

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Editors:

My wife and I grew up in a southwest Atlanta neighborhood, but spent considerable time in rural middle Georgia, the ancestral homes of farmers and my native Creek ancestors for 200+ years. Having lived many years in Macon, Ga., we decided we wanted a retreat remote of our tree farm in Monroe County either on the coast or in the mountains. After searches and much consideration we decided that the north Georgia mountains, Hiawassee and environs, was a small part of heaven on earth. The beautiful flora and mountains were irresistible, only exceeded, if possible, by the people we met who lived in these beautiful mountains full or part time. Fourteen years ago we made a commitment that Hiawassee was the place. Spending significant time at our retreat, shared with our large extended family spread over GA, S.C., & N.C., we have not been disappointed in our decision.

Although very pleased, there are some improvements which I hope could be made for the community. Although not a full time resident, we have tried to make contributions to the community in different ways such as through the Towns County Homeowners Association as a founding Director and working on some of their laudable activities. I hope there will be a significant change in the streetscape on the north side of U.S. #76 leading to Hiawassee from the west about one mile from the North Georgia Fairgrounds where there is a harsh looking business activity, an apparent non-conforming (Ga. DNR) transfer station, to improve appearances and avoid possible pollution to the adjacent Lake Chatuge.

Most Georgians, as I do, believe in individual property rights. However, as schooled by grandparent farmers who owned land, a property owner should always consider how one's utilization of property impacts your neighbors. Over the years this property has gone through phases of heavy unattractive utilization only to observe later significant improvement. I hope we are soon entering into an improvement phase. Thank you.

Arthur D. Brook, Macon & Hiawassee

To the Editor:

I would like to address your article regarding the Head Start shutdown that ran in the October 9, 2013 Herald. Some of your facts are not quite accurate. You stated "The Pre-K program in Towns County was shutdown...". In actuality the program in Towns County is the Towns County Head Start/Pre-K program. Head Start is funded by the federal government. Pre-K in Georgia is funded through the Georgia state lottery.

The Towns County Head Start/Pre-K program has 34 Head Start children and 22 Pre-K children. The Head Start program employs 2 Head Start Teachers, 2 Head Start teacher assistants, and 3 Head Start employees work in the Head Start office. Additionally, the program employs 1 Pre-K teacher and 1 Pre-K teacher assistant in the classroom with the 22 Pre-K students you mentioned in the article.

Instead of the 22 children and the 1 teacher you mentioned in your article who might be impacted by the shutdown, there are significantly more who are actually in jeopardy of not being able to continue with school and employment in Towns County.

*Sincerely,
Margaret Bolthouse*

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Q: Dr. Don, I keep reading these reports from various places saying that our kids are being barraged with media, that they're spending more time than they ought to be and are exposed to a lot of influences that I as a parent am concerned about. What is your take on all that?

A: I keep getting those reports, too, and frankly they worry me about where our kids are headed. Media is changing this generation of kids and parents are acting as though they have very little input into its influence. Some new stuff from a Kaiser Family Foundation study shows that the average youngster in America between the ages of 8 and 18 spends 7 hours and 38 minutes every day—that's about 50 hours per week—watching some form of what they call "entertainment media." That's up dramatically from 2009.

So now we know that from the standpoint of time the most dominant influence in the lives of our kids is: Parental input? Family values? Church guidance? No. In fact, it's not even school any more. America's kids spend more time receiving input into their consciousness from media than from any other single source. And here's the part I find most troubling: The Kaiser study

shows that most families—70 percent—have no kind of monitoring or even rules about the amount of time their kids can spend with TV, video games, social media or computers. I keep singing the song that in huge segments of America's homes parents are giving up their God-given authority. Here's a classic front on which to begin taking it back.

What if we parents were to make some new rules, such as: (1) As a family we're going to do some media events together. Good place to discuss family values. Help them see that, just as mom does with her cooking, some thought needs to go into our media diet, too. (2) After 9 p.m. all phones are on the charger in the kitchen. (3) No screens in kids' rooms—TV, computer, video games, etc. (4) Work with other parents to encourage schools toward media education; encourage innovative use of technology to help students learn; and to have rules about what content may be accessed on devices in the classroom. (5) Media-free mealtime. (6) Help kids understand how dangerous social media can be, and that when they post something it's there forever.

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

London Fog, Penny Loafers, Madras, Ping Pong

I have reminisced here several times in the past about my days growing up in the 60s in Butler and these days my mind drifts back there more and more when I see and hear all that is going on around us in the world today. I listen to talk radio sometimes while traveling, but after a while it just makes me mad because I can't tell which side to believe so finally I just turn on country music to put my mind at ease and start daydreaming about how we grew up back in the 60s in the small town in the middle of nowhere.

The sign that I saw recently said "don't look back because your not going there again" makes logical sense, but I like to look back because it's a lot more pleasing than what we are facing today. I wish I could take my grandchildren back to those good ole days to experience the times that we had when we had nothing to worry about except keeping the old folks happy and having fun with our gang, no high technology to keep up with, the only cell phone that we knew about was Dick Tracey's wrist radio in the Sunday comics... we had no dangers to worry about except the dirt clod that came out of the bushes as we rode our bicycles down the paths, and the only standards that some worried about was whether their jacket was a real London Fog or from Belk's... mine came from Belk's but it looked the same and it was a jacket after all... or if our madras pants were real and would bleed when they got wet, or if our penny loafers were Florsheim or some imitation, but at least back then the imitations were made in America not China.

My best friend, Thurman, or Bubba as we called him, was our fashion leader because he had an older sister who made sure he had the correct labels showing, but we just threw dirt clods at him anyway. Butler was so small that the only ball games that mattered was basketball because we didn't have football. Kids today can't imagine life without football and that we actually grew up without it! After the ball games we didn't have anywhere to hang out so everybody gathered at the Riley house. My parents, Sarah and Frank Sr. (PaPa) were very involved in their kid's activities especially when my two sisters were state basketball champs 5 years in a row, PaPa liked that. Our friends would bring their dates over to our house after ballgames to play ping pong and Sarah would serve

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.

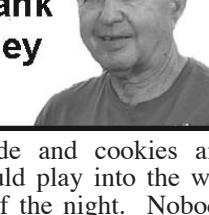
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE EMAILED OR MAILED

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.

Executive Director of RC&D

Frank Riley



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

Givers and takers

A war hero, Clebe McClary, said, "In this world of give and take, there are not enough men willing to give what it takes." If you watch the evening news it does appear that there are more takers than givers. Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-36. In this story Jesus presented four different philosophies by which men live today.

When we tell kids today about how we grew up, they just roll their eyes and think that we are just old fuddy duddies and we make these things up to make a good story like they have seen on reruns of Mayberry RFD and they can't wait to look at their I-Phone to see the very important, urgent text they have missed in the past 60 seconds from someone much more important. When we suggest that they use the phone to actually talk to someone, they think that we really have lost our minds and when we tell them that we used to have to put our fingers in a hole and rotate a dial to make the phone work, they are ready to put us in a home.

I can remember a lot of these things from 46 years ago when I grew up, but now I can't remember where I left my keys. Wish I could go back to those carefree good ole days!

Frank M. Riley, Jr., CF, is the Executive Director of the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council, Inc. frank.ccrd@gmail.com.

First of all, he introduced the robbers who assaulted the traveler and relieved him of everything, including his clothing. We have multitudes today that live by the robber's philosophy, "What's yours is mine and I will take it" by whatever means that I have to employ. We are plagued with identity theft, credit card scams, home invasions, robberies, car jacking, embezzlements, frauds and multiplied ways that individuals use to take what does not belong to them.

Then Jesus introduced the religious philosophy of some as demonstrated in the Priest and Levite, whose philosophy was "What's mine is mine and I will keep it." We still have those who live and die by this rule. Although, they are not taking from anyone, they certainly are not givers. They do not have a generous heart and they close their eyes to any need.

Then there is the Sa-

maritan who understands and lives life on a higher level. He is not a slave to anything and whatever he may have he uses as a tool to help build up others. His philosophy is "What's mine is yours and we can share it." He is compassionate and willing to give of his time, his treasure and his very life.

The fourth philosophy is introduced by the innkeeper. His standard of life is "What's mine is yours if you can pay for it." This philosophy is probably the dominant philosophy of our generation. However, not all giving is to be praised. Some folks are great givers at giving others a hard time or giving someone an ear full of gossip. Others seem to enjoy giving someone a piece of their mind or giving ground to the devil and giving chase to every form of evil that presents itself. Well, God wants us to give people the benefit of a doubt, to give people their rights and to give them a second chance in life.

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Don't give an ear to the devil, but give up your life to Christ. Do your giving while you're living, then you're knowing where it's going.



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!

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 Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at the Senior Center.

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 Hiawassee 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 Unicoi Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

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.

Stephens Lodge #41 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 mtnregarts-craftsguild.org.

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.

PPL 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 at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.

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.

Chattahoochee 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 706-994-6407.

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.

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 Hiawassee Senior Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch. Call 706-379-2191.

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