

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:
I live on a one-lane road, in the unincorporated area of Towns County. It is very pleasant to take my dog for a walk along the side of the road, allowing her to roam the wilderness, enjoying the different sights and smells, while I get exercise for my many physical problems. However, it is dangerous when so many people use these one-lane roads as racetracks, driving 40, and even 50 m.p.h. It forces others and me walking along the side of the road to fear for our lives.

Today, a prime example occurred. I was close to my home when an individual was racing down the road. I yelled at him to slow down. He did stop to hear what I was saying. Even though my dog is well trained and sits off the road when a vehicle passes, I walked up to his vehicle to insure he stopped so he knew my dog was just ahead and that he would not hit her. I told the driver to slow down because people walk the road. Rather than be nice, he used profanity and drove off, running over the tip of my big toe.

I called the Sheriff's office but because I was not really injured, there was little that could be done. A report was filed, and hopefully, they will be watching my road, and other one-lane roads for speeders, but there are so many it is almost impossible to cover all in the county.

During the summer, I noticed the majority of the speeders were people with out of state vehicle tags. However, this individual had a local Towns County tag so he should have known better. In fact, he drives the same roads each day. I wonder if he drives the same way each day. Maybe after this incident, he has learned his lesson and will be more considerate of people walking our county roads, especially one-lane roads.

Sincerely,
Christopher D. Mazur

To the Editor:

My county real estate taxes remained the same (or slightly less). The county school tax which is a majority of the bill increases 11.6%. The cost of living index continues at 1.6%. Why is the school board gouging an extra \$175 from me? Is it due to a big increase in salaries, enrollment, administrative expenses, seemingly unending consulting fees, additional teachers? Why is the school board incapable of some budgetary restraint which the commissioner applies?

Michael Valinoti



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

My parents divorced about the time I started school. My grandparents lived nearby and they were a great stabilizing influence in my young life. But it wasn't until my mother remarried that I got to see how a loving family functions and how much a dad contributes to what his son becomes; how much a mom does, too.

About two and a half million of America's families consist of grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. That's about 7 percent of all families with children under 18, and it's about double the number of just a generation ago.

About half of the grandparents who provide a home for their grandchildren are under the age of 55. Half of the grandchildren living in a grandparent's home are under the age of six. More are Caucasian than Black; more are Hispanic than Asian.

Several causes are easy to observe: longer lifespans, two-career families, higher divorce rates, single parenting, teen pregnancy, erosion of traditional marriage and a spate of others. In the vast majority of grandparent-led homes, the decision to add grandchildren to the mix was not voluntary but was more apt to have been one of only a few slim options. That is often the

birthplace of resentment – on the part of the grandchildren and the grandparents alike. For instance, twice as many kids living with their grandparents live below the poverty line as those in a traditional two-generation family. That's probably not the way granddad planned to finish.

So? Why are those facts worth knowing? For one thing it gives a whole new definition to the term grandparents. Sociologists tell us that grandparents are having a greater influence on today's kids than at any time in our history. So grandparents are finding themselves with a significant impact on an entire generation they had not planned to have to raise.

But my greater concern, however, is more about the effect the new social mix is going to have on the generation that follows the grandkids. For instance, how to be a family, the role of a dad, the role of a mom, the security of belonging. Grandparents can help, but if there is a generation missing in there it's going to leave a hole in the expectations Timmy and Sally have for their own families. It's hard to duplicate something you've never seen.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

People tell me that it's relatively safe now to turn on the television. The mid-term elections are over and media is taking a short pause before subjecting us to two more years of presidential campaigning.

I wonder if it is more difficult to keep us brainwashed, and if it is, I wonder why. We're certainly no smarter or wiser than previous generations. Perhaps because there are so many more diversions for our attention, so many more places we surf and stare, that media must reach into each and every one of them lest we realize that the emperor has no clothes and that coke doesn't really taste very different than pepsi. Without constant reinforcement of our programming, the spell might be broken. Political soap sellers know that we mute, we change the channel, we click on, but if they can insert just a little bit of their mischief, even subliminally, into all the places we direct our attention, then they can reinforce our natural bias, determined by the internal wiring of our brains, to think liberally or conservatively.

If you're new to this forum you might not recognize the recurrent theme of coke vs. pepsi that we use to describe the carefully crafted illusion that we have significant choices when we elect national leaders.

Or perhaps you have just awakened from a 6 year nap. Remember how more than half of us voted the first Obama victory and celebrated the announcement that "change has come to America?" We didn't realize that they meant we were changing channels to another station owned by the same network.

Indeed, while wearing a democrat costume Obama was successfully able to continue the unbroken agenda he inherited from Bush-Clinton-Bush. Wall Street thrives. Corporate profits are at an all time high. The security state is imbedded into every aspect of national life. War rages on and the business of war has never seen brighter prospects. Corporate hunger continues to feed our own insatiable appetites and there is nowhere on the planet where we are not willing to drill and dig and extract.

Meanwhile, our buying power continues to diminish with real wages. Our infrastructure continues to crumble. Labor force participation is at the lowest level we have seen

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.

since 1978, but those of us who are working are working longer hours than anyone else in the industrialized world. The unemployed spend more time shopping than looking for work. Stress related disease is becoming more widespread.

I could go on and on, but you get the gist of it. Under successive republican and democratic governments, the fortunes of the vast majority of Americans declined while a tiny fraction experienced phenomenal prosperity. The extraction of wealth from productive Americans and the diversion of that wealth to the non-productive is the legacy of this generation: just enough to the poor to maintain social order and plenty to the rich to protect them from the future.

So the republicans are going to "take back America" in the next two years? We're going to see a "new direction" in Washington now? We shall see. As for myself, I'm enjoying the brief respite from national campaigning, and I'm glad I held on to my collection of antiquated, outmoded, dusty old books. So far, no one has been able to figure out how to insert political ads in the margins.

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

I am a soldier

Today, November 11th is Veterans Day. I am sure that as citizens of this great land all of us are proud and grateful for all veterans. I did not have the privilege of serving in the military. My younger brother served four years in the Marines and one year of that was served in Viet Nam. My older brother served four years in the Air Force and one year of his tenure was in Korea. My brother-in-law served over twenty years in the Air Force in many places around the globe. My father-in-law and two uncles served in World War II. I am grateful for and indebted to my family members and to all those brave men and women who have answered the call to serve our country. The following article, written by an anonymous writer, reveals the qualities and tenacity of the soldier of his country and the soldier of the cross.

"I am a soldier in the army of my God. The Lord Jesus Christ is my commanding officer. The Holy Bible is my code of conduct. Faith and prayer and the Word are my weapons of warfare. I have been taught by the Holy Spirit, trained by experience, tried by adversity, and tested by fire. I am a volunteer in this army, and I have enlisted for eternity. I will either retire at the rapture or die in this army, but I will not get out, sell out, be talked out, or be pushed out. I am faithful, reliable, capable, and dependable. If my God needs me I am there. If He needs me in the Sunday School to teach

the children or work with the youth, if He needs me to work with the adults He can use me because I am there."

"I am a soldier! I am not a baby. I do not need to be pampered, petted, primed up, pumped up, picked up or pepped up. I am a soldier! No one has to call me, remind me, write me, visit me, entice me or lure me. I am a soldier! I'm not a wimp. I am in place, saluting my King, obeying His orders, praising His name, and building His kingdom. No one has to send me flowers, gifts, food, cards, or candy and give me handouts. I do not need to be cuddled, cradled, cared for, or be catered to. I am committed. I cannot have my feelings hurt bad enough to turn me around, and I cannot be discouraged enough to turn me aside. I cannot lose enough to cause me to quit."

"When Jesus called me into this army I had nothing. If I end up with nothing I will still come out ahead. If I win my God is the reason, and He will continue to supply all of my needs. I am more than a conqueror. I will always triumph. I can do all things through Christ. The devil cannot defeat me. People cannot disillusion me. Weather cannot weary me. Sickness cannot stop me. Battles cannot beat me. Money cannot buy me. Governments cannot silence me, and hell cannot handle me. I am a soldier! Even death cannot destroy me.

When my commander calls me from His battlefield He will promote me to captain and then allow me to rule with Him. I am a soldier in the army, and I am marching, claiming the victory. I will not give up. I will not turn around. I am a soldier marching heaven bound. Here I stand! Will you stand with me?"



"Oh, my husband is a big buck hunter. He's always hunting for new gear he can pay big bucks for!"

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 1 p.m.
Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 4th Thursday of each month at the new Senior Center. For more info call 706-994-3919.
Democratic Party of Towns County meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5 PM at the new Senior Center.
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 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. 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 Daniel's Steakhouse, Hiawassee. The Board meets at 4 p.m., and the Guild at 6. Call us 706-896-0932.
Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.
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/blueridge-mountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.
Mothers of Preschoolers meets the third Tuesday 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.
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.
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.shootingcreek-basketweavers.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 evening at 7 PM at the Red Cross building 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 Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch.
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.
VFW Post #7807 will be hosting a fish fry they 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month April - October. \$9. all you can eat from 4:30 - 7 PM.
Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC) meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiawassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.
The Board of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce meet the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.
The Quilting Bee at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Family Life Center - Room 216. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 AM - 3 PM. Bring a sack lunch. For more information call Kathy Taylor at 706-835-6721 or Marilyn Bostrom at 706-897-4367.
Mountain Coin Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the North Georgia Tech campus in Blairsville. Guests are welcome. For more info, call 706-379-1488.

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