

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:
Recently CNN presented two TV programs. The first titled Revealing Romney and the second Revealing Obama.

They revealed Romney from early school days to his present position. The film covered his college career, his religion, his father's run for political office, his courting of wife Ann, and even her bout with M.S. They did mention and downplay his success with the Olympics.

They opened Revealing Obama with his inauguration. Not a single word of his million dollar sealed past. Nothing about his ACORN connection, his lost legal license or his family of Chicago friends. The pictures of the Chicago friends he claims not to know.

They (CNN) revealed their bias by revealing 50 years of Romney against three years of Obama
So much for TV news!

Frantz C. Goring

Letter from The Editor

Dear Candidates,

Taking note of the early voting, the Towns County Herald for the first time is offering candidates the opportunity to get in touch with voters before early voting.

The newspaper is offering candidates the opportunity to submit a picture they would like to use with 200 words that they can use to tell voters (readers) why they should vote for them.

The deadline for submission of this material is Thursday, Oct. 4.

This is not an opportunity to bash your opponent, rather it is an opportunity to get better acquainted with voters.

You can seize this opportunity, or you can decide not to do it. If you decide not to do it, the newspaper will list your name as a candidate and the fact that you did not respond to our offer.

This offer is extended to all candidates.

Again, we extend this offer with the knowledge that early voting is just around the corner. We also understand that it is an important part of the election process.

Sincerely,
Charles Duncan,
Editor, Towns County Herald
Kenneth West
Publisher, Towns County Herald



**RARE KIDS;
WELL DONE**
By Don Jacobsen

I think I was bullied when I was in the 5th grade. We didn't call it bullying half a century ago, I just got beat up after school. The first time Norman jumped on me it ended in a tie. Next time, he won. Nothing was seriously injured but my pride. I was chubby and Norman was skinny. I guess he wanted to prove that a skinny kid could beat up a chubby kid. He made his point.

I don't want to appear to trivialize bullying because it is not trivial to the one being bullied. A 2011 study showed that 15% of America's students have been bullied. What I want to do is describe it and suggest some ways to help fix it.

Most kids have been teased at some point in their lives by a sibling or a friend. And it's not usually harmful when done in a playful, friendly, and mutual way so both kids find it more or less funny. But bullying is intentional tormenting in physical, verbal, and/or psychological ways.

When teasing becomes hurtful, unkind, and frequent, it crosses the line into bullying and needs to be stopped. Using my definition, bullying takes on the characteristics of warped mental health. Healthy

kids don't bully because no healthy kid likes to see another kid suffer.

If your child is bullied, here is what you might suggest:

Ignore the bully and walk away, do not engage. Be with friends when you can; there is safety in numbers.

Don't be ashamed to tell an adult; most schools have non-bully policies. Remember a bully cannot make you into who they say you are without your permission.

Work with others, perhaps a Student Council, to stop bully behavior; your whole school will benefit.

As a parent, remember to:

Let your child know how valuable he or she is to you.

Listen to your youngster; don't belittle the fear they may feel.

Role play with them. Practice the skills they need to handle any situation.

Talk to the adults who work with your children and advise them of the issue.

Remind your youngster that God loves them and nothing anyone says can change that.

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

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

No one is happier to come home to our mountain sanctuary than those of us who are required by business or family obligation to navigate the crowded highways on a regular basis. We may be inclined to be a bit more tolerant over the next few weeks, when Oktoberfest and the fall color season bring what many of us consider to be "crowds," than those who rarely venture outside the tri-county area.

One of the advantages of living in Towns County is that we rarely if ever have to sit in traffic. Granted, when there is a parade or when the fair is in town we can grumble at the number of vehicles attempting to squeeze through our one main thoroughfare, but a trip to Atlanta on any day of the week will quickly readjust our perspective on what constitutes "traffic."

If you have experienced the kind of traffic that is ubiquitous to most large urban areas you may have shared some of the following observations. The atmosphere of the daily commute is often moderately to extremely toxic, not only with regards to the pollution from vehicle emissions, but in the general level of stress, anxiety and impatience that daily commuters learn to accept as the norm. Some commuters spend three to four hours a day in their vehicles from a limited fund of 16 waking hours, 8 to 10 of which are spent at work, leaving only 2 to 5 hours for shuttling kids, shopping and "quality" time at home with the family.

When our neighbors to the south do manage to join us for an occasional brief holiday, they first must pay the price of getting here, of navigating the northbound traffic in a 2 1/2 hour ride that eats, with the return trip home, a significant portion of the weekend. When they cross our borders they do not automatically adjust to the slower pace to which we are accustomed. They don't have time, and to make

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.

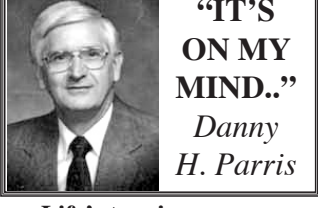
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE EMAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper 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.

matters worse, they are still bound to the vehicle as they experience in an almost virtual reality what we often take for granted.

We can take the time to walk in the beautiful hills, to feel the crunch of the leaves underfoot, to breathe deeply of the clean air and to reach out and touch the amazing colors of the season. Our visitors experience much of this through the glass of a windshield in a manner little different than watching a documentary on television. They are habituated by the urban lifestyle to injecting as much activity as possible into as little time as available. While some do manage to take advantage of our slower, quieter and more relaxed environment, many simply do not have time to do so in their brief excursions from the city.

Perhaps this year, as the crowds begin to gather on our sidewalks and the cars to fill our streets, we can greet our visitors with a bit more empathy and match their impatience with understanding. They will be gone as quickly as the leaves in November. We will still be here, perhaps with a renewed appreciation for the blessing we have received in living where we do.

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"IT'S ON MY MIND.."

Danny H. Parris

Life's turning process

Have you noticed that there is a quietness, crispness and stillness in the air that signals summer is about to turn into fall? As the great philosopher, Yogi Berra would say, "It's beginning to get late early now." A few leaves have already begun turning colors. However, nature is not the only thing that changes. A few democrats have turned republican and a few republicans have turned democrat. Some Methodist have turned Baptist. Some Baptist have turned Methodist. On and on it goes, life's turning process. The hair turns white or turns loose. The mind just turns off. The eyes turn dim, the teeth turn loose and man turns his heart toward home. Life's turning process grabs hold of my mental process. I want to know what is the catalyst that makes things turn or change, especially in man. Being a minister for almost three-fourths of my life I have worked with my share of turners. I have used every method of motivation including prayer, sermons, pleading, begging and yes, sometimes scolding and near singing to get people to turn from their wicked ways. Many turn a deaf ear to a better way of life. They refuse to hear and pay no attention. Others turn a blind eye. They pretend not to see. I have met some who turned over a new leaf, but failed to turn to a new life. Their new leaf turned wilted rather quickly. Sad as it is to say, but I have encountered

a few turncoats along the way. They are like the seed that fell by the wayside; their allegiance didn't last long. On occasions when trouble, danger or conflict arose, I was grieved to see individuals turn tail and run. I have dealt with some who wanted to turn up their nose at others and even saw a few along the way that seemed to be doing things to get some relative to turn over in their grave. A few times, I have seen some turn their heads from the needs of others, like the priest and Levite and turn their back on an opportunity to do good. That's enough to turn one's stomach. But wait! Don't turn me off. God has blest me to see far greater numbers turn to living waters, never to thirst again. I have witnessed countless numbers turn the other cheek and live in peace. What a joy it has been to experience vast numbers of individuals turn up for services and serve year after year after year; to see the faithfulness in people as they turned out in every conceivable circumstance and weather. When I think of the many that have turned to righteousness, it makes this old preacher want to turn back the clock and start all over again. Well, I haven't figured out all of the turning that goes on in life but let me tell you that Christ turned the tide at Calvary when He turned the tables on the devil. What the demons of hell perceived to be victory was final defeat for death, hell and the grave.

With all of the confidence in the world, I can tell anyone who wants to turn to a new life to turn to Christ, the one in whom there is no shadow of turning. He who turned the water into wine can turn your sorrow into great joy!



"Eating less and exercising more...Now there's a health care plan we might be able to afford!"

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 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.
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 Recreation Dept.
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 mtnregarts-craftsguild.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 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 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.
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 are encouraged to attend. 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.
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!
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 Day-ton Circle).

Towns County Herald
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