 1948, thus trained with our 101st Airborne 1st ID, at Ft. Breckenridge, KY. Gene went to serve in Germany for about one and a half years, before being deployed to Korea as a part of our 3rd Infantry and attached to artillery. However, due to field communications problems, he was given the dangerous task of going up into the surrounding mountains and ferreting out workable "relay" points for sending forward observation information back to our fire control and command centers. Gene left the Army in 1951, and after working at Curtiss-Wright Aircraft, a brief stint in the restaurant business (he's a good cook, too!), then moving to Apopka, FL and working for the USPS, he re-enlisted in our US Army Reserve, specializing in Intelligence, all the while working a full time postal job. He is also an American Legion member and a former commander of a very large VFW club in FL. Retiring as Command Sergeant Major in 1990, he continues to give to our community. You too can give by volunteering!

Semper Paratus

"I believe in being a civic-minded citizen..."



"...Even when it hurts!"



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.

Community Calendar

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!
VFW Fish Fry April - October on 2nd & 4th Fridays each month from 4:30 - 7, \$10 per plate.
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 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.
Democratic Party of Towns County meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. at new Senior Center. Newcomers welcome. Questions please contact the T.C. Dem's at Townscountymocrats@gmail.com.
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 Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Stevens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris. Sat. morning breakfast 2nd Sat. of each month from 8 - 10:30 AM. \$6 adults, \$3 12 & under.
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 old Rec Center in Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. 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 & Crafts Guild meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Calvary Chapel on Hwy. 76 in Hiawassee. All local artists and crafters are welcome, for information call 706-896-0932.
Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.
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 Gary at 706-896-4308 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: meets every Friday and Sunday evening at 7 at Red Cross Building at 1293 Jack Dayton Circle. 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.
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.
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 PM at the Shrine Club, Industrial Blvd., Blairsville.
GMREC Garden Tours every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Shooting Creek Basket Weavers meets 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreekbas-

ketweavers.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 evening at 7 PM at the Red Cross building 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 10:30 AM in HHS shop. For more info call J. C. at 706-896-5711.
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.
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 AI 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.
The Board of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce meets the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.
The Quilting Bee at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Family Life Center, Room 216. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 AM - 3 PM. Bring a sack lunch. For more information call Kathy at 706-835-6721 or Marilyn at 706-897-4367.
Mountain Coin Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the North Georgia Tech campus in Blairsville. Guests are welcome. For more info, call 706-379-1488.
Monday morning BINGO at Brasstown Manor every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Players meet in the Bradford. Questions 706-896-4285.
Towns County Lions Club meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, 273 Big Sky Drive, Hiawassee.

Towns County Herald

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