

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

State of the Water set for September 14 in Towns County

The Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition's annual State of the Water is set for Monday, September 14 at 6 p.m. at the Towns County Recreation and Conference Center at Foster Park.

The event begins at 5:30 with a bit of gathering and social time. Following the 6 o'clock presentation, other Coalition staff members will provide an overview of what we've been working on in various program areas including Restoration, Lakes, and Education and a summary of our plans for the coming year.

This event is offered annually to the community free of charge. Refreshments will be served. For more information visit the Watershed Coalition web site at www.hrwc.net or call the office: 828-837-5414.



HRWC volunteer monitoring program coordinator, Amanda Kanack uses a meter to measure dissolved oxygen, pH and other water quality parameters from a local stream.

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE By Don Jacobsen

How much does it cost to have kids and raise them to the age of 18? Are you ready for this? A new government study says that the average cost in today's economy is \$245,300.

Not including college, that's about \$1,136 per month for the next 18 years. Are you ready for that? Add inflation and that raises the per-kid cost to more than a quarter of a million dollars.

But wait. That's actually the easy part. You can save up, budget carefully, count on grandpa, reduce-me-downs and thrift stores for some of those needs. But there are some costs you can't even put a price on.

to take responsibility for their actions rather than blaming others. We want to make sure they are resourceful and don't have an entitlement mentality.

As parents, we want our kids to grow up with strong moral fiber and not be sucked into the "everybody's-doing-it" mindset.

The point I want to make here is to urge parents to be intentional about the really priceless parts of parenting. After the kids marry and move out we can catch up on the bills.

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

"I See Skies of Blue..." the gift of clean air

The following is an eyewitness description of what it was like living among out of control wildfires in Hayfork, CA this summer, by Michelle Medley-Daniel, Fire Adapted Communities project manager.

"Sunday night was the first time that I could open my bedroom window since lightning started over 40 wildfires around Hayfork on July 30-31st. Yesterday morning was the first time I could see the sky and the mountains that surround my community.

Of the original 40 fire starts, many were extinguished on initial attack, and the rest merged into the Fork Complex. The Fork Complex is one of seven large complexes burning in the area; to date these complexes have burned over 200,000 acres.

An area called Trinity Pines, a subdivision off-the-grid with approximately 1,200 parcels about ten miles from Hayfork, was also on fire.

The Post Mountain (Trinity Pines) VFD, a six-person crew, was the only resource available in the first hours of the Blue Fire.

Fast forward a couple of days and a state of emergency declaration had triggered mutual aid from all over the state, and a Type I team was assuming command of the incident.

As the days went by new evacuations and road closures would be announced, town meetings held and, for several days, we intermittently lost internet and cell phone coverage.

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE EMAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546.



resolved the problem. People began settling into a new-normal: living under a thick blanket of smoke, unable to go outside, and glued to computers and phones hungry for the latest fire information.

On the bright side, the inversion that was keeping the smoke here was also moderating wildfire behavior and having positive impacts on our drought-ravaged river system.

If I had a magic wand we'd be implementing landscape-scale prescribed burns in every ecologically-appropriate burn window we get.

For more information on wildfire education & prevention contact Frank Riley www.frank.crced@gmail.com.

The Veterans' Corner By Scott Drummond, USCG Veteran

A salute to our Veterans Songs and humor for Veterans at VFW Post 7807, Friday evening, September 18, 2015 at 7 PM (that'd be 1900 hours for those who still love that 24 hour clock!).

This may be of utmost importance, gleaned from an email just received concerning a promise made by a presidential candidate that most folks seem to either love or hate.

The hotline is 855-VETS-352 and email is veterans@donaldtrump.com David R. Ray

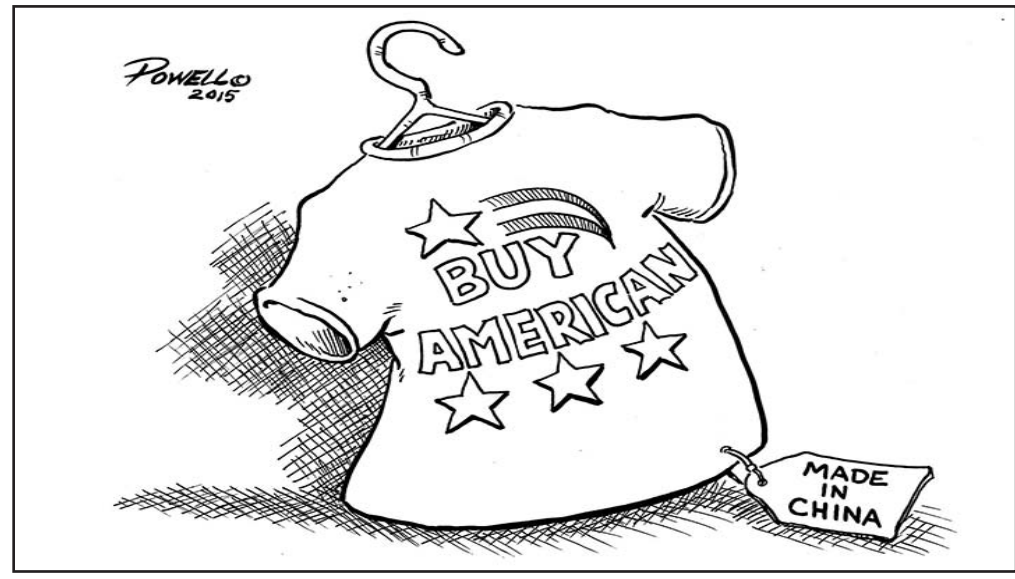
Finally another old piece from our 1940s era scrapbook, from which we could learn lessons of simplicity, decency, love and commitment to our USA. This

one is from an old newsletter for Intermediates at Park Avenue Baptist Church dated May 23, 1943, at which time our whole world was deeply involved in the horrors of war.

Men in Service of our Country are proud of our men who have gone into the service of our country. They are fighting to preserve our freedom and we appreciate it.

As a proud, thankful, humble resident of Towns County, GA it occurs to me that this same spirit, decency, love, and simple honest patriotism for our Country, our men and women in uniform, past, present and future hasn't diminished here.

Semper Paratus



Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee.

Friendship Community Club meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76.

Golden Road Riders meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee.

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Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers.

Monday morning BINGO at Brasstown Manor every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. 108 Church St., Hiawassee.