

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

I beg to differ with one of last week's L.to E. writers, Doug Dyer, saying he has not been able to get in touch with our State Representative, Stephen Allison. Allison is quoted in an article in that same issue as saying, "I'm always only a phone call away." The phone number for his Blairsville's office is 706-781-3929, and his Atlanta office is 404-656-0177.

In this first term in office Allison has always been very accessible to City and County officials, plus many citizens I have talked to. I would urge voters to check the committees he has been appointed to—House Appropriations Committee (a voice in the budget for this district), Special Joint Committee on Immigration Reform, and Georgia Commission on Family Violence—and he is a Deputy Whip in the State House of Representatives.

In other words, we would lose his voice in these important positions by electing someone with no experience at all in state government.

Joan Crothers

Letter to the Editor:

There has been a rash of political sign stealing in Towns County which has prompted me to offer a \$1,000 reward to anyone who can give information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone caught stealing or vandalizing Stephen Allison signs. He has had numerous signs stolen repeatedly from yards and private property. The Republican Party of Towns County believes in fair play. We believe that all voices should be heard in a Democracy.

Therefore, I am extending this reward to include all signs regardless of the candidate or the political party. Anyone with information on sign theft or vandalism should call the Sheriff's office at 706-896-4444.

In addition, after the election is over, the Towns County Republican Party will promptly remove all of the Republican candidate signs in order to remove the clutter and restore the area to its natural beauty. I encourage the other political parties and candidates to do the same.

Respectfully,

Darrell Barrett, Chairman, Towns County Republican Party

Letter to the Editor:

Our family would like to thank the community for all their support for our daughter Jessi Patrick who was diagnosed with Leukemia on June 26, 2010 and is currently waiting for a Bone Marrow Transplant. It is impossible to name every single person that has helped as that would take up the entire newspaper. So to everyone that has prayed, sent food, sent cards, emails, texts, given hugs, phone calls, given donations, gifts, visited us at the hospital. We are forever grateful to everyone of you and are very humbled by what so many have done for Jessi.

Thanks to Brothers Restaurant in Young Harris for donating their sales from dinner on October 12th to Jessi's Angel account set up at United Community Bank. Thanks to all who donated blood on October 11th and registered to be a Bone Marrow Donor. One of the oldest sayings around is "It takes a village to raise a child", one could also say "It takes a village to save a child." We are so thankful and grateful to all of you. Please continue to keep Jessi and our family in your prayers.

Bud, Kathi & Jessi Patrick

Letter to the Editor:

I too had a similar experience with the state Representative's (Stephen Allison) office as Doug Dyer expressed in his letter to the editor in the October 13 edition. I had requested by letter for assistance on a veterans problem. I would make inquiries about the status of my letter. The reply was, "We will call you back today or tomorrow." After over one month of no return calls, I asked that they cancel my request.

I then contacted Senator Chambliss's office and received an immediate reply.

Leo D. Hesson



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Some kids grow up and change the world. Will yours? Change the world? Dr. Don, you've got to be kidding...I can't even get my son to change his socks.

Well, one baby grew up and made the first trip into space. One baby grew up and discovered the North American continent. One baby grew up and made it possible for every home to have electricity. One baby grew up and gave us the Hallelujah Chorus. One baby grew up and taught us that even soldiers wounded on the battlefield could be nursed back to health. One baby grew up and taught us 266 things we could make from a peanut.

How will your kids change our world? Who knows? We still need a cure for cancer. We still need someone to help us establish peace among the nations. We still need someone to help us eliminate hunger on a planet that has plenty for all. We still need someone to help us restore morality and integrity to our culture.

My kids make the world a better place? I can't even get

them to make their beds.

Don't scoff. You have the privilege of helping that youngster become. You have the joy of helping them discover why they were put here. You are watching for strengths in them that they don't see in themselves. It's up to you to help inspire the dreams they will dream.

Kids from our generation will surface as leaders in every field. In technology, in government, in medicine, the arts, energy, business, space, education, religion, the judicial system, science...every field. They'll be our surgeons, our pilots, our judges, our CEOs, our national and international leaders, our educators, our spiritual mentors.

These sometimes irascible adolescents will shape the future of our world during our lifetimes. What part will your daughter or your son have in that process? What vision will you help them catch? Our world needs your kids. I hope you'll talk to them about that.

Submit your parenting questions to DrDon@RareKids.com.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

We have been uncharacteristically silent regarding politics this year and the midterm elections are approaching rapidly. In the gubernatorial race we are content with the knowledge that whichever candidate wins, Georgia will get a competent Governor. Both candidates are flawed; each has stretched the truth about the other, but they are both basically decent men and cut from nearly the same cloth: a little scratchy around the collar but wears well. No matter who wins, Georgia will manage.

We are less than content with national politics, still smarting from how quickly the "lesser of evils" presidential candidate caved in to the big banks. We think Obama is also a decent man, but arrogant, insulated and ill advised. The economic problems he inherited were at least 20 years in the making, but he surrounded himself from the beginning with the same people who helped create the problems - people as removed from mainstream American life as the average American is from an Aborigine. Reminds us a little of George W. Bush, but no, we don't "miss him yet," as the famous billboard asks. We do miss the political savvy of Johnson, the sense of hope engendered by Reagan and the integrity of Jimmy Carter.

We do like to give people the benefit of the doubt when we can. It is better for the digestion that way; but apparently Obama and his advisors still believe that the survival of the entire American economy is dependent on a handful of gigantic investment banks. We strongly disagree. We think that Greed is advising the President as we watch banking behemoths gradually digesting small town banks all across the country. The majority of our media is owned by only a half dozen corporations and the financial industry seems set to follow the same course.

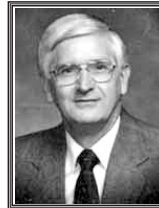
We are not concerned at the probability that the Republicans may gain control of the Senate and win many seats in the House. Our Democratic Congress with its clear majority has managed to accomplish very little. It took the serious problem of healthcare and turned it into a disaster. Everyone agreed that healthcare should have been overhauled, but the shiny chrome of a shared ideal, when it was exposed to the battery acid of backroom deals, lobbyists and political maneuvering, turned into something just plain ugly. If the Republicans win the Senate, it may well be worth it if they can dismantle the wreckage of Obamacare.

There is some hope, perhaps, in the growing level of anger and disgust with government which is shared by so many Americans. Unfortunately we have little hope for a movement

as conflicted as the Tea Party as long as it is influenced to any degree by racism and religious intolerance or guided in ANY way by the ambitions and self promotions of a Sarah Palin. We had hoped that Palin would quietly fade away without any further fragmentation of the Republican Party. Our best hope for her now is that, like a net used to clean the floating debris from the top of the swimming pool, she will at least gather together the reactionaries and nuthatches so that they can be addressed as a group. Anger can be a positive agent for change if it is focused intelligently, but unfortunately it can also make us vulnerable to the likes of Palin. Sadly, if it wasn't her, it would be someone else. Someone has always been willing to lead the mob and, lacking a mob to lead, to help create one.

Anger with government is widespread. We are fed up with the lack of integrity that exists in Washington, in state capitols and in county seats. Alexis de Tocqueville said that in a democracy, we get the government we deserve. When we allow the ambitions of political candidates to frame our choices in terms of so many common fallacies; when we allow candidates to paint their ideas in such broad strokes while we listen for key words which identify them as one of "us" or one of "them," the result is permanently polarized political parties at the extremes and a disempowered majority in the middle to push the pendulum in one direction or another as our frustration with one side becomes our hope for the other.

Too many of us vote for the candidate who best pretends to sympathize with our own fears and prejudices, which are of absolutely no use when a candidate is actually elected. Whether a candidate worships god in the same way as we do, or at all; what a candidate believes about conception or capital punishment or gun control or what people choose to put in their own bodies or what they choose to do with their own bodies in the privacy of their own homes - and a host of other "issues," has no effect on a candidate's ability to govern. Our favorite "issues" do not predict a candidate's ability to build a consensus, to manage an economy, to create jobs, to maintain infrastructure and to protect us from enemies. Our favorite talking point issues are utterly useless in gauging a candidate's ability to maintain freedom, opportunity and stability. While divided, we are conquered. Gullible and easily manipulated, with each passing year we lose a little more freedom and a little more opportunity - no matter what political party is in power.



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

Flying Colors of Fall

Fall is the season of flying colors in more ways than one. As that great philosopher, Yogi Berra says, "It gets late early now." Because of short days (less sunlight) and cool, longer nights all of those green leaves begin to lose their color and lose their grip. The result is flying, colorful leaves (red, yellow, orange, gold and burgundy) that fill the sky and cover my yard like a thick carpet. Those leaves that were green through the summer and clothed the naked skeletons of the mighty oaks, walnuts, hickories, maples, poplars, sourwoods, dogwoods, etc. have suddenly changed from different shades of green to glorious, bright, brilliant colors that cause natives and tourists alike to ooh and ahh until we become breathless. Believe what you will, but God is number one when it comes to putting on a fireworks show with every conceivable color in the universe. We have a Mighty, Colorful God! He can make a thorny, common, ordinary bush glow. If you don't believe it ask Moses. Thank God that nature is not black and white like those first old televisions. When God created the universe He poured His glory into it. That's the reason nature is filled with color. If you don't have God in your life, you will live a bland, pale, colorless life. Un-

fortunately, some individuals have inherited color blindness, which restricts them from distinguishing between some colors and hinders them from enjoying fall as much as they would like. In the fall of the year I am especially grateful for my eyesight. Like a Fourth-of-July fireworks show, God's grand-finale of seasons (in my opinion) is the fall season. God takes the wind, snow and frost of winter, thaws it, and throws it in with all those blossoms and blooms of spring, mixes in the hail, rain and heat of summer and suddenly you have an explosion of nature on the mountains and in the valleys that transforms the whole landscape of God's creation without making a sound heard by the ear. The God of creation has made everything beautiful in its time. In poetic terms the late John W. Peterson has expressed exactly how I feel:

"My Father is omnipotent,
And that you can't deny;
A God of might and miracles,
'Tis written in the sky.
Though here His glory
Has been shown,
We still can't fully see;
The wonders of His might -
His throne,
'Twill take eternity!
The Bible tells us
Of His power,
And wisdom all way through,
And every little
Bird and flower,
Are testimonies too.
It took a miracle
To put the stars in place,
It took a miracle
To hang the world in space;
But when He saved my soul,
Cleansed and made me whole,
It took a miracle
Of love and grace! Amen

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NEED TO ADVERTISE?
Contact the
Towns County Herald
706-896-4454**



Community Calendar

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 2 p.m.

Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.

Towns County Republican Party meets the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Daniels Steak House. Dinner at 6 p.m., 706-896-7281.

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 Hiwassee 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 Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 828-835-1082.

The Unicov 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 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 Health Dept. Call Eden at 706-896-6921.

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, mtnregartsandcraftsguild.org, mtnregartsandcraftsguild@hotmail.com.

VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m., \$9 a plate, all you can eat.

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.

Fall Storytime at Towns County Public Library Thursdays at 1 PM.

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.

Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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**OFFICE LOCATED AT 446 NORTH MAIN STREET
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Publication Number 635540. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points.

EMAIL Address: tcherald@windstream.net

**POSTMASTER: Send change of address to:
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
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