

Lanier County**News**

is owned by
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Media, LLC

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OUR GOAL: Lanier County News is created proudly for the citizens of Lanier and the surrounding area by Good Shepherd Media in Lakeland, GA. Our goal is to produce a quality, community oriented newspaper that you, our readers, are proud of. We will reach this goal through hard work, teamwork, loyalty and a strong dedication toward printing the truth.

OUR POLICIES: Letters to the Editor are welcome. Please sign and include address, telephone number and e-mail.

•Liability for an error in advertising will not exceed the cost of space occupied by the error.

•All pictures are filed after publication, but may be picked up by the owner at Lanier County News office in Lakeland.

DEADLINE: the deadline each week for all news and advertising copy is Monday at 5:00 p.m. Submittals can be placed in the drop box located by the door of the Lanier County News office.

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OPINIONS & VIEWPOINTS

From the Publisher: Why does Lanier County News cover Ray City Council meetings?

Readers are invited to listen to the audio recording of the March Ray City Council meeting posted on the Lanier County News' Facebook page. By so doing, readers can come to their own conclusions. As the Publisher of the Lanier County News, I have sat through numerous Ray City Council meetings for about eight (8) years now. At the time that I began to attend, Mayor Wayne Gulley was Ray City's mayor. As a journalist for the Lanier County News, I have had a wide variety of experiences over time.

Most recently, during the March Ray City Council meeting, Councilman David Schools made statements which seemed to express that transparency should be limited. His dialog expressed support for limiting Ray City and area citizens Right to Know. Additionally, Schools brought up questions which seem to disregard citizen's rights under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The initial issue stemmed from Schools objecting to the Lanier County News covering a news story about a traffic safety concern. The matter involves a well traveled Main Street and Samuel Street intersection. Some citizens have expressed fear about their ability to see oncoming traffic clearly due to location of cars parked on the corner.

Schools complaint was that Councilman Wesley Bennefield is one of the persons, who have expressed safety questions, and with whom he disagrees. Schools stated that he believes the corner to be safe "as is". The disagreement was basically ... meeting the state law rules/guidelines, versus maybe doing a little more than the law requires.

In a rather bizarre conversation, Councilman Schools made several statements and accusations against Bennefield and the Lanier County News. The statements were misleading and seemed to simply amount to nothing more than pot stirring trying to perpetuate the idea that he had been wronged, instead of vice versa.

Regardless, Schools demanded a retraction of the news story from Bennefield. In fact Schools' family member in a Facebook Post also bandied around the terms of slander and libel with lawsuit. Yet, neither Schools nor his family member identified specifically to what they objected.

The Lanier County News word processed the article it carried and looked for anything in it that might have been incorrect or intended maliciously. While it's fairly easy to improve upon word choice, no clear cut malicious statement within the article could be discerned.

However, Mr. Schools began to read information posted by the Lanier County News regarding the geographical region that it covers. Mr. Schools, by omission, lied to deceive anyone listening to think that the Lanier County News does not have the right to cover news from the southeast Berrien County area.

In fact, since 2018 when Ray City Council petitioned the Lanier County Board of Commissioners to let the City of Ray City annex a portion of Lanier County to be included within its city limits, there has been ample reason for the Lanier County News (or any media that believes it is important to cover news from the City of Ray City and/or Lanier County) to do so!

The Lanier County News not only feels a responsibility to cover news from Ray City and Berrien County, but that it has a responsibility to share that news, since Ray City annexed a portion of Lanier County.

The two areas are increasingly entwined. Many Lanier County residents, who are not in the Ray City annexed portion of Lanier County, carry Ray City addresses. While the City Council of Ray City has not developed agreements with Lanier County, it needs to have them for emergency services such as fire, EMS and law enforcement jurisdictions.

Further, Ray City's Fire Chief has blurred the regional services further by being appointed the Lanier County Emergency Management Agency director and Fire Chief of Lanier County's Westside Fire Department. He does not change vehicles provided to him for use in each of his positions, so often the Ray City Fire Chief is driving Lanier County service vehicles. This is just one of the examples in which jurisdiction is blurred.

Boundaries will become further blurred as the growth of Valdosta continues north on Georgia Highway 125. Whether or not the City of Ray City is ready for that change, it is becoming a part of the greater Valdosta/Lowndes metro growth, just as Lakeland/Lanier County has become.

For myself, I was disappointed to hear any councilman adhere to an attitude that seemed to support limiting people's right to know. I was personally concerned that an elected government official would knowingly withhold information and make an implication that is negative to the reputation of the Lanier County News (especially after his prior statements). For my part, I am concerned that an elected government official does not appear to support transparency in government nor the opinions of those, who try to express their concerns about their government.

The Lanier County News continues to support democracy by covering news so citizens can know what is happening and the responsibility that goes with it.

A word, please Tips for better grammar

By June Casagrande

If you ever feel bad about your grammar or embarrassed you don't know more, here's a story that might make you feel better.

Recently, I reread something I wrote years ago about "good things come to he who waits" vs. "good things come to him who waits" and then, when I tried to summarize the lesson, I got it exactly wrong. Not only did I misunderstand the grammar, but I misunderstood what my 2016 self was trying to teach me. I just didn't get it. But I'll forgive myself because it's a tricky issue.

The grammatically correct form is "him who waits," with the object pronoun "him." That may seem pretty obvious to anyone who understands that "to" is a preposition and that prepositions take object pronouns and not subject pronouns.

Give it to him, not give it to he.
Show it to us, not show it to we.
Tell it to her, not tell it to she.

You know this intuitively. But folks who pay very close attention know that sometimes, there's an exception. When the object of a preposition or verb is not a single word but a whole clause, that clause needs a subject. In those cases, you can have a subject pronoun sitting right where an object pronoun normally goes.

Give the job to whoever wants it, not give it to whomever wants it.

Whoever is a subject pronoun. Yet here it sits where an object pronoun would normally go because it's the subject of its own verb: wants.

It's kind of like "I know he lied." The whole clause "he lied" is the object of the verb, "know." The point is, whole clauses can be objects.

In "Good things come to him who waits," there's a verb right there, "waits." And it's pretty clear who's doing the waiting: he is. So it seems like the whole clause "he waits" should be the object of the preposition, which would make it "Good things come to he who waits." But actually that's wrong because "who" — not "he" — is the subject of the verb "waits."

"Who" is a relative pronoun in our sentence. Relative pronouns — that, which, who and whom — head up relative clauses.

The cat, which was meowing, was gray.
The dress that caught my eye didn't come in my size.
There's the man whom I love.
There's the man who loves me.

Relative clauses have a surprising job. They modify nouns. They're basically adjectives.

In "the cat, which was meowing," the "which" clause modifies the noun "cat." That makes the whole clause an adjective. In "the dress that caught my eye," the "that" clause modifies the noun "dress." Again, an adjective.

In "good things come to him who waits," the relative clause "who waits" is also an adjective. So what is it modifying? The pronoun "him."

In our sentence, the true object of the preposition is in fact the object pronoun "him." The verb that comes after "him," "waits," already has its own subject, "who," and together "who waits" is working as an adjective.

This isn't just my analysis. Experts agree. Fowler's Modern English Usage, for example, cites the following sentence as an error: "Any contact with Flora would have to include he who was keeping an eye on her." That's wrong, Fowler's says. It should be "include him" because "him" is the true object of the verb "include."

Of course, when a grammar rule is this complicated, no one's expected to get it right. So I'll forgive myself when I forget it all over again in the near future.

— June Casagrande is the author of *"The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know."* She can be reached at JuneTCN@aol.com.



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