

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Lost Camera

On Tuesday, July 21, several members of my family and I attended the Georgia Mountain Fair in Hiawassee. We had a delightful afternoon enjoying the vendors, exhibits, rides, and other entertainment. Unfortunately our visit was marred by my loss of my camera while at the fair.

The lost camera was in a black cloth camera bag with a shoulder strap. The camera is a Canon Power Shot digital camera. The memory card in the camera has numerous family photo shots which have not been printed or saved and, therefore, cannot be retrieved. These photos include shots from my granddaughter's wedding and our family vacation. These are a huge loss to us personally.

If you found the camera or know someone else that did, I would be most grateful if you would contact me. My e-mail address is mawatson@bellsouth.net, and my phone number is 478-272-8625. My postal address is M.S. Watson, 727 Flanders Lane, Dublin, GA 31021. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely
Mary Alice Watson

TALK of the TOWN

with
Tonisha
Shook



This weeks question is...
What do you miss
the most about be-
ing in school?



Name: Belinda Mathis
Hiawassee, GA
"I miss my friends and
the teachers."



Name: James Arrant
Blairsville, GA
"I miss going to the
sporting events, especially
football. I still go to the games
now, but it was more fun when
I was in school."



Name: Jim Elliot
Hiawassee, GA
"I don't miss anything
but football."



Name: Colleen Corbin
Hiawassee, GA
"I miss having the free-
dom and the opportunity to
pursue my dreams."



Name: Debbie Johnson
Hayesville, GA
"I miss having fun with all
of my friends and just being
young."

Questions and Answers

from the desk of

Commissioner Bill Kendall



State funding cuts for daycare.

Daycare - We received notice of funding cuts by the State eliminating supplemental funding for Towns County Daycare. I had to make an unpleasant decision this past week of either passing these cuts on to the Towns County property taxpayers or to implement one day per month unpaid furloughs for the Daycare workers and increase the fees by \$10 per week for each child enrolled.

With no good option to solve this budgetary problem, I made the unpleasant decision to furlough the Daycare workers and increase the fees. Our Daycare program is an important part of our economy and is imperative to working moms. We will continue to closely monitor our spending and operate the Daycare as conservatively as possible. The \$10 weekly fee increase brings the total to \$85 per week per child (reduced for additional enrolled siblings), and is still the lowest fee of all Daycare Centers in the surrounding counties. I want to commend our Daycare employees as being very dedicated and for carrying out their duties in a professional manner. Parents, your child is left in good hands while you are at work.

I feel that as a local official elected with taxing powers we should look for every alternative before shifting state funding cuts on to the backs of the local property tax payers, especially in the midst

of this severe recession with decrease of property values, severe job losses, record home foreclosures and many empty commercial rental buildings.

Notice of 23% health insurance increase for all insured county employees.

23% Health Care Cost Increase - I received word this week that health insurance cost for Towns County employees would increase 23% beginning in Oct. 2009. This is in addition to a 16% increase last year making a total increase of 39% in a 2 year period. We are on track to seeing Towns County employees health insurance cost increase 100% in 5 years, instead of the TV reports that we keep hearing stating that if Congress does not put into place controls to curb the cost of health insurance, the cost increase will reach 100% over the next 10 years.

I will use every means at my disposal to solve this increase by restructuring a policy to offer the employees a choice of a quality basic health insurance option that will result in no extra cost to them or the taxpayers. However, at some point and quickly, Congress must address and help get a handle on these enormous healthcare cost increases.

It is a time when we must look for alternative funding other than property taxes, tighten our budgetary belts, restrain our spending and not keep reaching deeper into the pockets of the homeowner and property tax payers.

don't call them *thums* and us *us-ums*?

I can hear it now: "Us-ums are going to the store with thums. Do yums need anything while we-ums are gone?"

Like I said, language is a peculiar thing. Just to be on the safe side, I looked up *you-ums* in the dictionary to see whether or not it was a real word. The dictionary did not have a definition or a pronunciation for the word. All it said was "*See Ya'll*".

Filling Up Empty Space



By David Seckinger

Language is a peculiar thing, especially in the South. All of my life I have said *ya'll*, even though my grade school teachers said *ya'll* was not a real word. However, *ya'll* does seem to be an abbreviation of the phrase *you all*.

Here in the north Georgia mountains, the locals don't say *ya'll*. Instead, they say *you-ums*, which makes me wonder who in the world is *you-ums*? Is the word an abbreviation of *you ones*? Even more peculiar is the locals who have shortened the phrase to *yuns*.

The first time someone up here asked me: "What are *yuns* doing." I had to answer: "Who are you calling a *yuns*?"

And how come they

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"Our kids haven't even started back to school,
and already we have homework!"



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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 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@brmemc.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.*

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