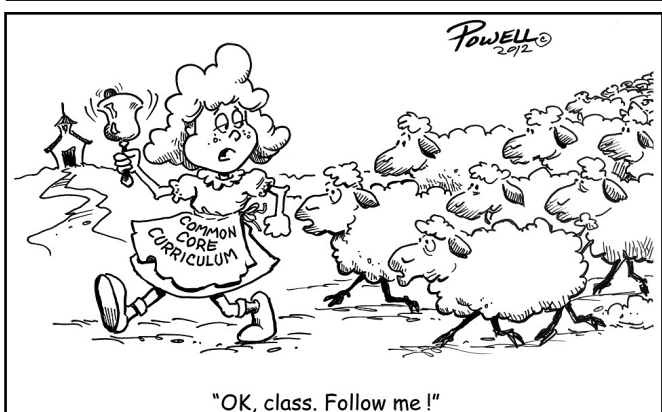


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



"OK, class. Follow me!"

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

My wife and I recently purchased property in Young Harris and have been enjoying our new place in the mountains. When we came in Thursday, April 19, we were disappointed to find out we had been robbed. We contacted the Towns County Sheriff's Office and within a matter of minutes there were two deputies in our driveway. We were very pleased with their quick response. The officers were friendly and efficient. We are happy to know that you have such professional and dependable law officers in Towns County.

Ronnie Thompson

Letter to the Editor

A thank you to friends

A familiar story—because of health issues my wife and I were going to move to Florida to be closer to children, but how we hated to leave these beautiful mountains. The more we talked to friends the less we liked the idea. One friend suggested we look into the new homes at the Baptist retirement community. We liked what we saw, but how could we move with our back problems. Friends were there to help us pack as we directed, load into cars and trucks, and unload at the new place. We are happy and settled in, thanks to people we love and who apparently love us.

A heartfelt public thank you to the following: Towns County Coast Guard Auxiliary—Bob Garrett, Mike Hall, Ann & Miguel Corco, Mark Moore, James Nolan, and Scott & Sherrie Drummond; Towns County Fire Dept.—Harold Copeland, Jeff Scott, Jonathan Wilson; Towns County Fire Corps—Brenda Hunt, Lynne Marshall, Joan Crothers.

We never met folks like this in Florida, how nice we can still live among you good mountain people.

Dr. Bill & Edie Wendel

Dear Editor:

The annual Cinco de Mayo party, given by Paul Gibb and Carl Schmidt at their home in Hi-River Country, raised \$285 this year for the benefit of our four-legged friends at the Mountain Shelter. This is the fourth year that monies have been raised at the party to benefit various causes. Last year's monies went to help the Catoosa County shelter after the devastating tornado hit their area. We would like to thank our friends for their continued generosity.

Paul Gibb and Carl Schmidt



I spend very little time on Facebook – or any of the social media for that matter. I have discovered they can suck up huge amounts of my life with very little return. But I was wall-surfing a few evenings back and found an interesting post. It was by a young mother who was lamenting that her two pre-schoolers are so demanding she doesn't have time to be her own person. You could feel the anguish in her words.

I wanted to give her some suggestions and try to help talk her through a situation that is very common for moms with small kids – and often with kids that are not so small. But I thought it might embarrass her if I put it on FB for all the world to see, so I wondered how I might get her email address and contact her directly.

That's when I discovered something interesting – the post was written by my niece. She was the struggling mom. That motivated me even more so I asked some other family members and got her email. Here's the gist of what I told her...

Between the child's second and third birthdays some really important things need to

happen. One is that mom needs to stop doing for the child anything the child can learn to do for him/herself. Making her own bed, picking up her toys, helping set the table, getting her own drink of water, are a few. Also, mom needs to begin to draw some boundaries between herself and the child. Some moms find it helpful to say something like, "Honey, Mommy is busy right now. I will set the timer for one hour and when it rings I will read your new book to you for a few minutes." If that isn't met with enthusiasm by the child, mom might continue, "If you fuss or whine I'll know it's because you're tired and need another nap..."

Your little angel needs to learn that arguing or whining will only make her situation worse for her, not better. Mom (or Dad) should never grant a child's wish to quiet a whine. And remember, this is not a one-time fix because you're changing a behavior pattern, but be consistent and she'll soon catch on. You'll love your new freedom, and your little gal will be learning to be independent.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

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The Middle Path

by Don Perry

I saw an amazing sight Saturday night as the "super perigee moon" rose up out of the Atlantic Ocean. Moonlight on water is hypnotic, mesmerizing. It is a window into infinity. A full moon big enough to reach out and touch, barren and beautifully scared by impact craters as old as the solar system reminds us that we are blessed to float suspended in space on a unique and irreplaceable life raft. The beauty of the night was enhanced by ocean breezes and waves rolling onto the shore. It was a magical night.

As my wife and I walked along the shoreline, drinking in the enchanting sights and sounds, I witnessed a scene that seemed strangely at odds with the tranquility of nature and the rich feast for the senses. A woman driving a new sedan whipped into a beach access parking lot and jumped out of her car. Motor running, music blasting and headlights glaring, she proceeded to point her I-Pad at the moon. Poking her glowing slab a few times with her fingers she was apparently taking snapshots of the scene, but before we had gone five paces she hopped back into her car and sped off into the night.

I do not know what necessity drove this woman. Perhaps she was late for work or late for a gathering, but chances are that her entire memory of that beach scene will be compressed into a few pixels stored on a computer. As we walked along the beach that night, I noticed many more people recording the experience in similar ways, and my wife and I will undoubtedly be posting our own images of the night on Facebook.

Taking pictures is certainly not a new phenomenon, but now that every phone is a camera, it seems that we are becoming a people who experience reality in a radically different way than our ancestors. Long before the camera became ubiquitous, people shared experience by word of mouth. More recently when we did take pictures, we had to wait for them to be developed. With great anticipation we would pick up our photos from the drugstore, and as we looked through them, we would talk about the experiences behind the images and then carefully preserve our favorites in a photo album for future reminiscence, future conversation.

A few of us still enjoy

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.

the written word. Some of us still keep old photo albums with captions underneath or written on the back of the pictures. These are all second hand experiences, reflections of reality, but they do require some processing, some effort on our part. A life experience dominated by fleeting images is bleached flour, missing the nutrients found in the whole grain. Every passing year brings new technology that further separates us from nature, from a direct experience of reality. We cannot run, jog or hike without ear buds. We cannot gather without smartphones. We experience nature from a parking lot, through a lens, on a pixelated screen.

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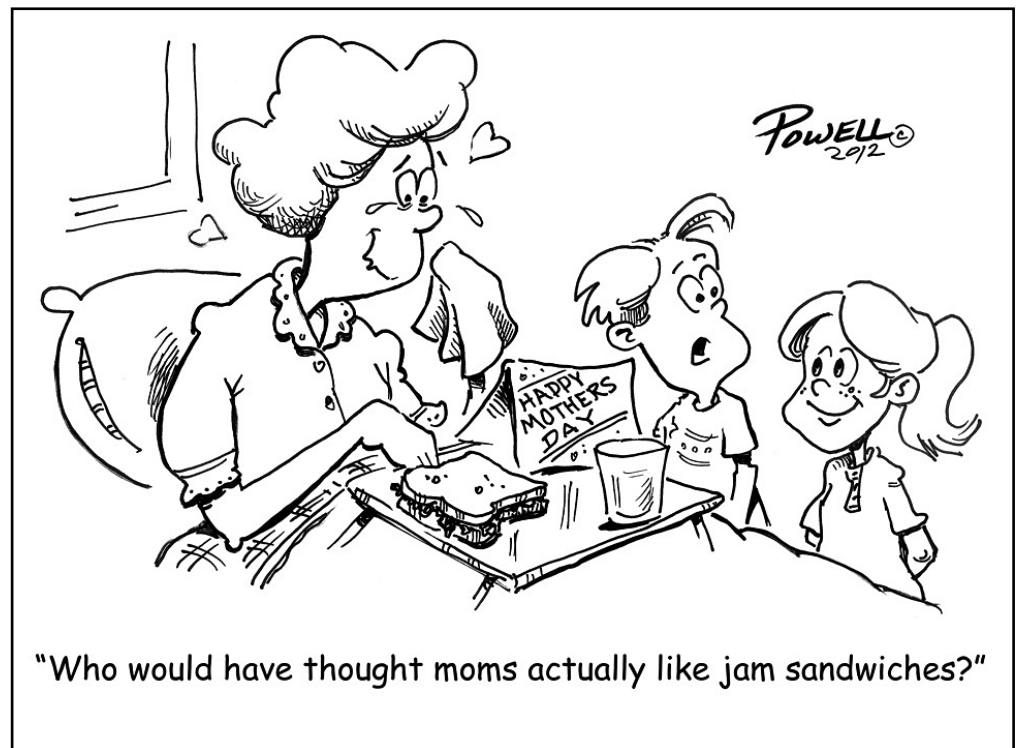
"IT'S ON MY MIND."
Danny H. Parris

Pour contempt on all my pride

One of the greatest problems of our generation is the sin of pride. Sinful pride says "you can't get along without me." In fact, the prideful person is hard to get along with, because he thinks he's impossible to get along without. Pride deceives. The cemetery is filled with indispensable people. The preacher in Proverbs says, "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18). I heard about a husband and wife meeting with a marriage counselor. The husband wanted a divorce. The counselor said, "Now, I see that your wife has helped you quit smoking, drinking and gambling. She has taught you how to dress properly, how to invest your money, appreciate good music and to enjoy ballet. Your problem seems to be that you are rebelling against all these changes and you are just bitter at your wife." The husband said, "Oh, no!" "I like all the changes but to be truthful I feel too good to live with this plain woman!" One young fellow was going all

out to impress his date. He informed her that he could trace his roots back to royalty. She was fed up with his arrogance and replied, "I bet your ancestor was King Kong." If you notice people who are singing their own praises are always off key. One of the scariest things today is the pride and arrogance of some of our leaders in Washington, D.C. It seems to me that a lot of them have quit serving and we are paying them just to run eternal re-election campaigns. If we don't wake up and get fed up with their pride and arrogance our nation will eventually vomit itself to death. Pride has not excluded any place nor any profession; from heaven to earth, from politics to preaching, from athletics to astronauts; in short, pride is like kudzu, its roots run deep and goes everywhere. The title of this article comes from the last phrase in the first verse of Isaac Watts' hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross": "When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride." Isaac Watts received that inspiration from none other than the Apostle Paul in Galatians 6:14.

A good rule of thumb happens to be if you are tooting your own horn make sure that you are playing in an orchestra.



"Who would have thought moms actually like jam sandwiches?"

Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 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 7 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 2 p.m.
Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at the Senior Center. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.
Towns County Republican Party meets at 6: 30 PM the 2nd Thursday of each month at Daniels Steak House. For more info call 706-379-1371.
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 on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Mearns: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 828-835-1082.
The Uncio Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Stephens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris.
Board of Voter Registrars meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.
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 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org
Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Recreational Dept.
Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartscraftsguild.org. mtnregartscraftsguild@hotmail.com.
Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Goolsby Center at YHC, Q & A at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.
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 Quinlan 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 on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-

2469 for more information.
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 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.
We do Family Oral History of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded and would like to do so, please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.
Prostate Cancer Support Group meets the 3rd Monday of every month from 5-6 PM in the Cancer Treatment Center Auditorium in Blairsville. For more info call Steve 706-896-1064.
GMREC Native Plant Garden Tours: Mondays 9 AM-1 PM. May-Sept. (except holidays). 706-745-2655.
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. Caregivers or family members of those with dementia are encouraged to attend. For further information, 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 St. Francis of Assisi Church the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 AM.
VFW Post 7807 will have their all you can eat fish fry on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month from 4:30 to 7 PM. \$9 a plate. See you there!