

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

This is in reply to a previous letter's criticism of holding the National Day of Prayer (NDP) at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center. He bases his disapproval because it "flies in the face of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution."

Timothy W. Groza

Letter to the Editor:

Thank you Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall for clarifying your municipal policy allowing religious and other groups to meet in taxpayer supported facilities. However, I would argue that prayer meetings are a misuse of public funds.

Others wrote letters claiming godlessness resulted in Communists killing millions in Russia and China. This is blatant red baiting and has no place in honest debate.

Fundamentalists wishing to turn classrooms over to religious learning also favor religious indoctrination in public schools. These and other civil rights violations have been and are being adjudicated in the courts.

Browbeating and intimidation by public leaders serves only to cloud the discussion and confuse the debate on separation of church and state. Our nation's founders fought to protect the rights of all Americans without discrimination.

Lance G. Jobson

To the Editor:

To use a previous writer's words, I am also a "non-believer". However, for decades I have not understood how the practice of other folks' religious beliefs and practices have anything to do with any non-believer?

I was brought up a Christian, taught the Bible, and one day made a choice of my own. My wife brought up our children as Christians with my total support so that some day if they felt they needed to make a choice they could make it with the knowledge and teachings of their faith.

Ninety-nine percent of atheists do not give a darn, yet one percent or less find it necessary to give the rest of us a black eye. Please, please, grow up and get a life. And Mr. Commissioner, we all are paying for that building, so if any of us need to use it, please let us all use it.

And to clear up just one last point, yes there is an abundance of "worship centers" (is there a problem with using the word "Church", too?) all around our county, but none large enough to hold all those who chose to attend the National Day of Prayer service.

Respectfully submitted, Brian Fraser

To the Editor:

I'd like to extend my appreciation to Bill Kendall and Roy Perren for their responses in last week's paper to a previous writer's erroneous letter to the editor from the week before.

The writer further challenged the prayer assembly due to the fact that he is a non-believer. It is one thing for an individual to stand for his or her beliefs, but I have difficulty understanding why anyone would protest as such for the sake of not believing in something.

If his tax dollars are the prime concern, then I can only imagine the amount of tax dollars that go into funding causes in our nation that I believe are wrong... such as abortion, Muslim support, LGBT communities, handouts for able-bodied men and women who refuse to work and pay their own taxes, illegal immigrants, and multi-million dollar vacations for several of our Washington politicians.

How sad that the same people who have so greatly benefited from the words of our Constitution continue abusing, misquoting, and trampling over it. This document grants freedoms that only we in America have been blessed with... something of which we Americans should nurture, practice, and appreciate on a daily basis.

Alan Kendall

To the Editor:

I recently had lost my billfold while at an event held at the Towns County Senior Center in Hiawassee last Thursday evening. I was quite frustrated and back tracking my steps the day after I noticed it missing and I was called by Jewell Nicholson of The Legacy Link of Towns County that she had my billfold.

Rob Murray

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to a previous letter. Sir, I'm afraid you're under a misconception as to the separation of church and state. Your rights were not infringed upon. You are free to attend, or not, any religious gathering.

The prayer breakfast was a community (not governmental) sponsored event. It took place in a non-governmental building, built for the use of the citizens of this county.

I personally love God and I can truthfully say that you don't know what you're missing.

Diane Berrong

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.

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.

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.



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

Are we there yet?

Parents who have raised children and have ever taken a trip have heard that famous question, "Are we there yet?" Regina and I were blest with a son and a daughter and we did quite a bit of traveling in an automobile.

On weekends when there were not a lot of questions, our son and daughter, Mike and Michele seemed bent on irritating each other. You know what I mean, "Mom", "Dad", "Mike looked at me." "Mom", "Dad", Michele is over half-way of the seat."

There would be weekends that everything was funny. They laughed until we couldn't stand it anymore. Well, you have been there, done that,

and got a tee shirt. You and I know the reason for that kind of behavior in us at that age, and in our children. It is what we refer to as impatience and immaturity.

That's what was wrong with Israel as Moses sought to lead them to the Promised Land. That's the problem with us today. We get our mind fixed on the destination and fail to enjoy the journey.

Let me encourage those of you who are looking forward to vacations to enjoy the journey. Likewise, children of our Heavenly Father, let me encourage you not to get so heavenily minded that you become of no earthly good.

Between the high points there are a lot of joys. No, we are not there yet, but we will be soon enough. Until then, enjoy your children, your brothers and sisters, your schoolmates, your parents, your grandparents, your church families and your friends and neighbors.

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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!

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.

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.

Friendship Community Club meets the 3rd Thursday of each 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.

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.

The Board of Directors of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce meet the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.

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