

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

New classes being offered to community

Your Sheriff's Office is happy to announce two new classes being offered to Towns County citizens. Two classes each of "Basic Personal Safety/Introduction to Firearms for Defense" and "Citizen's Law Enforcement Academy", will be taught beginning this month and continuing into the fall.

The first class, shortened to Personal Safety/Firearms, is planned to begin next Monday evening, April 14, from 6-8:30, and again Tuesday the 15th. A range day for familiarization will be announced during class. The 20 participants will learn about safety in general, planning for defense, mindset, and choosing and using self-defense methods. Firearms safety, general use, storage and carry laws will also be covered. This is an introductory class for those who want to better prepare themselves to prevent violent crime, and basic ways to defend themselves if a violent counter cannot be prevented.

A second Safety class is planned for May. The second class is also full. A third class roster has been started and those wishing to participate in this useful, fun and informative class are encouraged to sign up.

I am very pleased that we are also offering you the Citizen's Law Enforcement Academy, which is planned to begin May 20. There will be 8 classroom sessions, as well as job shadowing in the jail and during patrol activities. There are three major "parts" involved with the criminal justice process: law enforcement, the courts, and corrections. Your Sheriff's Office is involved in all three segments, and our LE Academy will educate citizens on specific aspects of each duty given to sheriffs.

This class is popular in many areas of our state and nation wide, as it brings the local Sheriff's Office and the Citizenry together toward common goals. The Academy ends with a graduation and then the participants, if they so choose, may volunteer to assist in numerous ways to help the county in general and the Office of Sheriff in particular. It will be alumni of these classes who will volunteer for such duties as helping set up more Neighborhood Watch groups and programs, participating in searches for missing persons, helping the community during times of emergencies and disasters, and adding to manpower needs during times of higher call volume.

An extra, trained, moti-

ated volunteer could mean a huge difference if a deputy is in danger or needs assistance. This program allows citizens to get involved in an organized, supervised manner to help their community and its people in many ways. We have been looking forward to this particular class for a long time.

We will also delve into the criminal justice system, its ever changing nature and environment, and laws affecting you, the tax-paying citizen. Graduates of this program will be well informed on the responsibilities of their sheriff's office, and on ways they can help. The first class, slated to run from May 20 through late July, is full, and a second class is nearing a full roster. (Call soon if you wish to make the second roster.) The second class is expected to begin in August. All Citizen Law Enforcement Academy classes will be on Tuesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. Schedules for ride-alongs, detention shadowing, and range sessions will be discussed in class.

Classes will all occur at the Holiday Inn Express in downtown Hiawassee. Owners Betty and Danny Taylor, as well as Manager Kim Farmer and Assistant Manager Stacey Krokonko are always extremely helpful in providing class space for Law Enforcement training, and have graciously extended their hospitality in helping us bring these classes to you. Please say hello to them and their staff at any opportunity and thank them for their complete willingness to help your community. We certainly are very appreciative for their efforts and community involvement.

Finally, all classes are taught by a team of experienced Law Enforcement trainers and managers with well over one hundred years combined experience. Our facilitators are either POST certified instructors, NRA instructors, or Command Staff who have advanced certifications in the various fields of study pertaining to each class, whether it be Criminal Investigations, Child Crimes, Firearms, Criminal Procedure, Court Services, Personal Safety, Self-Defense, SWAT tactics, warrants and civil service, Detention Procedures, Missing Persons, Legal Issues and many other areas of expertise.

Participants of all classes are required to submit to a background check complete with criminal history waiver, and to be legally allowed to possess a firearm. Other classes are planned and participants will be made aware of advanced training opportunities. For more information, please contact our office at 706-896-4444.

My staff and I are pleased to be able to offer you such training and instruction and very much look forward to working with you toward a safer, more secure Towns County. Please feel free to contact me or our training staff if you have further questions.

Local food from local growers

Do you know where the food that you eat comes from? Probably not since it is shipped from all over to regional hubs and then shipped again to warehouses, and then to your local stores, but if you buy it from local farmers at your local farmers market you will know exactly where it came from because you can talk to the farmer who actually planted, grew, and harvested the vegetables or fruit that you will put on your table.

Local farmers markets are becoming popular community events that are drawing people together on Saturday mornings or other days of the week all over the country. These markets give local, small farmers and gardeners a place to sell the fruits of their labors and bring our fragmented communities together just like our ancestors did in the past when they came to town on Saturday to buy supplies and to visit with their neighbors. These markets give us a place to meet and greet our neighbors and also take home local grown produce that is much better for us and a lot tastier than those products grown over the horizon.

Buying local keeps our money in our communities and helps turn us back toward at least a partial self sustaining life style. It is a lot more fun, not to mention rewarding to plant and harvest your own garden or buy your neighbors excess garden grown vegetables than it is to drive to the grocery store to buy stuff that we have no clue as to where it came from, how it was grown, what it has been treated with, or how long it has been since it was harvested.

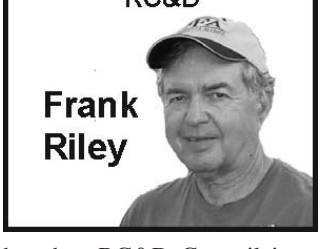
Each generation that passes moves further away from the days when our ancestors had to grow their food or go hungry and now most of our children have no clue as to where their food comes from. Take the kids to your local farmers markets where they can meet the growers and ask questions about the food which will unravel the mystery as to how we are fed.

The state of Georgia is blessed to have a large number of thriving community farmers markets scattered all over the state. The Georgia Department of Agriculture oversees these community farmers markets and also administers nine State Farmers Markets which form the network for sales of fruits and vegetables throughout Georgia and the Southeast.

These state facilities maintain a viable market for Georgia farmers and farm products in the communities where they are located. The large State Farmers Markets are responsible for over one billion dollars in sales each year. Most local farmers markets are often operated by non-profits or local governments and serve their local communities and surrounding areas.

The Chatstatee-Chatta-

Executive Director of RC&D



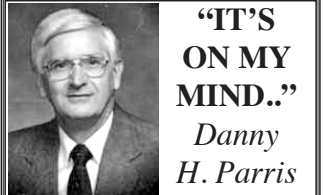
Frank Riley

hoochee RC&D Council is an active partner in a statewide effort to help make locally grown fruits and vegetables available to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP - formerly known as Food Stamps) recipients. Because many SNAP recipients use debit/credit cards to swipe for food purchases and because most locally grown fruits and vegetables are sold at road side or farmers' markets where electronic card machines are not available, they cannot enjoy the healthy rewards of such products.

This project assists local markets with equipment purchases and maintenance, training market managers and vendors about the legalities of SNAP funds, as well as promotional costs. The RC&D's mission is "to assist local people in planning and carrying out activities that conserve natural resources, support economic development, enhance the environment, and improve the standard of living for all citizens in the 13 counties that we serve."

Visit your local farmers markets and support your local farmers.

Frank M. Riley, Jr. is Executive Director - Chatstatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council. For more information on Chatstatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council, visit our web site www.chestchattred.org; phone 706-894-1591 or email www.frank.ccrd@gmail.com.



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

What think ye of Christ?
Holy Week extends from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday and Christians all over the world turn their thoughts to Jesus and to the events that took place in Jerusalem over two thousand years ago.

In fact, the entire world is faced with the question, "What think ye of Christ?" This was the question that Jesus directed to the Pharisees in Matthew's gospel (Matt. 22:42). This is a personal question. "What do you think of Christ?" All of us must answer this probing question.

As you consider this question I would like to share with you what others thought of Jesus. Let's ask God what He thinks of Christ and He says, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). If you ask the angels in heaven their response is, "Unto you is born... a savior which is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11). Let's ask John the Baptist and he declares, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Ask impetuous Peter and he cries out, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt 16:16). Disbelieving Thomas, when asked his opinion would loudly announce, "My Lord, and my God" (John 20:28). The poor sinful Samaritan woman who had lived with six different men, enthusiastically invites us to "Come see a man... Is not this the Christ?" (John 4:29). Nathanael, a man

in whom was no guile, testified of Jesus, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God" (John 1:49).

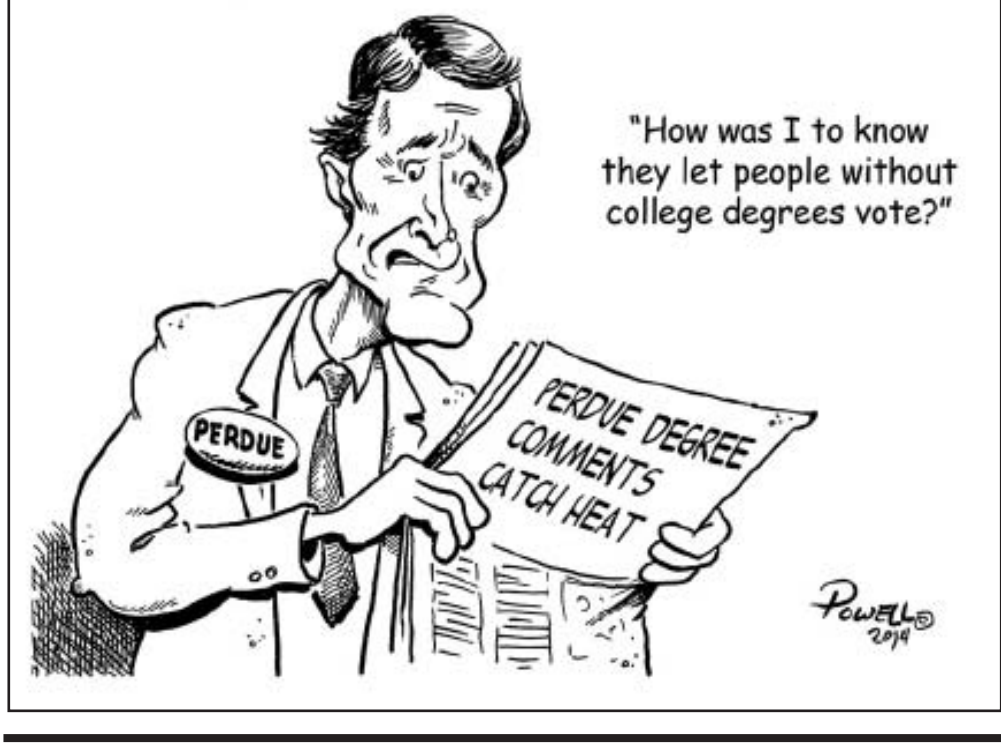
Paul, the forgiven persecutor of Christ's followers, gladly proclaims his revelation of Christ when he confesses, "I count all things loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" (Phil. 3:8). John the Apostle, records in the last book of the Bible that Jesus is "The bright and morning star" (Rev. 22:16).

That Roman Centurion helping to carry out the execution of Christ declared with a broken heart, "Truly this man was the Son of God" (Mark 15:39). The Ethiopian Eunuch when asked what he believed joyfully confesses that "Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37). Pilate, the governor, weak and spineless, admits that "I find no fault at all" (John 18:38).

Lastly, the very one who lived and traveled with Jesus for three years, and finally betrayed Him for the price of a slave, Judas, the name that makes you shudder, bitterly wails out, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood" (Matt. 27:4).

The evidence is overwhelming. Jesus is God's Son, human-kind's only Savior. The witnesses in heaven and in earth, both friends and foes, testify that Jesus is the Son of God. Even the devils believe and tremble (James 2:19). It is important what all of these witnesses believed and confessed. But what they believed won't help you. In the beginning, I said this was a personal question. Your eternal destiny depends upon what you think of Christ.

In light of the evidence and witnesses what is your decision?



"How was I to know they let people without college degrees vote?"

Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 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 6 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 1 p.m.

Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at the Senior Center.

Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 4th Thursday of each month at the new Senior Center. For more info call 706-994-3919.

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.

Stevens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris.

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. We do oral family histories

of residents. 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org

Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Rec Center.

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 mtnregarts-craftsguild.org.

Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month in Young Harris. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. A "Q & A" session follows. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.

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 at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridge-mountains.

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.

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. 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 Cadence Bank the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 AM.

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.shootingcreek-basketweavers.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).

Caregiver support group meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.

Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch.

Brasstown Woodturners Guild meets 1st Saturday of month at 9:30 AM in HHS shop. For more info call J. C. at 706-896-5711.

VFW Post #7807 will be hosting a fish fry their 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month April - October. \$9. all you can eat from 4:30 - 7 PM.

Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC) meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiawassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.

"Despite all the earmarks, pork projects and wasteful spending, I still support the government..."



"...Every April 15th."

Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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