

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Ron Willis USCG "Old School"

Ron was born 73 years ago in Nebraska growing up around cattle and horses and never thought about serving America in our USCG. After a really nasty Midwest winter and walking up in the snow to the roof of their home, Ron's dad, a WWII Army Veteran announced, "It's time to move to Florida." Once there, Ron learned to love the water and his parents reminded him that he needed to be preparing for his future. He took that as an obvious hint. Having already befriended several in the local USCG Auxiliary, Ron enlisted in the USCG. His first year after boot camp was prime duty at a USCG LORAN station near West Palm Beach. That changed abruptly about a year later when he was transferred to another LORAN station about 750 miles north of the Arctic Circle in Greenland, where upon his arrival, Thanksgiving Day 1964 it was -26 degrees and dark 24 hours a day. He describes this as "living in an alien world". Surviving the elements was a primary concern for everyone there, and as an ET (electronics tech), Ron and all the Coasties had to keep our LORAN station up and running 24/7/365. "Old School" adequately describes Ron and those of us for which it became our imperative duty to keep our old WW II era equipment up and running. Whether it was a patrol boat or LORAN station, we learned how to improvise, not always "by-the-book". It was literally life or death for us old school "Hooligan's Navy" personnel to know how to "Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome", something we unknowingly shared with our



The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran

brethren in the USMC, and seriously lacking by many only a few years younger, in today's society. Ron ended his tour of duty serving on an 82 foot patrol boat and several small boats out of Padre Island, TX. Returning to Florida, Ron pursued his college education initiating a career with what was Southern Bell Telephone Company as an engineer and retired in 1996. May I add that Ron and his wife Sharon have both served wonderfully in our USCG Auxiliary, with Sharon's superb culinary and planning skills combined with Ron's abilities, his down to earth common sense and natural leadership skills. They are a winning team! Moving here in 2013, they love our small Towns County Community.

Ron's words of wisdom that he wishes to share with our young folks: One: Join the military and learn a marketable skill. Two: "My experience in the military had as much to do with getting a job within a good company as a college degree. A degree gets you in the door, but your service in the military will get you the job." Finally, "Veterans have a very special bond with each other that lasts a lifetime. No matter if you were enlisted or commissioned officer, short timer or career military, that bond will always be there for support."
Semper Paratus

If I Could Turn Back Time

There are several reasons I don't enjoy the annual sleep-robbing tradition known as "Daylight Saving Time." I'm not particularly fond of having the clocks "fall back" in November, either. The primary reason is one shared by many: We don't appreciate having our biological clocks disrupted. Some of us take up to three weeks to recover from this intrusion, and studies have suggested that we never do fully recover from these artificial mutations of rhythms that took hundreds of thousands of years to develop.

We are already divorced from much of what is natural by our burgeoning technology, isolated in our climate-controlled cubes, bathed in the electromagnetic radiation of our addiction to entertainment and communication. Further disrupting our sleep cycles just adds injury to injury. Not to mention the insult. The idea of having something as bloated and incompetent as Congress deciding the time, doesn't help pass the time on that grumpy Monday after the change.

Blame Benjamin Franklin, who suggested the time change to save on burning candles. Or we can blame Canada, which was the first modern country to adopt the practice, and Woodrow Wilson, who signed the practice into law at the end of World War I to save energy, following the lead of Germany, which began using DST in 1916. Roosevelt made DST year-round during WWII, when it was known as "War Time." After the war, there were no universal standards for DST in the United States until

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

1966 when Congress again acted, ostensibly for the good of the people but in reality, to appease broadcasters and the transportation sector. Over the years, just about every alleged benefit of Daylight Saving Time has been challenged by science, and evidence for negative side effects caused by messing with the time has accumulated. Currently DST is favored by the retail industry, which prefers that we have more daylight hours to shop after work. That alone should reduce the chances that Congress will do anything to appease the growing dissatisfaction with time changes.

The Ancients had a direct and effective way of dealing with natural cycles of daylight and dark: They changed their schedules accordingly. Roman water clocks used different scales for different months of the year. Last year as an act of personal protest, I kept a watch on Standard Time and simply rescheduled everything on my calendar. It was a bit confusing, but a good mental exercise - and cathartic.

Changing our schedules to match the natural rhythms of the planet...no, I think we're much too sophisticated for that. Perhaps I am just having a harder time adjusting this year, and my skin is still crawling from hearing my wife play Cher's "If I Could Turn Back Time" to taunt me.

Grass Tetany

It seems spring has indeed sprung! This bout of warm weather we're having is quite the improvement to the cold wet winter we had this past year. Grass is finally going to start greening up, and if you own cattle, it's an important time to prepare for grass tetany. Also known as the "grass staggers," this disease occurs when there is an imbalance of minerals, specifically magnesium, in the blood of the cow. Older, early lactating cows are the most susceptible to this disease.

While grass tetany can occur in the fall and winter, it's most commonly seen in spring as wet, cool weather is followed by warmer temperatures. Cases of grass tetany are usually seen when cows graze on ryegrass, tall fescue, bluegrass, and small grain, and most severe cases are caused by lush, rapidly growing grasses. However, the risk of your cows becoming sick from this disease greatly decreases if they can forage in a pasture that is 30% legumes such as clover and alfalfa. Your cows are at greatest risk of acquiring grass tetany if your pasture soil is low in magnesium but high in potassium and nitrogen. A basic soil test can help you determine these levels in your pastures. Should your soil results show low magnesium and low pH, you can correct this by adding dolomitic limestone which will raise mineral levels and the pH.

Cows with mild cases stop producing milk and appear nervous. Those with acute grass tetany stop grazing, are unusually alert (heads and ears are up constantly), stagger, or repeatedly lie down and stand up again. Cows in this stage are easily startled and upset and collapse shortly after. Once a cow collapses, immediate treatment is needed to prevent convulsions and death.

To prevent grass tetany in your herd, feed your cows either a high magnesium supplement or a free choice mineral that is 8-12% magnesium. During lactation, cows need at least 15 grams



UGA extension
From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee

a day, but some may need up to 35 milligrams. Unfortunately, magnesium oxide, which is the main source of magnesium in supplements, is not very readily eaten because cows don't particularly like the taste. However, you can counter this by mixing corn, soybean meal or molasses with the supplements. You can also use magnesium sulfate as an alternative because it tastes a little better, but be careful with this if your cows are being fed corn coproducts as the increased sulfur provided by the magnesium sulfate could lead to toxicity.

While we at the extension office can help you analyze your soil and forage test results, if you suspect your herd is experiencing grass tetany, it's important to contact a veterinarian immediately. Treatment for this disease often requires the administration of intravenous fluids or injections which should only ever be done by a trained professional. Cows that have been treated and are recovering should be removed from the pasture and fed a diet of hay and concentrates. Be watchful of those cows in your herd that have previously had grass tetany as they are more likely to get it again.

So remember, a mineral a day keeps the veterinarian away! Feeding your early lactating cows magnesium on a regular basis will almost certainly keep grass tetany at bay.

Don't forget about my upcoming High Tunnel Program on March 21st! It will last from 1:00-3:30pm at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. Topics include choice crops for high tunnels, pest management, and how to apply for one. One hour of pesticide credit for private and commercial applicators will be given.

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

On Tuesday, March 8, I was invited to speak to a group of Hiwassee business owners about the annual Towns County Clean Sweep Week. Imagine my surprise when I entered a room of about 50 - 60 people who had gathered to hear about not only ways to improve the appearance of downtown Hiwassee, but to learn of the many resources available to them for free! A newly elected city council member, Liz Ordiales, had arranged the meeting to determine interest in creating a strategy that will make the downtown area more appealing and address ways to add new and sustainable businesses to the profile, not just more of the same! It was exciting to feel the energy in the room as people generated ideas and suggestions for a better downtown. Given the size of this group, it appears many people are ready for fresh ideas and a plan for progressive and managed change that leads to action. And they are eager to be involved! The other two newly elected city council members, Anne Mitchell and Kris Berrong were also present as a part of what may be the beginning of a new future for Hiwassee. Watch the paper for the next meeting date and plan to attend. You don't have to be a business owner to want to be a part of something exciting that affects all of us in the area. It is about time!
Grace Howard

To the Editor:

It is becoming easier these days for the Towns County sports fan to become more complacent about local high school athletics. I have observed countless times over the last decade or so as the TCHS administration has unceremoniously released very qualified and excellent coaches, particularly in football and basketball. As someone who has had a slight insider's view of the pressures that coaches face on a daily basis, any season with a new coach is a season in preparation for the next one. When you're also rebuilding at a very small single-A public school, chances are the coach is looking even further ahead. Yet these factors have rarely mattered to those who never step into a coach's office. With each rebuilding year as a new TCHS coach has the daunting task of familiarizing himself with new teams, new personalities, and new student demographics, many of our local sports fans eagerly await for another supposed miracle season that will surely be provided through the leadership of the glorified new coach. Any grasp of patience is thrown out the window. Expectations are usually high and unrealistic, and once again by the end of the school year, another once-hailed, now-reviled coach is sent on his way.

One remarkable trend seems to be occurring in this frequent rotation of coaches... most of these said coaches are not lifelong local citizens (gasp, the dreaded "outsider"... surely not here in Towns County).

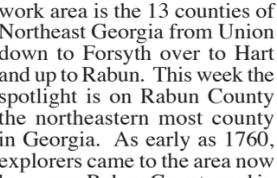
Parents also appear to be a key player in these situations. The people who possess the least knowledge of what occurs at practices, in the locker rooms, or in the school classrooms, seem to dictate the bulk of what goes on in Towns County sports.

For example, a new assistant coach and his wife moved into our area this year who demonstrated nothing short of outstanding character. His players showed improvements in all realms of their respective sport, he demonstrated great leadership with our young people both in the classroom and on the field/court, and he invested a lot of time in them... certainly more than most coaches I have been familiar with. Last week he was informed that he was not a proper fit for Towns County Schools, and would not be returning next year. Some may be surprised. Sadly, I feel that this is once again par for the course. We've seen way too many of these unfortunate situations occur in recent years for me to feel any differently.

To any and all coaches who have been chewed up and spit out by TCHS athletics, I am sorry for what you have had to deal with. I promise that your efforts have not been in vain, and your future is likely brighter than ever. To Towns County Schools, I strongly encourage you to please invest in new faculty in the same manner that many of them invest in you. Please welcome valuable "outsider" input. Not doing so keeps our area set back in time twenty years, and not in a positive manner. Also, please refrain from giving into parental pressure. Their little Johnny or little Johnnita will be okay. I say this with all due respect to people whom I have worked with and for, and with all due respect to the institution I attended K through 12.
Alan Kendall

Rabun County, Georgia

Executive Director of RC&D



Frank Riley

Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council's work area is the 13 counties of Northeast Georgia from Union down to Forsyth over to Hart and up to Rabun. This week the spotlight is on Rabun County the northeastern most county in Georgia. As early as 1760, explorers came to the area now known as Rabun County and in the 18th century, the population of Cherokee in the area was so heavy that this portion of the Appalachian Mountains was sometimes called the "Cherokee Mountains." There were at least four Cherokee settlements in what would later become Rabun County. A Middle settlement called Stikayi was located on Stekoa Creek, probably southeast of the present-day Clayton. An Over-the-Hill settlement called Tallulah was located on the upper portion of the Tallulah River. There were also two Cherokee settlements of unknown division, Chicherohe, which was destroyed during the American Revolutionary War, located along Warwoman Creek, east of Clayton, and Eastertoy which was located near the present-day Dillard. Despite the prominence of the Cherokee, there is evidence that other Native Americans were in the region before them. A mound similar to others across North Georgia is located about one mile east of Dillard and is likely a remnant of an earlier mound-building Native American culture known as the Mississippian culture. William Bartram was one of the early visitors to Rabun County and according to his journal entries for May, 1775; Bartram crossed the Chattooga River into Georgia near its confluence with Warwoman Creek. He later went through a junction of Cherokee trails called Dividings which would later become Clayton, and then traveled north to an area called Passover, which would later become Mountain City. His travels in Rabun County are memorialized today by the Georgia portion of the hiking trail known as the Bartram Trail. The Georgia General Assembly passed an act to create the county on December 21, 1819 becoming Georgia's forty-seventh county. The northern border of the county was established as latitude 35°N, which is the boundary between Georgia and North Carolina, and due to irregularities in an early survey, the Georgia-North Carolina border at Rabun County's northeast corner was erroneously set several hundred yards north of the 35th parallel, giving this location at Ellicott's Rock the distinction of being

the State of Georgia's northernmost point.

The county is named for William Rabun, who served as the 11th Governor of Georgia from his election in 1817 until his death in 1819. In 1828, the Georgia General Assembly transferred a portion of Habersham County to Rabun County, and in 1856, the legislature used portions of Rabun and Union Counties to create Towns County. In 1898, the Tallulah Falls Railway was constructed on a north/south track through the county and one of the most popular stops along the railway was Tallulah Gorge. Deliverance (1972), a highly popular film about a group of city men taking a canoe trip in north Georgia, was filmed largely in Rabun County and after the film's release, Rabun County experienced an increase in tourism, with the number of visitors going from hundreds to tens of thousands. By 2012, 40 years later, tourism was the largest source of revenue in the county. Starting in the 1920s, many of the improvements in the county can be attributed to the establishment, growth and expansion of the Chattahoochee National Forest in the county. The county's three major lakes were created in the early 20th century by Georgia Power for hydroelectric power generation. Lake Burton covers 2,770 acres and has 62 mi of shoreline, Lake Rabun covers 840 acres and has 25 mi of shoreline, and Lake Seed covers 240 acres and has 13 mi of shoreline. Rabun has the second and third highest peaks in Georgia: Rabun Bald at 4,696 feet and Dick's Knob at 4,620 feet. The county's eastern border with South Carolina is formed by the Chattooga River, the largest tributary of the Tugaloo River and then Savannah River. The high elevation along the divide gives Rabun County the most snow of any in county in Georgia, and this also gives it mild weather throughout the warmer months of the year, leading to the county's slogan, Where Spring Spends the Summer.

For more information on Rabun County or any of the programs provided by Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D contact Frank Riley, Executive Director at: info.ccrd@gmail.com.



Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday:	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Bingo		Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday:	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Thursday:	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Bridge Players	Every Friday:	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous		Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	Every Sunday:	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Mtn. Amateur Radio Club	First Monday of each month:	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
Alzheimer's Support group	First Tuesday of each month:	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion		VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council		City Hall	5:30 pm
Young Harris City Council		YH City Hall	7 pm
Quilting Bee	First Wednesday of each month:	McConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge #414	First Thursday of each month:	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Third Monday of each month:	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Water Board		Water Office	6 pm
Quilting Bee	Third Wednesday of each month:	McConnell Church	10 am
Commissioner's Mtg.	Third Thursday of each month:	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Friendship Comm.		Clubhouse	6 pm
Goldwing Road Riders	Third Saturday of each month:	Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
Red Cross DAT	Fourth Monday of each month:	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Fourth Tuesday of each month:	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Republican Party	Fourth Thursday of each month:	New Senior Ctr.	6:30 pm
Square Dance Club	Fourth Friday of each month:	Rec. Center	7 pm

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Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiwassee
Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: tcherald@windstream.net
Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiwassee, GA 30546

Towns County Herald

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Kenneth West Owner/Publisher	Charles Duncan Editor	Shawn Henrikson Copy Editor	Lowell Nicholson Photographer
Joe Collins Advertising Director	Shawn Jarrard Staff Writer	Mason Mitcham Staff Writer	Website: townscountyherald.net