

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Harry Potter would be proud

Abracadabra, poof, be gone!
I didn't realize that Blue Ridge Mountain EMC had such magical abilities, but, it certainly looks that way.

A bill dated June 10, 2014, shows that Taylor and Taylor Construction owed the EMC \$107,998.43.

This week, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC placed an advertisement with the *North Georgia News* and *Towns County Herald* with information that details in our news story last week were inaccurate and misleading.

Straight Shooting



Charles

They also took to Facebook with that information trying to drum home that the newspaper is spreading inaccurate and misleading information. *They didn't say the other details in our story were inaccurate, or misleading.*

There is a copy of Taylor and Taylor's bill on Page 5 of this edition. Also, look for the EMC advertisement on Page 14.

Is the copy of the bill that we have in our possession inaccurate and misleading? We wish for our readers to be the judge.

We ask these questions. Was the bill a mistake on Blue Ridge Mountain EMC's part? Was the debt magically wiped out? Or, did EMC misread a meter?

The documents used to produce last week's story talk about a loan from the EMC to Taylor and Taylor Construction. Now, magically, they disavow any knowledge of that loan.

Again, transparency is an issue. Also at issue, is the up to \$30,000 "independent investigation" paid for by the EMC members on the matter of how the debt began in the first place.

Out of all those Board of Directors, the only name mentioned as having knowledge about the Taylor and Taylor debt is a man who can't defend himself.

Yes, Jack Lance Sr. had knowledge of the debt. A whistleblower approached him two weeks prior to his death and told him about the debt. He shared that information with another member of the Board of Directors. So, why not mention that board member's name?

Do you think that board member who learned from Jack Lance Sr. about the debt kept quiet? I wouldn't think so.

Jack Lance Sr. died in March 2013, so, the documents that I mentioned last week that claimed the Board of Directors didn't find out about the debt until April 2014 also is inaccurate and misleading as well.

Did the EMC Board of Directors believe that Jack Lance Sr. took the news of that debt with him to the Pearly Gates?

Again, transparency is an issue.

Is it possible that a true independent investigation of the matter is needed? One that the Board of Directors didn't pay for? An investigation by say, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation? Well, that may already be happening. Word has it that the GBI has the same documents held by the *North Georgia News* and *Towns County Herald*. GBI obtained the documents through the Governor's Office.

Why would the GBI be interested? Because in April, Taylor and Taylor Construction had not made a payment on the debt since March 22, 2012. In the time frame from March 2012 to April 2014, President Taylor signed a whole lot of legal documents.

The question is, was President Taylor a member in good standing with Blue Ridge Mountain EMC and was there a conflict of interest?

According to the EMC by-laws entitled *Qualifications*, no person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative who has not continuously been, for at least one year prior to his nomination, or who ceases after his election to be a member in good standing of the Cooperative, receiving service therefrom at his primary residential abode in the Directorate District from which he is elected (except as provided in the first proviso in this Section in which instance the entity which qualifies a person's eligibility to be elected a director must be and remain a member in good standing).

EMC also worked out an agreement with the former president for him to repay the debt. He owes thousands of dollars and still has electric service while he's repaying that debt.

How many members of the Cooperative can say that they still have electricity and owe a debt of that magnitude?

In this week's edition, there is information about the upcoming election of three Board of Directors and how to cast a ballot. The most important part of that election is that all members can cast ballots for all three board posts.

As member-owners of the Cooperative, more than 40,000 owners want transparency from the EMC Board of Directors.

Maybe one day that will happen, hopefully in our lifetimes.

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor,

What has happened to the lifeguard at the Beach below town? Lord there needs to be some kind of beach patrol or something there like there use to be. Not only to watch and save a life in case of a near drowning or something, but to be non-tolerable of unnecessary behavior and all!

At a recent celebration at the pavilion and all, I noticed many boats, pontoons, jet skies and etc. pulling right up to the rope and letting people off and in to the waters and many people sitting on, pulling on, and even trying to walk upon the ropes, and even going way out on the other side of them in the middle of the lake in to on coming boaters and etc. Very dangerous!

I know summer and the swimming season is about over, but there needs to be some kind of beach patrol or lifeguard there hopefully by next year and next season, to put a stop to such activity and all. The beach was meant as a mean of enjoyment and relaxation, not tom foolery and idiocy!

And people ought to also respect the parties and celebrations and etc. as well that are often held in the pavilion, and when they see any one coming in to set up for it, make their exit peacefully and quietly and not pitch a fit about it or anything. I know if I am ever there and some one comes in that has the building reserved and I see them start to set up, I get my belongings and go elsewhere out of their way with no questions asked. Of course, that is all in the lovely and decent way that I was raised and I am thankful for that.

Well, this is all I have to say about it all. There just need to be some changes made to have a safer and more joyful day there is all.

Thank you and blessings.
Mrs. D. Barnes

Editor:

This will be my final letter on this subject. Many writers to the TCH have cited various US Supreme Court decisions in support of their respective views. Unfortunately, those decisions are often in conflict and therefore, by definition, are not at all decisive. But one, I submit, is appropriately applicable to the writers' respective views.

"If there is any principle of the Constitution that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other it is the principle of free thought - not free thought for those who agree with us, but freedom for the thought we hate." Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.; *United States vs. Schwimmer*, 279 US644, 653 (1928).

You see, folks, without freedom of thought we cannot have freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, etc.

Claude Spears

Editor:

The Mountain Home Music Theater is located west of Hiawassee on Hwy. 76. I'm surprised that it is not completely sold out every Saturday night. Miss Stella has great music shows every Saturday at 8 PM. If you have never been there you're missing a fantastic evening of entertainment, two hours of good family fun. We moved to Young Harris three years ago and never miss the show. The talent is outstanding. Plan on joining us Saturday nights and support Miss Stella and these local area musicians. You won't be disappointed.

D. J. Lincoln



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

America on the go

A young preacher flying into Atlanta found himself seated next to a beautiful girl. He asked her what her profession was. She said, "I am a go-go girl." He said, "Shake." "I am a go-go boy." "I am a preacher and the last words Jesus said was to go into all the world and preach the gospel." Are you a go-go person for Christ? In a world where so many things go wrong, we need to go to bat for multiplied millions who go astray. The devil and the world tell us to just go away or go fly a kite. However, God tells us to go about His business and not to be discouraged. While most of the world is willing to go along with almost anything, God says that His children are to go against the tide of evil that would sweep over mankind. The face of America reveals a people about to go to pieces for fear of terrorists, Ebola, Christianity, lawsuits, global warming and a thousand other things. In this preacher's personal opinion, based on what I believe to be God's absolute truth, we had better fear Almighty God who is about to go over America with His fine-tooth comb of judgment. It is almost unbelievable that in just a short period of time citizens of America have become afraid to mention the name Jesus in schoolhouses, courthouses, statehouses, etc. Politicians, painters, physicians, professors, poets, photographers, psychiatrists, psychologists and even some preachers are afraid that if they mention the name of Jesus they will be

tarred and feathered. It is true that any mention of God in the affairs of men goes over like a lead balloon and some people go bananas. Well, I am tired of going along for the ride; I am going for broke and going against the grain. Scores of people feel that this world is ready to go up in a puff of smoke or go down the drain. At the same time there are a vast number of folks who just go to seed. They become useless. They go to pot. They really don't care. They are lazy, complacent, and lethargic and as far as they are concerned the whole world can go to the devil. They are not about to go out of their way to do anything to change so the world can go in a different direction. Our generation will probably go down in history or go down in the records as the wealthiest, healthiest and most privileged people to have ever lived. I am afraid we have let it go to our heads. It goes without saying that no matter what warnings and instructions some people hear they just let it go in one ear and out the other. Well, I don't want to get overboard with this go-go subject, and before some of you go into orbit, I will go straight to the conclusion of this. Some of you think I am about to go off the deep end, but I just want to go on record saying that God will never go back on His word. If any of us ever hope to go to a better place when we leave this world we had better go to God, and go on bended knee and go in deep repentance while there is still time. Don't let this go over your head. The world may go from bad to worse, but remember the child of God will always go from strength to strength. America is definitely on the go - but which way? Up or down?

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, 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.

as he demonstrates that he can handle them. You know what? He'll actually be relieved.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKidsWellDone.com.



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Q: Dr. Don, our 13-year old is beginning his teenage rebellion early. We talked to him about it a couple of nights ago and he let us know that as a teen he feels he is entitled to some freedom. So he has begun staying out past the curfew we gave him, he only does certain chores that he doesn't mind doing, and he often talks very disrespectfully to both his dad

and me. Do we just let this behavior run its course or should we somehow deal with it?
A: Your son is right, of course. As a teenager he should be getting more freedom than he did when he was eight or eleven. But the part of the equation he hasn't figured out yet is that he thinks he can get freedom by rebellion. Fact is, freedom for a 13-year old is not an entitlement, freedom is more like a kind of pay check. The more you work to prove you deserve it, the more of it you get.

Furthermore, the more rebellion he displays the more he is demonstrating that he is in fact not yet ready for self-management. I would also like to re-frame your question a little. You talk about his "beginning his teenage rebel-

lion early," as though you have determined that rebellion is a period he must pass through in order to move on to adulthood. Let me try to give you a different look at that process. It is the parents' job to set boundaries and establish rules; it is the child's job to test those limits. This is where it is reinforced that someone is in charge in the family, and it isn't him. In the next half dozen years or so he will be making virtually all of the decisions about his life. So today is rehearsal for the real world. We give him additional freedoms so he can show that he is learning to use good judgment, make wise choices, exercise common sense, and ask for counsel when he needs it.

When he does something that is, well, childish, we reel in his rope just a little, explain why he now loses some of the privileges he had, that we're going to start over with a clean slate, and that we want him to have the freedoms back as quickly

Towns County Herald

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