

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

An Act of Kindness

On a very cold Sunday, the 3rd of March, my big 110 lb. dog fell off of a steep bank and into the creek. I had to call for help. My neighbor's wonderful 16-year-old son, Joe, came running. Joe went in that cold water and got my dog out and that was not easy.

*Thank you, Joe, with all my heart,
Ingrid Bolton*

Letter to the Editor:

Where Compassion Lives

On a recent Saturday morning I happened to be working on some computer problems at the Healing Hands Community Clinic located in the small mall behind Kentucky Fried Chicken in Blairsville. The place was full of very sick people, volunteers, etc. When I left that morning I think they had already helped almost 30 people with more waiting. There were people from all walks of life just like you and me. Because of the economy they no longer had jobs or insurance. They had no place else to go.

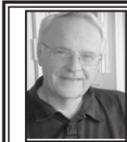
This is a faith-based clinic not affiliated with any church. Just before they started for the morning they called anyone who wished to get in a circle and holding hands they prayed for the people the Doctor, PA, Nurses, etc. would see that day. It was very moving and real. I felt like God was there.

The clinic is opened on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. I was talking to one of the nurses for a moment and she told me that if every small church could give \$50 and every large church \$100 a month they could almost be opened every day. I wondered about businesses, and individuals; why couldn't they give this small amount of money every month if they had it?

This is a place where if a person qualifies under Georgia income laws are not turned away. They serve patients from surrounding counties as well, most are from Union, Towns, and Fannin Counties. All funding must come from donations. They have clinics like this in Cleveland and Gainesville opened most of the week. These clinics see people with everything from the flu to having a terminal illness. Put yourself in their shoes. One day you have a job, insurance, a place to live, and the next day the job is gone. I know of one place you would be very thankful for!

I have seen enough to be able to report this is one place God's money should go. It is for real and as I went out the door that morning after observing the people waiting for help I left with a few tears.

*James Sharrock,
Retired Teacher UCS*



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

"If you raise your voice at your kids you are giving away your leadership authority as a parent." In a class I was teaching, a mother had just raised her hand to say that she had discovered the only way to get cooperation from her kids was to "raise her voice," her polite term for hollering.

As she attempted to defend her parenting strategy I spoke the words above, "If you raise your voice at your kids you are giving away your leadership authority as a parent." I wanted to help her see that our effectiveness as leadership parents is not determined by how loudly we speak nor by the anger we are able to generate. Rather the influence we have with our children is determined by the authority we bring to the scene. And where does that authority come from?

It comes from the fact that we are the parents. "Because I am the mother," is the way your grandmother would have phrased it. What so many of today's parenting experts have mistakenly tried to help us forget is that kids need to have the security that comes from an authority figure in their lives. In the grand design of the universe it has been determined that kids need parents.

We - parents - are authorized to provide instruction, guidance, counsel, warnings. If we have to shout to communicate that wisdom, it illustrates that we don't believe we have the authority. But strong leaders don't shout, and when they do, it diminishes their authority in the eyes of those they are attempting to lead. Kids are not impressed, in fact are inclined to disrespect those who feel the need to raise their voices to underscore their authority.

My friend John Rosemond likes to say, "Don't yell, threaten, bribe, beg, or bargain... there's no need to freak out or overreact. Simply deal with it. Reprimand firmly but without yelling, correct without criticizing, and punish in ways that establish permanent memories but not resentment."

Over the last fifty or so years there has been a major shift in how America's families function, about who is in charge. Parents all over the country ask me how they can take back the leadership of their families again. I answer, Exercise what is already yours. "Because I said so and I'm the dad," is a complete sentence. And the more softly it is said the more effective it is.

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

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

People are funny about money. We all want to get our money's worth, every time, for every single thing, and since there is so much more money floating around in the world today, it takes a lot more money to buy less. Most of us spend as much time worrying about money these days as we do spending money. (Some of us should worry a lot more and spend a lot less, but that is a topic for another day.)

Sometimes we like to spend our money on things that make us forget our worries for a while. One of our favorite things to do is to dine out, to pack up the kids and go somewhere that we don't have to cook and we certainly don't have to wash dishes. We like to sit down at a clean table and have a cheerful person bring us good food and take away our dirty dishes. This makes us feel good, not only because we get to eat, but because we get to feel empowered. It is a little taste of the good life, but even here, at the place where we come to forget about our troubles for a while, our money does not seem to go as far as we think it should. That's one of the funny things about money - it never seems to stretch as far as our imagination.

Money is not funny when we are buying a service and we think that we have bought a servant to go with it. If you are puzzled by this statement, then chances are you have never waited tables in a restaurant.

Many years ago when I worked four jobs to make one paycheck, so to speak, I cooked, washed dishes and waited tables in a number of restaurants. Any mother who prepares meals for her family can tell you that none of these jobs is easy. You would think that women, for no reason other than the fact that most family meal preparers are still women, would be better tipppers than men. They are not; perhaps because what they do in the home is still in some ways not valued as highly in the marketplace as it should be.

Some men are great tipppers, but only under certain conditions: The man is away from his wife or girlfriend; he is eating out with his buddies and/or he imagines that the waitress is flirting with him because she actually smiled or made eye contact.

All too often, however, a waitress leaves the steaming hot kitchen on aching feet to retrace the route she has made filling tea glasses, bringing extra napkins, taking back the burger that came with onions

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.

instead of without (onions are so hard to remove manually, after all) only to find that the party of six she managed, against all odds, to cheerfully serve has supplemented her \$2.50/hour salary with a dollar tip.

Gentlemen, a dollar tip is insufficient. The acceptable gratuity for good service begins at twenty percent, fifteen if you get thirsty waiting for a refill or your waitress made you wait an extra half hour for the check. Twenty percent. If you can't do the math in your head, you probably have a smarter phone that will do it for you. A dollar tip is first cousin to an insult, and the reasons that you would choose to proffer such a small amount do not reflect well upon your understanding of money or your understanding of the amount of work required making and serving a meal.

Perhaps, like many, you have reasoned that since the cost of eating out, like so many other things, has become so high, you should not be required to spend even more money. What? \$17.95 for a steak and I have to pay extra to have it brought to me?

Why, yes. You do. If you do not want to pay to have your food cooked to order and served, there are several alternative choices available. Stay home and learn to cook. Order takeout. Avail yourself of one of those colorful restaurants where they hand you food in a bag through a little window. When you choose to eat out in a full service restaurant, expect to pay, not just for the food, but for the experience, for the service, for the cooking, the dish washing, the electricity and the loan payment, all of which are required to give you that "king in a castle" feeling. King of the moment you may be, however the person, male or female, bringing food to your table is not a servant. She is a professional, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a student, a neighbor - not a servant. Not. A. Servant.

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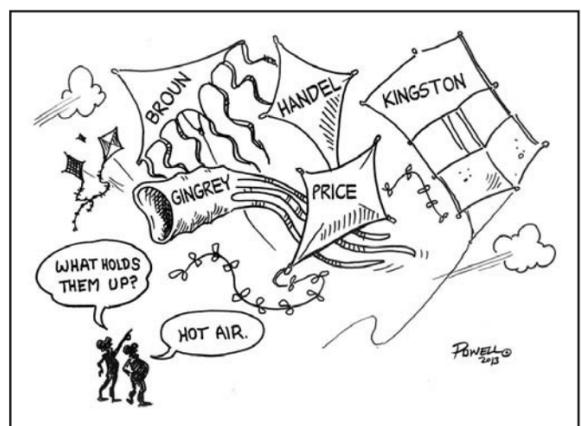


"IT'S ON MY MIND.."
Danny H. Parris

Life's defining moments

In most cases all of us are the summation of life's defining moments. There are exceptions where only one defining moment has caused us to be where we are today. You may be where you are today because you took that first drink of alcohol. Today, you are an alcoholic. Or you may be a drug addict today because you chose many years ago to try drugs. You may feel guilty and unclean because you made a choice to surrender your virginity and you know what a terrible price you have paid to live a promiscuous life-style. Perhaps you live in fear because you chose to have an extra marital affair and you live in constant fear that your spouse will find out. There are ten thousand scenarios that could be expressed. Some people live life saying "If only!" If only I hadn't... taken my first drink, stolen that object, run that stop sign or red light, had sex, started that fight, quit my job, dropped out of college, smoked my first cigarette, married him or her, etc. Well, all of us have made wrong choices, sinned, made mistakes, erred and fallen short. That's one of the reasons I love the Bible. It not only gives us hope, but it identifies by name individuals who messed up big time but found God's forgiveness and grace. It also identifies individuals who made the right choices and reaped the wonderful results of choosing wisely. The Bible also lists by name those like Esau, Saul, Jezebel, Judas and others who were

profane, and despite knowing truth and having truth they chose to do despicable things and suffer the horrible results. The Bible reveals God's wonderful choice to send His Son into this sin-cursed world of depraved sinners. God could have chosen to send judgment and wipe us from the face of this earth. He could have sent fire upon us like Sodom and Gomorrah; He could have sent warring angels to fight against us; He could have sent pestilences, plagues or chosen a million other ways to punish us. But thank God He loved us so much that Christ came to take all of our punishment and through that awful death on Calvary's tree. After we had crucified God's only Son, God offers us pardon from every horrible, despicable, heinous sin of life. Can you believe that we can have a defining moment that will change our life here, and our destiny for all eternity? It can happen. That's what the crucifixion of Christ, His death, burial and resurrection is all about. In the next few days the churches of our community will be presenting Easter pageants, Easter plays, Easter cantatas, special Holy Week services, sunrise services and ministers will be preaching special messages proclaiming New Life through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ over two thousand years ago. You should take advantage of these opportunities by attending some of these services. You will be blest. If your life is messed up, confused and without hope, you need to experience a Divine defining moment that will change your life forever. Ask Christ to forgive your sin, receive Him into your heart and He will bring to you His peace and joy that will be with you forever.



Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 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 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 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 in Murphy. Call Kit: 706-492-5253 or Peggy: 828-835-1082.
The Unicoy 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.
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. We do oral family histories of residents. 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org
Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Rec Center.
Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Call us by 706-896-0932 or mtregartsandcraftsguild.org.
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 at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.
Mothers of Preschoolers meets the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church at 706-745-2469.
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 3 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Jerry (828) 837-7658.
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.
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. For more info 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.
GMREC Garden Tours every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Shooting Creek Basket Weavers meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreekbasketweavers.com.
Friendship Community Club meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76, 706-896-3637.
Goldwing Road Riders meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meets every Wednesday evenings at 7 PM at the Red Cross building (up the hill from the chamber office on Jack Dayton Circle).
Caregiver support group meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.
Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Hiawassee Senior Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch. Call 706-379-2191.
Brasstown Woodturners Guild meets 1st Saturday of month at 9:30 AM in HHS shop. For more info call J. C. at 706-896-5711.

Towns County Herald
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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OFFICE LOCATED AT 446 NORTH MAIN STREET
"THE MALL" HIAWASSEE (706) 896-4454
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
P.O. BOX 365 HIAWASSEE, GEORGIA 30546

DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS COPY & ADVERTISING
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