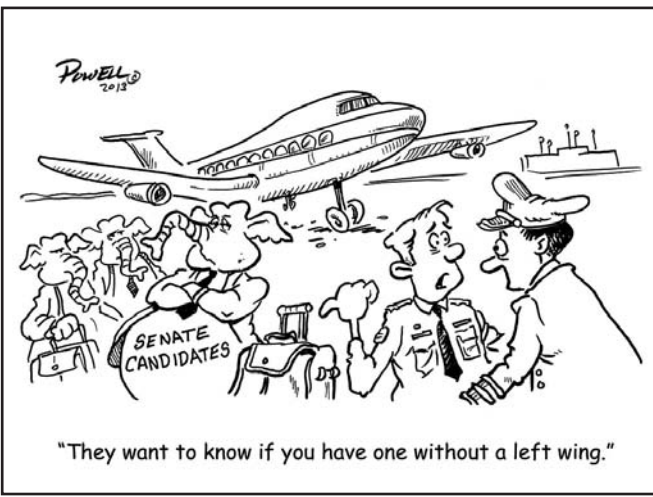


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

For as many years as I have lived in Towns County, I have saved all of my used insulin needles.

When my husband and I moved here 7 years ago, we tried to find a safe means of disposing of my used needles. We called all of the hospitals in the area, the Towns County Health Department, the Environmental Health Department, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Department and the Towns County Transfer Station. Each and every one of them told us to find a container, like a coke bottle or milk jug, put them in it and throw it in the trash...

We were totally amazed about being told to dispose of the used needles in such a haphazard manner.

Since then I have saved each used needle in a milk jug and kept them in a safe, out of the way place on our property. If we go on vacation we will take them with us to a place where we can be certain they will be properly disposed of.

I know there are many more people in the area who don't know how dangerous these needles can be in the wrong hands. I choose not to be responsible for someone doing illegal drugs with my used needles.

Please, can't someone help change a potentially deadly situation before someone dies? I will do what I can, but that isn't much without help.

Sandra Marshall

Dear Editor,

Following is an email from Senator Chambliss to my request to vote "Against" extended background checks for gun purchases. I ask you to print his email to prove his position.

Thank you.
Chris Mazur

Dear Mr. Mazur:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. Your taking time to contact me is appreciated.

I have always been and remain a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, and it is Congress' responsibility to make sure that Americans' constitutional rights are protected. We must make certain that the rights and freedoms of law-abiding citizens are not unfairly impeded. I believe that the ability of sportsmen, hunters, gun enthusiasts and citizens concerned with their personal safety to own a gun, whether for sport or protection, is clearly defined in the Constitution and must not be compromised.

In response to recent tragic and high-profile acts of violence, there has been a renewed focus on government regulation of guns. Congress has had an extensive and detailed debate about the potential causes of these crimes, including mental health issues, depictions of violence in television, movies, and video games, and firearms.

It is my belief that implementing improved background checks could significantly impact the ability of individuals who are a danger to themselves and to others from obtaining guns. For this reason, I voted in favor of the Grassley/Graham/Cruz amendment # 725 to S. 649, the "Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2013," to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and to address mental illness in the justice system. Ultimately, this amendment failed on April 17, 2013 by a 52-48 vote margin.

Additionally, Senators Manchin, Toomey, and Schumer offered amendment # 715, which in certain instances would criminalize the private transfer of firearms by law-abiding citizens. Specifically, this amendment would require individuals who sell their firearms to lifelong friends, neighbors, and even family members to obtain the federal government's permission to exercise a fundamental right or face prosecution. I voted against the Manchin-Toomey amendment #715, which failed passage by a 54-46 vote margin.

The dialogue regarding acts of violence will likely continue with additional legislative proposals seeking to address the underlying causes. As Congress continues this conversation, I will be sure to keep your thoughts in mind.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance to you in the future. In the meantime, if you would like to receive timely e-mail alerts regarding the latest congressional actions and my weekly e-newsletter, please sign up via my web site at: www.chambliss.senate.gov.

T.C. Herald Editor Vogel State Park vital to community By Charles Duncan

If you didn't make it to the Vogel State Park meeting on April 25, all I can say is, it was your loss. Park Manager Cliff Tippens had everything under control. The night was meant for a discussion about the future of the historic park, which is very profitable by the way.

Tippens greeted the handful of visitors, invited them to break bread with him and pulled off quite a meal provided by Friends of the Park. Barbecue chicken wings, chicken fingers, finger veggies, a fruit platter, French fries, cole slaw, celery sticks and all the dips you could think of. Oh yes, there were soft drinks a plenty, and lots of bottled water. It was quite a feast, and only a handful of folks showed up to enjoy the event. Enough about the food.

After the meal, Tippens promptly went into the topic of the evening, just how good is Vogel State Park doing and what are the prospects of its future.

Tippens is a down-to-earth, common sense individual. He's focusing on how to better tie the park into the Union County community. Actually, the Park thrives under his management and figures to do more in the years ahead. Vogel already does events like the annual Trout Rodeo that's coming up in June, and also the Civilian Conservation Corps Reunion from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 11th. The CCC was a public works project that operated from 1933 to 1942 in the U.S. for unemployed, unmarried men from relief families, ages 18-25.

Vogel State Park was built by the CCC workers in the 1930s, and it was one of the first two state parks built under the Georgia State Parks system. Vogel also is the site of the Civilian Conservation Corps museum.

In the near future, Tippens hopes to tie the Park into a partnership with local Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Future Farmers of America and 4-H club members.

He hopes to form a partnership with the Union County Farmers Market and become an increasing source of economic development in the community.

By the way, the 233-acre park has an annual economic impact in Union County to the tune of more than \$12 million and lures more than 219,000 park visitors here each year.

It's easy to listen to Tippens talk about the park's future goals. He's working closely with Union County

Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris. He keeps an open dialogue with government leaders in Dahlonega, and next on his list is getting to know Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and Towns County's Chamber of Commerce members.

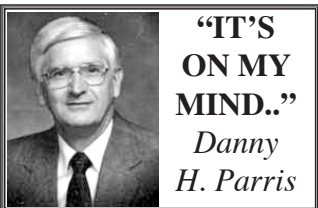
Vogel is the second oldest state park in Georgia and still it's the most beautiful state park. Since, 2008, the park has experienced some renovations and additions.

Negotiations are currently underway to bring cable and Internet to the park. Vogel is one of only two state parks without cable and Internet access. The wheels of progress are turning.

Vogel is a huge part of our past, and in the years ahead, figures to be a huge part of our future. It's one of the economic drivers that bring folks to Union County. Many seeing it for the first time.

If you haven't already, get out to Vogel and meet Cliff Tippens. You'll feel right at home getting to know Cliff and his family. From the accent, you'd think he was born and raised here.

If you ask Cliff, he'll tell you Union County folks make him feel like a native. He's mighty proud to be here and serve as your Park Manager.



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

Could it be? Can you believe all the technology that has flooded our world in the last few years? As a result of the increase of knowledge all phases of life has drastically changed. Not all change is for the better. Someone sent me an email about church services of the future (near future at that). Maybe it is already happening. Think about the following:

PASTOR: "Praise the Lord!"

CONGREGATION: "Hallelujah!"

PASTOR: "Can we please turn on our tablet, PC, iPad, cell phone, and Kindle Bibles to 1 Cor. 13:13. And please switch on your Bluetooth to download the sermon. P-a-u-s-e....."

"Now let us pray, committing this week into God's hands. Open your Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook and chat with God...." S-i-l-e-n-c-e.... "As we take our Sunday tithes and offerings... Please have your credit and debit cards

ready." "You can log on to the church Wi-Fi using the password Lord 909887."

Ushers circulate mobile card swipe machines among the worshippers:

*Those who prefer to make electronic funds transfers are directed to computers and laptops at the rear of the church.

*Those who prefer to use iPads flip them open.

*Those who prefer telephone banking, take out your cell phones to transfer your contributions to the church account.

The holy atmosphere of the Church becomes truly electrified as ALL the cell phones, iPads, PCs and laptops beep and flicker!

Final Blessing and Closing Announcements...

*This week's ministry cell meetings will be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chatting takes place. Please log in and don't miss out.

*Thursday's Bible study will be held live on Skype at 1900 GMT. Please don't miss out.

*You can follow your Pastor on Twitter this weekend for counseling and prayers.

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!
Contact us at 706-896-4454

Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM



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.

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 Hiwassee 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 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.

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.

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 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 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.

Prostate Cancer Support Group meets the 3rd Monday of every month from 5-6 PM in the Cancer Treatment Center Auditorium in Blairsville. For more info call Steve 706-896-1064.

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 6:30 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.

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.

VFW Post #7807 will be hosting a fish fry they 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month April - October. \$9. all you can eat from 4:30 - 7 PM.

Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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