DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

Shortly after our nation celebrated another Veterans Day, my father-in-law, Roy Lewis Fuss (87 yrs), passed away on November 16 after a two-week bout with pneumonia. Roy, a part-time resident of Hiawassee, was in the Navy in World War II and served in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of the war. Roy served on a ship that was struck by a torpedo and split in half; he survived for eighteen hours in the ocean by holding on to a piece of the ship's wreckage. Roy served on another ship that was also struck by a torpedo, but it was repaired and later decommissioned in 1972. Roy was a Christian man, veteran, and a patriot who will be missed greatly as the number of our World War II veterans decreases.

Hugh Hilliard

Letter to the Editor:

The City of Hiawassee has recently installed a doggie station on the square by the sidewalk behind the gazebo. Please use the bags provided to pick up litter from your dog and deposit it in the bin provided, this is not safe fertilizer. Many people will appreciate a cleaner, safer square: Hiawassee Garden Club and Towns-Union Master Gardener members who work in the flower beds; individuals with their families who come to the free concerts on the square during the summer months; organizations that have events most every weekend; and the landscape firm that mows the grass.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Joan Crothers Hiawassee City Council member and Hiawassee Garden Club member

Dear Editor:

Towns County residents may not be aware of the "gem' they have in Chatuge Regional Nursing Home (CRNH). As a nurse of 42 years experience (the last 10 as a Charge Nurse at CRNH), I wish to thank this "gem." Thank you to all depart-ments: Nursing, Activities, Care Plan, Laundry, Ward Clerk, Transport, Dietary, Maintenance, Physical Therapy and Administrative. It takes each and every one to support and maintain a clean, healthy and caring environment for those who need extra personal care. CRNH also provides support for their families during a very difficult time of change.

I have always regarded residents and personnel as an extended family. While the last few years have been some of the most difficult, they have also been the most rewarding. Some have stated, "I wish you worked here every day", "I like it when you are here." Sometimes a resident plays your favorite song on the piano or a fellow worker gives you a hug after a trying day. A family member gives you a hug and thank you for what we do for their family.

Thank you all as I go out to seek other avenues to help support my dear husband Rick and wish to everyone good health and happiness.

I send all my love to the residents of CRNH and to everyone that supports their care. Please keep in touch.

Dianna L. Butler



think that's why, on a recent want." Not good training for a road trip, she was reading me 4-year old. Or a 16-year old. a story about a 4-year old boy who was trying to talk his dad into buying a dog. Cute story but I saw through her ploy immediately. But part of the tale she was reading did get my attention. The dad is telling the story and he mentions how the youngster set out to soften him up with non-stop pleading. Dad says, "He must have asked a hundred times over the next day or two, but each time I firmly said No." Then the account takes an interesting turn and dad continues, "Finally I got tired of saying No and told him, 'I'll think about it.'" Of course at that point the discussion is over and dad goes on to say, "We've all learned to love the puppy." Sorry, dad, the fact that you "got tired of saying No" to a 4-year old is not a good reason to change your mind. What did the youngster just learn? "Just keep begging and I'll get my way." Or, "If I am obnoxious enough I can wear him down." Or maybe, "Eventually dad will get tired of my

My wife wants a dog. I pleading and give me what I How about if dad had

Trout Unlimited opens Trout Adventure Trail



Trout Unlimited President Carl Riggs helps scout the Trout Adventure Trail.

Special to The Herald

There is fierce competition for recreational time for American kids today. Among other things, organized sports, digital media, computer games, and television swallow up the opportunity for children to get into the woods and commune with nature. For the health and well-being of our children, and to give them an appreciation for our natural surroundings, kids should see and experience wilderness areas. With that in mind, Blue Ridge Mountain Trout Unlimited partnered with the USDA Forest Service to help parents, teachers, and organizational leaders to plan fun hikes in the woods. The Trout Adventure Trail officially opened on November 1, 2012, when Blue Ridge Mountain TU powered up a unique website, www. TroutAdventureTrail.org.

What is it? The Trout Adventure Trail is a special place for kids and their parents, teachers, or scout leaders to hike in the woods and learn firsthand about trout and their natural surroundings along the existing Appalachian and Benton-MacKaye Trails between Springer Mountain and Long Creek Falls. Youth group leaders, parents, and teachers are given information on how and where to plan hikes in this trail system, from a short walk to a 12 mile circuit loop. Along the way they can see a waterfall, trout streams, the start of the Appalachian Trail, magnificent Hemlock stands, wildlife, and beautiful open views. Plus hikers get a free patch to commemorate the experience.

What will they learn? The TroutAdventureTrail. org website provides parents, teachers, and youth leaders or the hikers themselves with fun educational information on subjects such as the native and stocked trout species in Georgia, trout habitat, watersheds, and conservation. Hikers can learn that trout need cold, clean water to survive, what trout eat, how

to follow a marked trail, and much more. The experience includes educational information, hands-on exercises, and details on trail selection and logistics (getting there, parking, and safety). This pro-gram is the "easy" button for safely taking great wilderness hikes. Hikers determine what route is best for their abilities, needs, and desires. The website has basic educational information with links to more detailed information for those who want it, all created with the help of a host of Forest Service and DNR experts and educators. The Trout Adventure

Trail is unique. The Forest Service tells us there is nothing like this program in their system, and they are excited about the "hands on" nature of the learning and the flexibility of "U-build the hike and learning experience."

To plan a hike and to pick up commemorative patches, just go to TroutAdventureTrail.org and visit a local Trail Headquarters, which are the Fannin Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center in Blue Ridge, the US Forest Service Office, Highway 515, in Blairsville, and North Georgia Mountain Outfitters, 583 Highland Crossing, Suite 230 in Ellijay.





Christmas is hope

It has been said that man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air, but only one second without hope. Dr. Fred Craddock said, "Hope is the very stuff of life; it keeps the farmer on the tractor, the prisoner alive, the student at the books, and the patient watching for the morning." Hope is confident expectation. When God took on flesh and blood and moved into our world in the person of Jesus, He came to a world of darkness, blackness, and hopelessness. The voice of the prophet had been silent for about four hundred years and men had turned to mystery religions and gods that did not see, hear nor answer prayers. At just the right time - in the fullness of time, God came to replace man's hope with the fulfillment of the Messianic Hope of ancient promise. What seems more hopeless than to live in a world where a tyrant rules and murders babies? What appears to be any more hopeless than a congregation of shepherds? Even worse, what could seem more hopeless than a young man with a pregnant teenager for a wife, away from home, no shelter for giving birth, except for a stable? Into this atmosphere of hopelessness, hope broke forth. You see hope is not just believing that things are finally going to come out in the wash. Christmas (Christian) hope brings the assurance of God's presence NOW. In the midst of our circumstances that bring despair and a sense of hopelessness, God steps in to say that you don't have to "go it alone." When the enemy of death has removed that precious Present. Jesus lives! Our hope is loved one; your spouse has just

you anymore" or that son or daughter has made a decision to live an ungodly and rebellious lifestyle; when your boss has just dropped the bombshell that you no longer have a job, or a thousand other scenarios, God gives blessed hope. Man extends false hope. He has clichés and empty slogans that last about as long as the morning dew. However, God gives hope not only in this world that is overwhelmingly negative (listen to the evening news and current events) but Christmas hope that says the future is more glorious and brighter. Christmas hope declares the best is yet to be. If we have hope just for living this life now, without any hope of a future life, Paul says we would be most miserable. Christmas is not just a secular holiday; it is a holy day that offers hope. Christmas is not just being home for the holidays; it is hope for heaven with all of God's family. Yes, Christmas is hope. Each sparkling light declares that Jesus is the light of the world. Every Christmas tree communicates the death of Christ upon the cross. Each gift exchanged carries the message that Christ is the ultimate gift of God to a world of lost sinners. We not only have a hope to live by now, but we have a hope that is good enough to die by. Several years ago one of our nation's submarines became disabled and sank off the coast of Massachusetts. Ships were rushed to the scene to see if anything could be done. The men were trapped and clung desperately to life as their oxygen slowly dissipated. The divers communicated with the men inside in Morse code. As time was running out, a question was tapped from inside the submarine: "Is ... there ... any ... hope?"

Thank God, in a war torn world Christmas declares again that there is hope!! Our hope is anchored in the Past. Jesus arose! Our hope remains in the completed in the Future. Jesus is walked out saying, "I don't love coming!



They do their shopping right here in the community."

said, "Tommy, I'm sorry, but we live in an apartment right now, and the rule is, "No pets." One of these days we'll get a house of our own, then we can talk about a puppy. But I have an idea - how about next time we go shopping let's stop at the pet store and see what kind of puppy we might like."

Or dad could say, "Tommy, mom and I have talked it over and this isn't a good time for us to have a puppy. We think when you start school would be a good time, but not now. Allison next door has one, Rusty. Let's see if she'll let us take Rusty for a walk sometimes." Discussion over. Tommy knows that no amount of pleading, begging, entreating, whining, or pouting is going to change his parents minds. By the time he's 4 he should already know that it's a waste of his breath.

Establishing loving parental authority is a great gift we give our children.

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

Towns County Herald Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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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

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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 ED-**ITOR 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.

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 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 Com*mission* 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 Ken-

nel 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 Unicoy Masonic 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. We do oral family histories of residents. 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, Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Call us by 706-896-0932 or mtnregartscraftsguild.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.

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/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.

Chatuge Regional Hospital Aux*iliary* 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. Prostate Cancer Support Group meets the 3rd Monday of every month from 5-6 PM in the Cancer Freatment 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 are encouraged to attend. For more info 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! April - October.

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.shootingcreekbasketweavers.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 eve-nings 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.