

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY
OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Letters to The Editor

Editor:

If I may, I'd like to comment on the first paragraph of sports writer Jim Bryant's coverage of TCHS's recent football loss to Lakeview Academy. That paragraph said:

"The... loss... capped off a really bad week for the Indians with all their sports on the bottom of the totem pole. From softball to football, from the middle school to varsity, the results were all the same, their names on the wrong sides of the scoreboards."

I submit this is not a coincidence, but rather results from the abject failure of the powers-that-be to establish a meaningful feeder system (i.e. pre-TCMS) within Towns County. I've seen the prospective young athletes we have within Towns County and I fully know, with proper focus and development, they could be quite good. And certainly my comment is not a criticism of the TCMS and TCHS coaches; quite the contrary, as I believe they do the very best with what they are given.

And I certainly don't want to hear, "Well, we're just a small county." Anybody see the movie "Hoosiers"? And do we teach our children about "The little engine that couldn't"? No! we teach them about "The Little Engine that Could."

Clandos G. Spears

Planning for the future of Towns County

By Carl S. Schultz

The Towns County Water and Sewer Authority was chartered by the state of Georgia in 1973, to function as an autonomous authority to address matters concerning water and sewer in Towns County. The board is selected by the Towns County Grand Jury with the selection of its own chairperson. This change was made at the time when the first sole commissioner was elected in Towns County. The mention of the state at that time was to ensure the beginnings of these services by someone as the county government grew.

The city of Hiawassee and the sole commissioner engaged with agreements with Towns County Water and Sewer Authority to have the water furnished by the city of Hiawassee to the exit of Hiawassee at the county line. This water would be distributed and services rendered by the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority to all areas of Unicoi and Towns County. This is what exists today.

The Towns County Water and Sewer Authority made an attempt to service sewer to unincorporated Towns County in the late 1980's. The land on NE 69 was purchased for the purpose of doing land spray application instead of the current sewer effluent going into Lake Chatuge. This project was rejected by commissioner Jack Dayton. He decided to tie in the main corridors highways in Towns County - RTE 76 and RTE 69 to the Hiawassee sewer plant. This is the sewer service as it exists today.

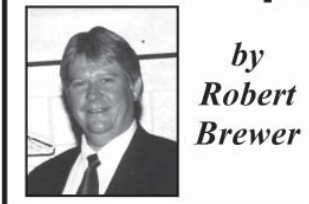
I have worked with all three entities of government and have been able to have

reasonable dialogue and have a spirit of cooperation, and have seen them work for the citizens of this county. Information about the authority is almost non-existent. They don't disclose their plans, budget, or any regular agenda. They know that they don't have to answer to anyone. The board is controlled by the chairman, and recently is controlled by their lawyer who is the same lawyer that represented the Towns-Clay County Industrial Board disaster. I set up a meeting with the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority Board along with a member of a community organization. They were presented an agenda for the meeting. The agenda was ignored and the meeting controlled by said lawyer. It is about time for a change to the betterment of the citizens of Towns County.

There are now legal issues about the price of water and existing contract, along with the cooperation to help this City of Hiawassee share in the cost of expenses for the sewer service lines in Towns County unincorporated.

The Towns County Commissioner had an overall say in general matters pertaining to water and sewer services. The charter needs to be changed so that members of the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority Board are appointed by the three government entities, not by the Grand Jury. The citizens of this county have no say in how the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority conduct their business. This can be done through the local Georgia legislatures and be requested by three government entities of Towns County.

Extension Tips



by
Robert Brewer

Get rid of any places where mice and rats can hide

Fall is near. Leaves are turning colors. Squirrels are storing nuts, and mice and rats are looking for the best way to get into your home for winter. Your home doesn't have to become a rodent resort.

Mice and rats can enter your house through openings as small as a dime. Closing their entry holes is one of the most effective ways to prevent mice and rats from becoming a pest in your home.

Most important, get rid of any places where mice and rats can hide and reproduce. Remove trash, old boards, weeds, brush piles, rock piles, firewood and other junk from your home, garage and property.

Keep garbage in tightly covered cans. Feed dogs and cats from dishes, and take up uneaten food. Use squirrel guards to deter rats and mice from feeding from bird feeders. Don't pile wood against the house, and store firewood at least a foot off the ground.

Make sure patio and garage doors stay closed, seal openings under doors, and cover windows with one-quarter-inch mesh wire screen.

Cement or caulk around pipes (gas, water, hose or air conditioning drains) and wires (phone, cable and TV). Cover clothes dryer vents, but allow for adequate airflow. Clean them regularly to remove lint that could be a fire hazard.

Seal small holes and

cracks by stuffing them with steel wool and caulking over them.

Why is it so important to keep rodents at bay?

Rats and mice can carry fleas and ticks and transmit bacteria and diseases. They can spoil food, too, and eat crops, stored grains, birdseed and pet food.

Rats and mice have poor eyesight but excellent senses of smell, taste and touch. They usually hide during the day and come out at night. If you see one, you can be sure there are many more you haven't seen.

Three species like to live indoors, and all three can be found in Georgia. They are the house mouse, the Norway rat and the roof rat.

House mice are three inches long, not including the tail, which doesn't have fur.

Rats are much larger and can be up to a foot long, not including the tail.

Norway rats are also called brown rats, house rats, barn rats, sewer rats, gray rats or wharf rats. They are heavily bodied and weigh more than a pound. Their ears do not reach past their eyes. Their fur is usually brown or reddish gray, and they are not good climbers.

Roof rats, also known as black or ship rats, are sleek with ears that extend past their eyes. They weigh between 5 ounces and 10 ounces. Their fur can be brown or black. They are good climbers.

For more information on rats and mice, visit the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences' publication, "Rats and Mice: Get Them Out of Your House and Yard," at pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/C970/C970.html.



Before you cast a stone!

By Dr. Steven Swisher, Pastor
 Living Word Revival Center

It is easy at times to disregard the sins that each one of us commits, especially when we are sinned against by others. The sting of being hurt overrides the memory of how many times that we have sinned against others in the past. Sometimes the first thing that we want to do is to pick up a rock and condemn that person of their sin. Yet, Jesus Christ has shown us a truth about such attitudes of heart. The lesson in this scripture teaches us to be humble when others sin and show mercy to them as Jesus did. The Bible says in John 8:3-11, "And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

It is important to understand that Jesus came to give us examples of how to live in peace and in truth with one another. If we were all stoned for every sin that we have committed, we would all be stoned at one time or another and who could live? The Bible says in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." We are all sinners, yet some are saved by grace in their faith in Jesus Christ. But when we realize the great price that Christ paid for our sins, it is much easier to show mercy to others that have sinned against us.

The other point that Jesus made was that he did not agree with her sin, but told the woman

to go away and to sin no more. He did not condone the sin nor condemn the sinner, but made it clear that she was not to continue to sin. Believers are going to sin, but are commanded to repent from practicing sin. It is the will of God that we live without sinning against one another, but if it happens we ought to be careful about picking up stones as a way to solve our differences. Jesus was crucified for our sins when we were all in sin. Maybe laying down our lives to save sinners is God's way.

I think that the lesson to learn is how to be able to minister to others by judging the fruit of someone without condemning them. The Bible says that we will know them by the fruit in their lives. The key is that we must try to reach them by showing mercy instead of throwing rocks. Getting hit by rocks does not attract many to the Gospel nor anything else in this life. The Bible says in John 3:17-20, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd." We all need to understand that God sent his son Jesus Christ to save us, not to condemn us, but if we fail to receive the light of Christ, we stand condemned of Him, condemned already because we choose to remain in darkness. The salvation that Jesus Christ has to offer us is real and that heaven is a real place and that eternal life truly does exist beyond this life. But the way to lead others to salvation is by showing mercy, not by casting rocks. The less rocks in the pie, the more sweet it becomes. God bless you!

Pastor Steven Swisher cordially invites you to join us at Living Word Revival Center for our services on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. or on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. We are located at 1762 Hwy. 64 east, just 1-1/2 miles east of the main traffic light. (828-389-3444).

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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.

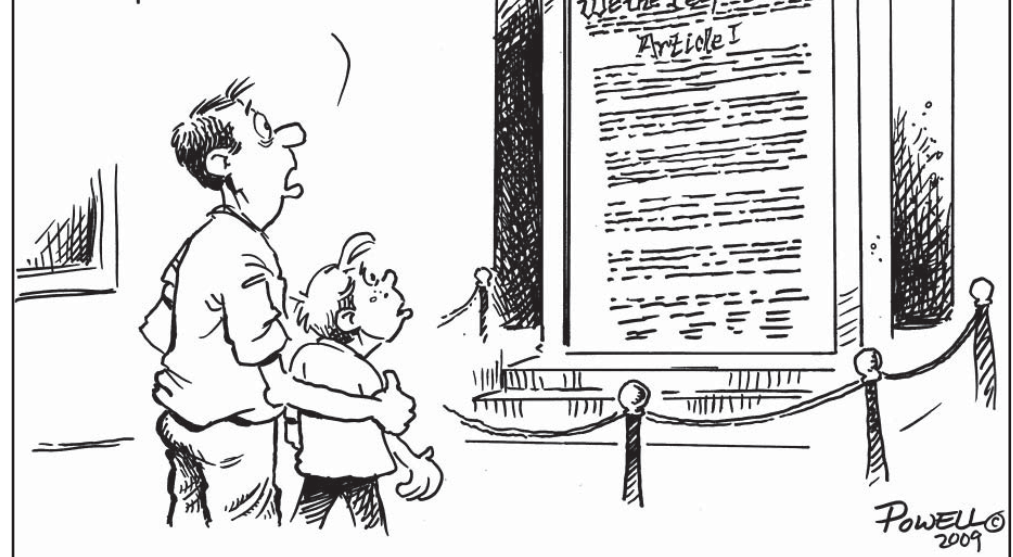
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Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*

Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

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"Better take a good look, son, cause folks are always wanting to cut parts out of it!"



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Towns County Herald

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