

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Editor:
Someone a long time ago observed that one never really knows another's true character until he shares an inheritance with him. That observation would hold true today concerning the LOST "negotiations" among the county and its municipalities.

Claudos G. Spears

To the Editor:
We are only a few weeks away from the election this November, and yet nobody is talking about the Georgia Public Service Commission race. Many Georgia voters don't know much about the PSC or why it's relevant, but that is exactly why the media will have to fill this gap in coverage. This is the only statewide race happening this year, and the outcome of the election is going to play a crucial role in shaping the future of Georgia's energy vision. We have to start paying attention and start asking the important questions, like why have our power bills routinely increased over the last five years? And what do we want Georgia's energy future to look like? We need to vote for a common sense, independent voice, one that actually wants what is best for our families, and for Georgia's economic growth and development. We must level the playing field and vote for new leadership this November by choosing Steve Oppenheimer for the Georgia Public Service Commission.

Nelson Thomas

Letter to the Editor:
The most important thing to do concerning the coming election is research the candidates and decide for whom to vote. Almost as important is to make sure your vote is not diluted by fraudulent votes.

Democrat and Republican Chairmen of every voting District have the ability to organize a calling program to determine if each person still lives where they are registered to vote. The Party can email or give you a list with phone numbers to call.

Whoever answers, ask them if they are that person and if not, does that person live there. If not, ask if they know where the person lives. Give your findings to both parties chairmen.

That way fraudulent votes can be contested, including dead people. The best way to contest votes is to have volunteers at the polling stations with a list of the people who no longer live in the precinct to contest voters as they vote.

Every Democrat, Republican and Independent who cares to have an honest election should offer to call as many people as they can. All they need is for you to volunteer. I did.

James F. Davis

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
By Don Jacobsen

Q: Dr. Don, we need your help. Our son is fifteen years old and attends a Christian school. Last year he went on a website that was prohibited and was expelled. We homeschooled him but it didn't work out very well. He continued to visit other sites when I would leave the room. If I don't help him he doesn't get his assignments done. He lies frequently. He is a smart kid but makes poor choices. When he should be doing school work he just wants to play computer games. His former school decided to give him another chance. We his parents, teachers and church family have done all we know how to motivate him but it seems to no avail. We do not know what to do. We are open to any suggestions.

Dear Mom, I have a question for you: Who cares? You say, (1) your 15-year old son visits websites that he knows are off limits, (2) doesn't get his homework done unless you help him, (3) lies frequently, and (4) he is skating on thin ice whether he will be expelled from school a second time. So my question is, Who cares? Please don't think I'm being crass or unkind. The fact is, the wrong people care about his behavior. His parents care, his teachers care, his church

cares, but he doesn't care. The only people who care are not the ones who can solve the problem. Until the right person cares there is not likely to be much change.

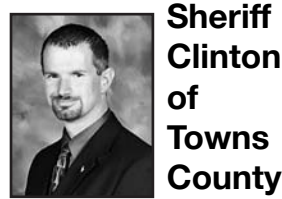
I would suggest the following immediate steps. Remove his computer from his room. Remove his TV, Game-Boy, his music system and any other luxuries. If he has a cell phone, confiscate it. Remove any other privilege he enjoys. If he is eager to work toward receiving his driver's license, tell him that will be postponed for at least six months - only responsible people are permitted to drive cars.

When he has exhibited model behavior and his grades come up for one entire grading period you will begin to return the items he has lost, one a month - except the computer. Do not return the computer to his room; put it in a public place in the house. If he backslides, that is, if he gets a bad report from school, doesn't get his homework done, lies, etc., the process begins all over - from the beginning. We call it Leadership Parenting.

He will be angry. Good. Now the right person cares.

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

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

It is hard to believe that the time for trick-or-treating is approaching. The Ridges is hosting their annual "Trunk-or-Treat" on October 21st from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. The City of Hiawassee is hosting their annual event on the square in Hiawassee on October 27th beginning at 5:30 p.m., and of course Halloween falls on the 31st of October as it always has. There will be a lot of opportunities for children to dress in their costumes and enjoy trick-or-treating fun.

Each year our Sheriff's Office takes an active role in providing a fun and safe environment for children as well as offering safety tips for children and their parents. This year, as in years past, our Sheriff's Office will be providing Towns County Elementary School students with Halloween safety tips. These same safety tips will also be provided to the local news paper and available online at the Towns County Sheriff's Office website. These safety tips will also be available at the Sheriff's Office in the Towns County Courthouse or the Towns County Detention Center. Please feel free to

stop by and pick up a copy for your trick-or-treater. If you need extra copies for a youth group please let us know and we will be happy to make them available to you. These are done each year as a service to our local families and children to help keep them safe while trick-or-treating.

I would also like to offer an additional note about safety this week. As the autumn season is here we expect to see many travelling through our beautiful mountains enjoying the sights of the changing leaves. Many of us enjoy admiring the beauty of this season here in the North Georgia Mountains. With all the "leaf-looking" comes the added danger of distracted drivers. Please pay special attention to those drivers around you who may be distracted as they are taking in the sights and not attentive on driving. We have all seen drivers who fall into that category, especially during this time of year.

Distracted driving is one of the number one causes of motor vehicle accidents in the United States. Help keep your family safe by paying extra attention to other drivers on the roadway, who may not be paying attention themselves.

If you have suggestions or questions about the services we provide, please do not hesitate to contact the Sheriff's Office at 706-896-4444. The Sheriff's Office staff or I will be glad to answer questions or listen to your ideas. We also offer a lot of information about safety and current events online at www.townscounty-sheriffsoffice.com.

BITS AND PIECES
from the Board of Elections



By Jonni Marie Shook

Early voting has begun. For those of you wishing to cast your ballot early stop by and see Irma Nichols at the early voting location in the Old Rock Jail.

Early voting hours are M, W, Th, Fri from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. On Tuesday we will be open from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday, October 27 we will be open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Come on in and beat the crowds on Election Day.

Poll Workers and Poll Watcher training will be held on October 18th at 5 p.m. in the courtroom. All persons scheduled to work at the polls on election day and early voting should attend.

Logic and Accuracy testing on the Touch Screen voting machines will take place starting on Saturday, October 27th. The process will be open to the public.

GUEST COLUMNS

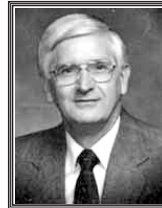
From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear 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.

This week we also received pre-clearance from the U.S. Department of Justice giving us final approval to change the polling place in Young Harris to the Stephens Lodge located on Hwy. 66. More information on the change to follow in the coming weeks.

As of last week the State of Georgia has issued 11,811 military and overseas ballots, and 7, 284 electronic ballots have been issued.



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

I approve this message
Things are really revving up in the political arena. Both democrats and republicans have pulled out all the stops and as we say are "putting on the dog." One debate is over and another is about to take place. My opinion is that these debates will produce a bunch of goose eggs. Both sides want us to approve their messages and go all out to convince us that they can bring about a better America. Just to be honest, I am not sure that either side is being very truthful. Being a Baptist, I evaluate politicians like I would a basket of eggs. There are good eggs, there are bad eggs and there are rotten eggs that smell down right foul (not fowl). Having flocked together with Baptists since my birth I know a little about chickens and eggs. In fact, that age old question still comes up in some Baptist circles, "which came first the hen or the egg?" I have been to multitudes of covered-dish dinners, decorations, homecomings and all-day dinners on the ground and I can never recall one without deviled eggs and fried chicken. I have eaten so many deviled eggs that I would consider myself competent and qualified to judge any woman or man's deviled egg recipe. Baptists, chicken and eggs are pretty well inseparable. I heard about one Baptist family that was really poor and inherited several million dollars. They celebrated by going to the most elegant restaurant in town. The

wife instructed the husband to order the most expensive meal on the menu and say it real loud so everyone could hear him. He said to the waiter, in his loudest voice, "Give me \$50 worth of scrambled eggs." I guess poor folks can never get away from their raisings. Well, as a privileged citizen I am obligated to make sound judgments about those who lead us. All of us know that there are "bad eggs" in politics. They have no interest in serving their constituents. All they want to do is use them or abuse them for their own profit. We also know that there are "good eggs" in politics. These individuals have a desire to serve God and their fellow citizens. Their sole purpose is to honor the position and to give of themselves to bring about a better good. We know also that there are pure "rotten eggs" in politics. They are known by their "stinking thinking." They have no respect for God, their nation, fellow man and are absolutely bankrupt in their morals and values. We need more than eggheads to lead us. We need to egg on and encourage good, solid and sane leadership. At the same time I would remind all of us that neither man nor woman is capable to lead us without God's divine wisdom and direction. I exhort you to pray for our leaders and lift them up, but look higher than man. Look unto God for our help and strength. I don't know about you, but I refuse to put all my eggs in man's basket. I put them into the Jesus basket. I guarantee you that if you will put all of your eggs in the Jesus basket you will never have egg on your face but you will be a winner on earth and in eternity. I approve this message.



Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 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 7 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. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.
Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 2nd Thursday of each month at Daniels Steak House. For more info call 706-379-1371.
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.
Stephens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris.
Board of Voter Registrars meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.
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 Senior Center in Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org
Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Recreation Dept.
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 mtnregartsandcraftsguild.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 Quinlan 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.
We do Family Oral History of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded and would like to do so, please call the Towns County Historical

Society at 706-896-1060.
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.
GMREC Native Plant Garden Tours: Mondays 9 AM-1 PM, May-Sept. (except holidays). 706-745-2655.
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. Caregivers or family members are encouraged to attend. 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.
VFW Post 7807 will have their all you can eat fish fry on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month from 4:30 to 7 PM. \$9 a plate. See you there!
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.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 evenings at 7 PM at the Red Cross building (up the hill from the chamber office on Jack Dayton Circle).

Towns County Herald
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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