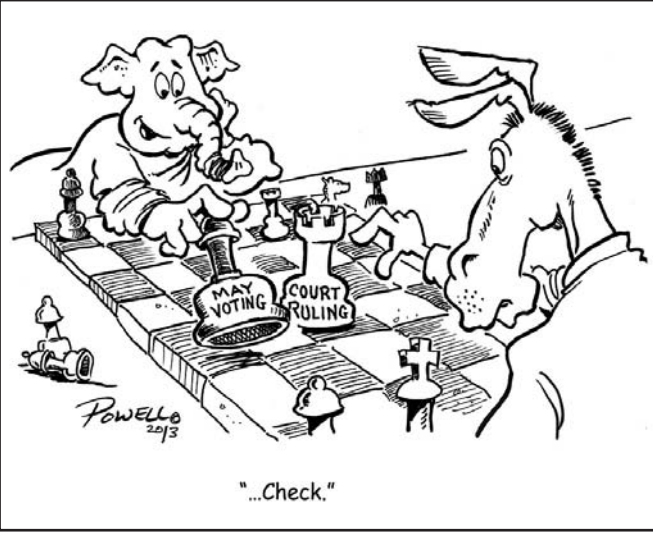


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



## Letters to The Editor

### Letter to the Editor:

#### The golden years

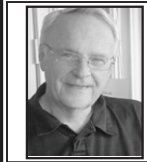
I worked hard all my life just waiting for those golden years to get here. Well here they are. At 71 I started playing tennis and I got hooked. I'm now 77 and still going strong. I really don't want to start rocking yet. But, it looks like that's where I'm headed along with about 25 other old folks that can't play at the high school anymore because it's the rules. We went to the school board meeting on Monday and everyone was just as sweet as they could be. I guess they talked it over when we left and decided we were just a bunch of old folks that really shouldn't be out there running around at our age. (We have a few that are over 80). They don't realize that they are headed our way soon.

I guess we could drive to Blairsville and play tennis on their courts as they seem to be way ahead of Hiawassee. (While we are there, shop and have lunch).

We tried to get Towns County to fix the courts across from the fairgrounds but Towns County can't seem to come up with their half of the money. The USTA (United States Tennis Association) will help with \$40,000, which is half of the cost to fix them. It took about 2 years of our time to get them to help us. It doesn't make any sense to me or any of our old tennis players that we can not use the courts at the high school 3 mornings a week as there is no one ever using them.

I know this letter will probably upset a few of you older people, but at my age I really don't care.

Fred Jenkins



### RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

It is who we are that raises our kids. Kids are God's little spies, you know. They know us better than anyone else does. There is no question that what we tell them will have an effect on their lives, but they will learn more from watching us as we are than from listening to us as we speak.

When our boys were about ten and twelve I was on a diet (there have been other times, too) and the family was watching to help make sure I stayed on it. Crossing the street one day I bumped into the kids on their way home from school. I was just finishing a candy bar, and they spotted it immediately. They went running home to tell their mom. Give me a break.

Most often when I'm talking to parents they want to discuss their kids' behaviors - bedtime, homework, curfews, sassiness, disrespect, peer pressure, those kinds of issues. I have yet to have a parent say, "What kind of parent do I need to be to help my kids grow up to become the kind of adults they should be?" Maybe that's the pivotal question we need to address.

Have you noticed that when your youngster does something that really perturbs

you, you are often dismayed to realize that he/she probably picked up that trait from you? What's that old proverb...the apple doesn't fall far from the tree? Raising kids is not primarily about the methodology we use or the system we employ, it's about the kind of people we are. Like father, like son? I think the guy who wrote that was on to something. Sobering thought.

So, time for a character check. See how many of these answers you feel good about: How faithful am I at keeping promises? Am I respectful toward those I disagree with? Do I readily apologize when I hurt someone? Are my driving habits influenced by the presence of a police car? Do I consistently go out of my way to be helpful to others? Do I have the same high principles for my own television viewing that I expect of my kids? Can they count on me to take the high road in every situation? Does my language demonstrate a noble character?

As we live out the answers to those questions, that becomes our story. And that is the story that raises our kids.

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

### Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council

For each week of 2013, I have written an article about the activities, programs, partnerships, and plans carried on by the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council and I am proud to report that we are slowly turning this big ship into the wind so we can launch these programs that will fulfill our mission which is to: "Assist local people in planning and carrying out activities that conserve natural resources, support economic development, enhance the environment, and improve the standard of living for all citizens". Listed here are some of our achievements, programs, and ongoing projects for 2013 that will benefit all of our 13 counties when fully developed and implemented.

1. Chest-Chat along with state, federal, and local fire officials have successfully completed, the first four phases of the Fire Adapted Communities pilot program in Towns County. As I have reported previously, this Firewise program was one of 8 in the US chosen to develop the Fire Adapted Communities Program. When fully developed this Wildfire Safety Education Program will help our citizens be aware of the danger of wildfires and be prepared for the inevitable fire that will happen one day, even if they live in a neat, clean neighborhood, but within a mile or so of a forest where embers from a wildfire or even a small fire in the backyard can rain down on flammable materials and cause a structure fire. One important component of the FAC is Ready Set Go which is an evacuation plan that will be developed and put in place to get our citizens out of harms way during an emergency.

2. Chest-Chat was awarded a grant from the National RC&D Council to facilitate a Wildfire Safe, Sound, & Code Smart workshop to be held in Hiawassee on October 7 & 8. This Workshop seeks to improve a community's ability to combat wildland fire through development of fire prevention and building policies that better fit the changing nature of human habitation along the edge of the forest as people leave the cities for life in the country. The target audience for this phase of the program is nationally recognized Wildland Urban Interface areas where currently more than 12 million people live and work. The people in these areas will benefit from local policy adoption and wildfire public education resulting from this program. Wildfire public education is of the utmost importance and the goal is to continue the de-

#### Executive Director of RC&D

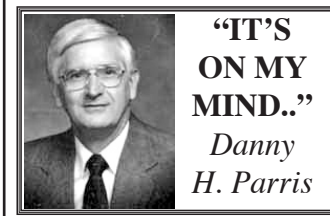


Frank Riley

velopment of these programs nation-wide as funding becomes available.

3. Chest-Chat and the US Forest Service have the common goal to ensure that rural residents and communities, in RC&D Areas, have the opportunity to meet with government officials and non-government officials involved in Forest Action Plans in order to help with implementation efforts. These officials have noted that "Successful implementation of State Forest Actions Plans depends ultimately upon the involvement and actions of local landowners, stakeholders and communities". RC&D Councils are ideally situated and connected to advance local efforts to address State Forest Action Plan priorities and forest landscape conservation and restoration goals throughout the Nation". To help facilitate these discussions, Chest-Chat was one of 6 RC&D Council Areas nationally chosen to receive funding to make these implementation efforts happen. The Georgia Forestry Commission will be our partner in this effort and dates and times of events to discuss the Forest Action Plan will be announced in the near future.

For information on these and other projects, call Chest-Chat RC&D Council at 706-894-7591 or email frank.ccrd@gmail.com.



### "IT'S ON MY MIND.."

Danny H. Parris

#### Do you read me?

Do you just read things that you enjoy reading? Do you read things that challenge your thinking? Do you just read fiction or fantasy stories? Are you interested just in current events? Do you read sports stories? Is reading history appealing to you? What about future predictions? Do you read magazines, periodicals, I books, emails, billboards, bumper stickers and graffiti? What about newspapers? Someone has written that *The Wall Street Journal* is read by the people who run the country.

*The New York Times* is read by people who think they run the country.

*The Washington Post* is read by people who think they ought to run the country.

*USA Today* is read by people who think they ought to run the country, but don't understand the *Washington Post*.

*The Los Angeles Times* is read by people who wouldn't mind running the country if they could spare the time.

*The Boston Globe* is read by people whose parents used to run the country.

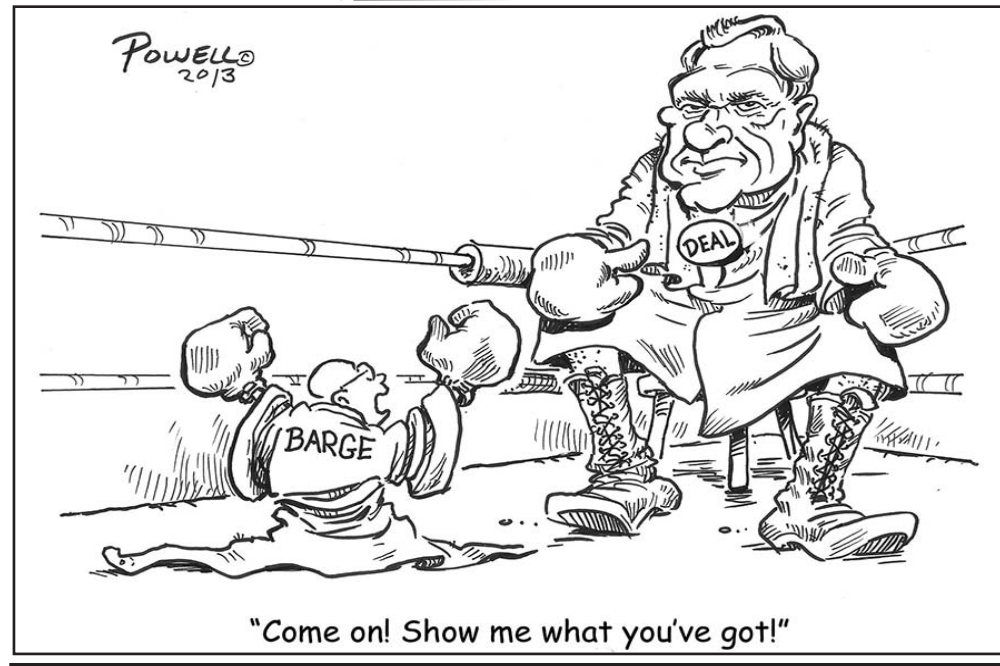
*The New York Daily News* is read by people who aren't too sure whose running the country. The *New York Post* is read by people who don't care whose running the country as long as they do something scandalous.

*The San Francisco Chronicle* is read by people, who aren't sure there is a country, or that anyone is running it.

*The North Georgia News*

and *The Towns County Herald* are read by people who

Some people may have quit reading altogether. They just listen to other people read. Have we become a people who just sit, watch and listen? America needs to read up on reading. If you are one of those persons who just sit, watch and listen, you had better learn to read some people's minds because what they are saying they know in their mind is a lie. In fact, a lot of news that you listen to is much more informative when you learn to read between the lines. I mean between the lines. There are more ways to read than just by reading a book. If you feel like I do, sometimes you may want to read the riot act to some newscasters and politicians. Sometimes I catch myself standing in front of the TV saying, "Read my lips, dumblo!" I know that reading is not enough. Sometimes you have to practice what you read. One intellectual fellow loved to read. He read everything he could find about philosophy and became a philosopher. He read everything about math and became a mathematician. He read everything he could find out about swimming and he drowned. If you want to get the truth, the whole truth, absolute truth without reading between the lines try reading God's Word, The Holy Bible. Read it every day. God said it and He means what He said. A little boy, after hearing a missionary tell about reading all the Bible through from Genesis to Revelation asked her, did you read all the "begets?" She said, "Yes." He said, "What lesson did you learn?" She said, "Patience my dear", "patience." I hope you read into this all that I intended. Do you read me?



## 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 Hiawassee 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.

**Stevens Lodge #414 F & AM** meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris.

**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 mtregarts-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 their 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month April - October. \$9. all you can eat from 4:30 - 7 PM.

**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.

### Towns County Herald

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