

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor,

On May 9, 1991, Commissioners Jack Dayton, Glenn Gooch and J.B. Jones created the North Georgia Resource Management Authority with the purposes of implementing innovative, safe solid waste handling practices through education, recycling and composting.

The Authority has been proud to provide those services for the last 21 years. The Authority has written and received grant funds in the amount of \$1,449,150.90. Of that amount \$565,216.70 directly impacted Towns County. The funds were used to create a way for Towns County to recycle materials, something that had not been done in any amount at that time. Through these funds we were able to fund the position of a Code Compliance officer for 4 years, provide that officer with education, a new truck, computer, special camera, uniform and all other items needed for his position.

In 2002 the Authority began the first regional recycling program in the State of Georgia and by marketing each county's materials as a group, rather than individually we were able to receive the highest revenue for our membership counties.

Since 1996 the North Georgia Resource Management Authority has won five Regional Awards for our efforts in the membership counties.

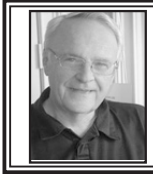
In the year 2000, the Authority Board met and decided to become a regional Keep America Beautiful and Keep Georgia Beautiful Affiliate. It took six months of hard work to meet the qualifications of Keep America Beautiful but, in 2000, we achieved that goal under the name Keep Our Mountains Beautiful.

Since 2000, Keep Our Mountains Beautiful has won 8 regional awards, four State awards and two national awards for our efforts. We have provided education for every child from kindergarten through 5th grade working through the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center and the Towns County Public Library. We have conducted yearly litter indexes with the litter percentages sent to the State and Keep America Beautiful. We have provided free yearly Electronic Recycling and Document Destruction Days and kept National and State records of tonnage recycled in Towns County.

Working through the Chamber and Body Sense, a local business, we have recycled over 45 boxes of shoes and almost 1,000 telephones. We have provided the Chamber of Commerce with all the materials needed for the Great American Cleanups and the Adopt A Road Program. We have handed out hundreds of Litter Buster Coloring Books, Tarp Your Load Brochures and countless amounts of other environmental educational materials.

This is just a small amount of the services we have been proud to provide the citizens of Towns County. We are so appreciative of the citizens, businesses and Chamber's support over these 21 years. For the Staff of the North Georgia Resource Management Authority it is bitter sweet to say "Good Bye" to all of these wonderful children and adults we have come to know and enjoy working with.

Thank you all for a great 21 years.
Leslie George
Executive Director, NGRMA/KOMB



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Ruthie and I were on the road this past week and as usual that means a lot of meals in restaurants. One of them was a place where you enter, order your meal at the counter and they let you know when your food is ready, and you come get it. Just ahead of us at the counter was a young family. Mom and dad, and, we would soon learn, 4-year old Haley and 2 1/2-year old Wynn.

Often a restaurant meal with children that age is an ordeal, sometimes for the family, sometimes for the wait staff, sometimes for everyone in the building. This was different. Mom and dad had cracked the code. As they walked up to the counter dad said to the kids, You go find us a table with four chairs. Mom and I will get the food so you wait there for us. Haley and Wynn went table-hunting, with Haley taking the lead since Wynn wasn't sure just how many chairs four chairs was. Wynn found one he liked, but Haley chose another one; it had nicer flowers. They were sitting more or less quietly when mom and dad arrived with the food.

My hunch is that the kids had been coached in the car since there was no whining, no questioning of mom and

dad's authority. Assignment given; assignment fulfilled. When mom and dad showed up there was no ruckus over who got what to eat. Dad brought a booster seat for Wynn, they bowed their heads to give thanks for the food, and lunch was under way.

The first thought that went through my mind was, Those folks must have read my book. Mom and dad had a clear strategy in mind and the kids knew that no amount of ugly was going to change the plan. It was clear to Haley and Wynn just who was in charge. They not only accepted that fact, they behaved as though they believed it.

The next thought that went through my mind was, Now there are a couple of happy kids. Parents aren't always clear on this but the fact is that kids are the happiest when they know there are clear expectations and that their world will function better when they meet them.

There was the usual debris left from a table with two small kids, but it was obvious they left with full stomachs and happy memories. That's how it's supposed to work.

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

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Last week an associate took exception to our closing joke about democrats, so in the interest of fairness, how many republicans does it take to screw in a light bulb? Four: one to handle the new bulb and three to complain that the old bulb was better.

We could care less about party politics, republicans and democrats or Coke and Pepsi. More accurately, we wish that we could care less, but most of the people around us seem locked into the "us or them" paradigm perpetuated, we believe, by people who have no allegiance to anything but money and power. There is nothing new in that, but the practitioners of "divide and conquer" politics have elevated it to an art form.

We wish there were (more) viable alternatives. The Libertarians are attractive in their support of free market principles and limited government, but the libertarian umbrella is an oddly shaped construct lacking the coherent (simple) themes that the majority of people seem to need for their comfort level. The Tea Party resonates with those of us who believe that the principles of the Founders reflect universal, and not just generational truths, but the demographics of the party are still too white and too male for more than limited electoral success.

There is an old adage which asserts "we get the government we deserve." We should all sincerely hope that this is not true. Every passing year finds us, on average, less educated, less engaged

in our local communities, less involved in any kind of spiritual life. The two-job-to-make-one-paycheck family struggling just to make ends meet seeks distraction, not engagement, at the end of the day, and in those distractions of media, our weary brains are susceptible to the mass psychology and dumbing down of the corporate state.

Then to add an additional detour on the pathway to political and economic recovery, our status quo immigration policy, or lack thereof, has not for decades favored the educated and the successful. Surely we get brave and/or desperate people willing to work hard, cheap labor to benefit limited business interests, but with little incentive to integrate with the rest of society and pay a fair share of the national bill, we are creating an additional burden on those of us who do pay taxes and a political football for the Coke and Pepsi politicians desperate to stay in office.

We get the government we deserve, and indeed we voted into office every single poser responsible for this mess, and then re-elected many of them. So it is that we face the prospect of a choice between Hillary, studying the polls to see what we want to hear and capable of changing course as quickly as her accent changes in different parts of the country, or an undetermined republican ready to scare us back to the halcyon days of long ago. Some choice!

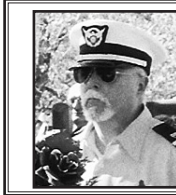
GUEST COLUMNS

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.



The Veterans' Corner

By Scott Drummond, USCG Veteran

American Legion Centennial: 100 Years Old in March 2019!

As a mere rank and file member of Post #23, I was "uneducated" to the fact that our American Legion is almost 100 years of age! My dear friend and self made historian, Bill Graham advised me of this history several months ago. We have a small but vibrant Post here, attached to our brothers and sisters of VFW Post 7807, Hiawassee, GA and many great folks! If you are a Veteran, you have paid your dues and if not already a member, please join, and help us with our Centennial Celebration, which will be here before you realize it. The point of the article below, copied from a recent Legionnaire magazine is that we here in our beautiful, unique North Georgia area may have an opportunity to name an area, road, building, bridge, or any other geographical point for one of the most active Veterans' Organizations in America, The American Legion, prior to March 2019. I like this idea! Do you? Consider the following:

"Named for the American Legion" U.S. Route 281 is 1,872 miles long, bisecting the nation from Canada to Mexico and passing through six states. Among U.S. highways containing three digits, it is the longest. It is also known as The American Legion Memorial Highway. The American Legion State Forest in Connecticut offers hiking and canoeing opportunities along the scenic Farmington River. One American Legion Memorial Bridge, meanwhile, is an important Beltway commuter artery that crosses the Potomac River between Maryland and Virginia; another

American Legion Memorial Bridge crosses the Boardman River in Traverse City, MI. USS American Legion was a Harris-class attack transport Navy ship that received two battle stars during World War II. USS Tampa Post 5 in Florida takes pride in honoring fallen veterans in American Legion Cemetery. And, of course, there's the American Legion Burger Stand in Lake Mills, Wis. How many parks, playgrounds, theaters, hospitals, streets, ferry boats, highways and byways are named after The American Legion?

That's what the American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee would like to discover. The committee is now compiling a directory of American Legion-named landmarks and points of interest for a guide to be printed, posted online and made into a Smartphone app.

Legion writer and blogger Mark Seavey is collecting the Legion namesakes - not to include post homes. If you know of an American Legion-named landmark, building, forest, stream, mountain or any other point of interest, email mseavey@legion.org. Please keep the messages brief, stating what it is, its location, whether it still exists and a sentence or two about its origin - why it was so named. If sending a photo, please keep the resolution low or simply send a link to a photo, in order to prevent inbox overload. Those who would like to submit American Legion landmarks through the mail can do so at: American Legion Magazine, c/o Mark Seavey, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Semper Paratus



"Looks like we don't have to worry anymore about Florida and Alabama claiming our waters."

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 second 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 the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5 PM at the new Senior Center. For info contact Bill Jones at 706-851-0318.
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.
Stephens 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 Hi-

awassee 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 and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse, Hiawassee. The Board meets at 4 p.m., and the Guild at 6. Call us 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 John at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: 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.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 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 Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch.
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 Al 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 Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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