

Cherokee Scout



89 Sycamore St.
P.O. Box 190
Murphy, NC 28906
Internet: www.cherokeescout.com

Call: (828) 837-5122
Fax: (828) 837-5832
Cell: (828) 361-4809
E-mail: dbrown@cherokeescout.com

From the desk of Publisher David Brown

Feb. 22, 2013

NOTE TO READERS

The *Cherokee Scout* made a tremendous error in judgment this week, and thanks to our readers we learned a tough lesson.

As publisher of your local newspaper, I want to apologize to everyone we unintentionally upset with our public records request for a list of those who have or have applied for a concealed carry permit. We had no idea the reaction it would cause.

Sheriff Keith Lovin had the best interests of the people of Cherokee County at heart when he denied our request. The *Scout* would like to offer an apology to him as well.

To that end, Editor Robert Horne spoke with Lovin on Friday morning to tell him we were withdrawing our public records request. He asked for a written copy of that request, and Horne dropped it off at his office that morning.

While Horne was on the phone with the sheriff, he also thanked him and his staff for their quick response when some people who saw the Facebook post started making personal threats against him. Horne also requested a sit-down meeting in the near future to iron out the issues between the *Scout* and sheriff's office, which Lovin graciously accepted.

I realize many people are upset with Horne, myself and the *Scout*, and we can understand that. We never meant to offend the wonderful people of this fine community nor hurt the reputation of this newspaper. We do a lot of positive work that helps make Cherokee County an even better place to live, and I hope more good work will repair our reputation with readers.

Many of you have asked where Horne is from. He is from a small town in south Georgia – Cairo, Ga., to be exact. It is a rural area much like Murphy, and his roots are helping him better understand this community.

As for myself, I attended Murphy High School, I was married and baptized here, and three of my children are proud Bulldogs. This county has been important to me for a long time.

I know where this community is coming from, and I hope we can regain your trust. I know it may take a while, but we're going to try. Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Brown". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the publisher.

Publisher David Brown