

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

To the Mayor and City Council of Hiwassee:
I am once again appealing to you to consider changing the times of the council and committee meetings to an hour that is more conducive to citizen participation. Over the last six months or so, we have demonstrated our willingness to attend meetings in spite of the fact that some of us work and cannot get here at your appointed times (2-4 p.m. for committee and 4 p.m. for council). Having made this effort to attend and participate, we now request your cooperation in moving the meeting times to early evening instead of during the work day.

I am also asking, again, that some different arrangement be made for posting the agendas and announcements. I suppose you are meeting the legal requirement by posting them in the front window of this building; however the glass is black and you cannot see through it to read the postings. You can just barely see from the street that there are papers taped inside the windows. You cannot read them. Should the building be open, interested citizens can go inside and attempt to read the documents upside down!

As a tax-paying, interested, voting member of this community, I am simply tired of jumping through all the hoops required to stay informed and attend meetings; and I appeal to your sense of courtesy to the folks who elected you and are willing to attempt to be informed, useful citizens.

Anne Mitchell

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank everyone who came out to the dedication of the softball field on September 30th. This was a very great honor for me made even more special because the dedication was on my mother's birthday.

Special thanks go out to Principal Gibson, Coach Melton, Coach Berrong and Coach Roland for their support and allowing me to be in the dugout. Special thanks also to Sheriff Mason of Union County, my Pastor Billy Nicholson, to my friend Pastor Jimmy Tanner, and to Mr. Bill Kendall, my former coach.

To the Senior Girls Softball Team, best wishes. You are always in my heart.

God bless you all.

Lowell Nicholson

Seasonal High Tunnel project: high value crops

The Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D's mission is to help the citizens in the 13 NE Georgia counties it serves find ways to make their businesses, farms, and lives more productive and improve their way of life. Here is something that fits that bill, a Seasonal High Tunnel and is a project for farmers or anyone who has a few acres and wants to get serious about growing things such as vegetables, flowers, fruit, or any high value crop that can be grown in a confined area.

A seasonal high tunnel system is a polyethylene covered structure that is used to cover crops to extend the growing season, also known as hoop houses or cold tunnels. They are used to extend the growing season for crops by approximately 2-3 weeks on each end of the season by increasing the temperature surrounding the crop and minimizing heat loss during the night. Temperatures in the high tunnel during the growing season are controlled by using manual roll-up side vents and by opening end doors to provide ventilation.

Unlike greenhouses, seasonal high tunnel systems as indicated by their name are seasonal and are considered temporary structures although they are firmly anchored to the ground. Crops can be grown either in the natural soil profile or by installing permanent raised beds. The National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial assistance thru EQIP for qualified farmers for seasonal high tunnels as part of a three-year national trial to determine their effectiveness in conserving water, reducing pesticide use, maintaining vital soil nutrients, and increasing crop yields. The goal of the initiative is to assist producers in extending the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. EQIP participation requires applicants to meet specific eligibility requirements, and the high tunnel must remain on the land enrolled in EQIP for a minimum of four years. The land submitted for the program must be currently in cultivation or presently be capable of being planted to a crop. Land presently in permanent cover such as hay, pasture, brush, or forest does not qualify.

This program is especially important for organic production systems due to restrictions on chemical vegetation control options. The high tunnel frame shall be constructed of metal, wood, or durable plastic and be at least 6 feet in height. The plastic cover must be, at a minimum, a 6-mil greenhouse-grade, UV resistant polyethylene.

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 E-MAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiwassee, 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.

Executive Director of RC&D

Frank Riley



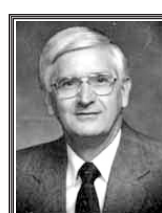
Under EQIP, contract payments can be made on seasonal high tunnel systems installed on cropped areas of up to 2,178 square feet. Structures can be larger; however, contract payment is limited to 2,178 square feet per producer. Basic kits usually include the frame structure and assembly hardware; polyethylene cover with roll-up or drop-down side assemblies and heavy duty ground posts. Seasonal high tunnel systems should be placed perpendicular to prevailing winds to insure proper ventilation and if possible, with the long axis oriented in a north-south direction to provide more uniform sun exposure to plants and minimize plant shading. Systems should not be located in areas prone to shade or wind gusts, but on sites with topography that allows for adequate drainage away from the structure.

Because irrigation will be required inside the tunnel, availability and source of water must be considered when deciding where to place the system.

We constructed a high tunnel this summer on our Mountain Scene Farm that is 72' x 30' and has three 4' x 60' raised beds with 4 drip tape lines in each bed for irrigation. Rain-water for irrigation is captured from gutters on our farm house and on the barn and piped into a 1,000 gallon underground storage tank near the high tunnel. The water is then pumped up to a raised tank where it flows into the drip tape in the beds by gravity. The results are amazing, we have tomato plants that are 7 feet high and since the environment is controlled, we have very few weeds and insects, and we can work in the garden rain or shine.

Check seasonal high tunnels out if you have a patch of usable land and are willing to work in the dirt with your hands. The results can be amazing.

For more information on high tunnels or any of our programs, contact Frank Riley, Executive Director, Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council at www.frank.ccrd@gmail.com.



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

Fabulous Fall

Fall, my favorite season of the year is making itself visible. The dogwoods, sourwoods, poplars, walnuts and burning bushes are all beginning to display their fall fashions. I am amazed at the bright, brilliant colors that God paints through His creation.

Every season of the year is glorious but I am partial to the fall. Several things I contribute to my love for the fall. First of all, Regina and I married in the fall. Columbus discovered America in the fall and our son was born on Columbus Day and our daughter was born the next October.

In the fall, I fall more deeply in love with my wife of 55 years. Each fall we reminisce about our dating days when there was a cool crispness in the air that made us want to cuddle up. We just cuddle up now because we are cold.

Every fall, I fall more in love with our children as we celebrate their birthdays and recall the days of their childhood. The blessings of the gift of children will be rewarding to the end of life's journey.

As we celebrate Columbus Day I fall in love with America all over again. What a glorious privilege to be a citizen in the land of the free and the home of the brave. America has fallen on some hard times but I never see the flag flying without getting a lump in my throat and

thanking God for America the beautiful.

Football is another reason I love fall. I like almost any kind of ball, but college football is my favorite sport which I believe to be the most exciting and entertaining sport of all. The "Dogs" and fall go together. The Dogs have just beaten the Vols and should take care of Vandy before they take on those ghost Gators.

Then fall is the time to fall back one hour to Eastern Standard Time, the way God began it in the beginning. As Yogi said, "It gets late early now."

The earth seems to be settling down in the fall. It is getting quieter and more relaxed as it readies for its winter nap. In fact, it seems to be easier to fall asleep in the fall than at any other season.

In conclusion, I love everything about the fall except those falling leaves. I predict the summer rains will produce a bumper crop of leaves. Those leaves are far more beautiful on the trees waving in the breeze than they are lying on the ground. Each fall season reminds all of us that, we too, like all of God's creation will someday go through that change and transition.

Aren't you glad that when our change comes we will be clothed in perfect righteousness in a perfect place where the Tree of Life is and its leaves are for the healing of the nations and don't have to be raked.

Therefore, don't be part of the falling away crowd or those who fall by the wayside, but fall in love with Jesus today and you shall never fall!



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Ruthie and I were sitting in a restaurant in our town recently when a lady I didn't recognize approached our table and spoke to me. "Aren't you the gentleman who writes the column for parents in our newspaper each week?" she asked. I wondered if we had ever met before or how she knew who I was, then I remembered that my photograph is on the column each week.

Now I found myself wondering if she was friendly or if I had offended her by something I had written. But she immediately answered the question. "I want you to know that I cut out your column nearly every week and send it to my daughter (who is now a mom herself), and I usually put a note with it that says, 'See, I was right!'"

I thought about that after we finished our conversation. More than once I have found myself asking, "How would my grandma have handled this?" I generally find in the answer to that question a fount of wisdom.

Sometimes when parents have approached me as they faced an issue with their kids I have said to them, "Did you get to know your grandma when you were growing up?" If they answer Yes, I have sometimes asked, "How do you think she would have

handled the situation you are describing?"

There is often a bit of pensive reflection on their faces, a gentle nodding of the head as though pondering a great truth, and then a statement like, "Hmm, that helps; I think we can handle this."

Before a generation of parents came along who said, "I don't want to do anything to make my little boy feel bad," grandma would have said, "If he did something bad he needs to feel bad about it." Before a generation of parents came along who said, "Come here, honey, and I'll tie your shoes," grandma would have said, "Tie your shoes Emily, that's how you're going to learn." Before a generation came along who said, "I wonder what made Arnold so angry that he broke Mr. Edwards' window," grandma would have said, "Arnold, you're going to have to mow lawns and do other errands till you make enough money to repair the window you broke."

Grandma knew where to place the blame when her kids did something wrong. She wanted them to grow up to be responsible. And see, grandma was right.

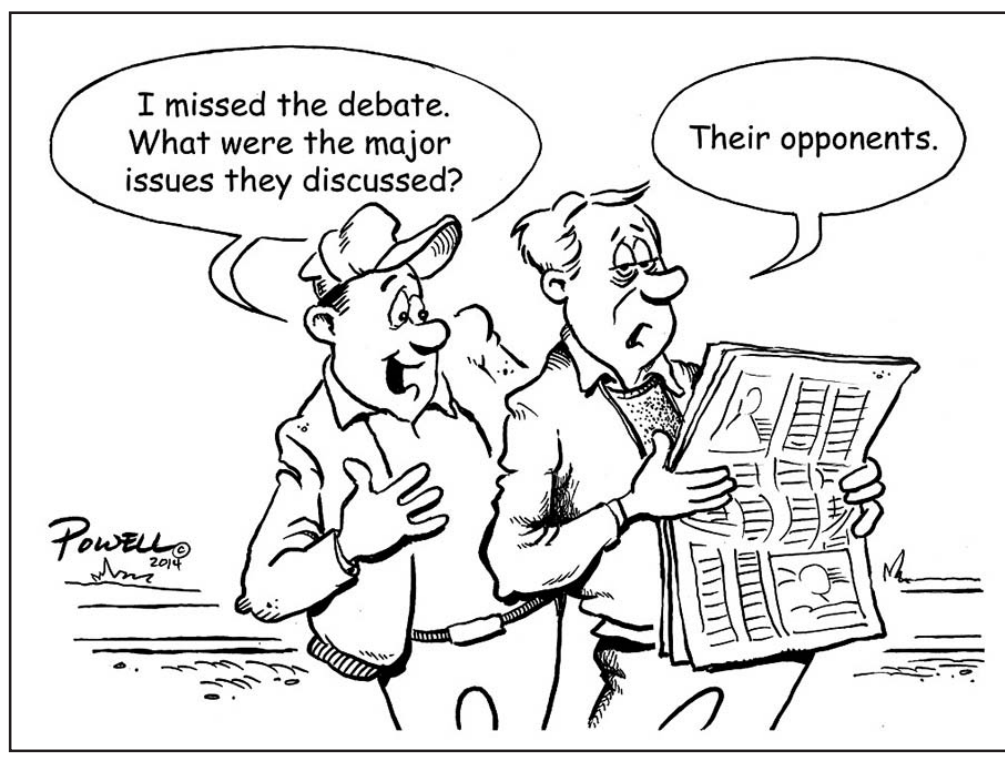
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OFFICE LOCATED AT 518 N. MAIN ST. SUITE 7
"THE MALL" HIAWASSEE (706) 896-4454
Publication Number 635540. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiwassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points.
EMAIL Address: tcherald@windstream.net

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to:
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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