

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Editor: It seems to me that, rather than being so obsessed with casting lots (a Biblical reference) as to the division of the SPLOST monies, the respective community leaders ought to focus more on bringing jobs to the area.

Jobs (especially permanent ones) = income = spending = tax revenue for all three SPLOST claimants = more and better services from each claimant at less cost to us, the taxpayers = we ALL are better off.

Claudos G. Spears

To the Editor:

The Towns County Board of Education's plan to raise property taxes by 16.36% is the worst decision of the decade and must not be allowed to stand.

When considering just one of these, athletics, it's hard to see how students have either the time or energy to attend to academic matters because they are so busy playing games.

The property tax is a grossly unfair way to fund education because it places a disproportionate burden on older citizens who have no children in the system, many never did.

Bill Kendall helped some by limiting runaway assessments to a maximum of 3% per year. I believe the BOE should be limited by this same rule.

Furthermore, the Board needs to make some sound business decisions and immediately reduce or eliminate discretionary spending not directly related to academic achievement to attain a sustainable budget.

Therefore, I strongly urge taxpayers to attend hearings on November 14th at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the BOE office and voice their concerns. WE MUST STOP THIS IRRESPONSIBLE ACTION!

Wm. Ronald Gibson



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE By Don Jacobsen

Did you ever learn anything from a marshmallow? You did if you remember the famous experiment done with a group of 4-year olds nearly fifty years ago.

However, the most fascinating part of the study came twenty-five years later. The same group of youngsters were studied, now nearly 30-years old.

When the researcher returned to the room thereby winning a double measure of marshmallows were more likely to have done better in school, had a higher sense of self-worth, lower incidence of drug use, fewer credit problems, and more satisfaction in relationships with both genders.

By contrast, those who had been successful in waiting till the researcher returned to the room thereby winning a double measure of marshmallows were more likely to have done better in school, had a higher sense of self-worth, lower incidence of drug use, fewer credit problems, and more satisfaction in relationships with both genders.

The entire process was filmed, and it's a fascinating study in childhood behavior to watch the kids struggle with the temptation. Some distracted themselves by doing something else, like singing, or turning their backs to the treat.

Learnings: One of the ways we can contribute to our children's success in life is to help them understand that while short-term compromise may look attractive, deciding to go with a bigger goal generally brings greater rewards.

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

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

This morning we are venturing into murky waters, a kind of Bermuda Triangle of fact and interpretation where the compass spins and the stars are obscured by clouds.

There are many vessels in which we attempt to navigate the unknown. There are the tall-masted schooners of religion: slow, ponderous, regal with tradition and luxuriantly outfitted by the generosity of its passengers.

We are fascinated by the unknown, and we fear it - and we are obsessed with attempting to chart its waters. As a society we may have even lost our ability to appreciate the voyage, so intent, as many of us are, on knowing the precise time we will arrive in parts unknown.

The undiscovered country we are navigating today is the year 2012, and though we are running out of days upon which to speculate, in many ways we are just as "in the dark" about how the year will end and what it all means as we were in January.

It is hard to find a middle path on an ocean of uncharted waters, but our own research vessel has logged a number of interesting observations about this interesting year.

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.

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and though our attention spans are short we might still remember the storms, the floods, the droughts and the extremes of weather we saw in 2012.

Another truth revealed by our journey into the unknown is a truth which may be apocalyptic to many who want to believe that a silent majority still exists in this country of conservative white people clinging to the values of Mayberry.

Many vessels will sail on into 2013 in full regalia, celebrating the populist victory of Barack Obama and believing that hope and change will safely guide them into the future.



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

Life's foundation stone

There can be no "government of the people", "by the people", and "for the people" unless the people are right. That means that the foundation must be built upon truth.



"Sometimes it's a fine line between being green and being lazy!"

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.

dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA. We do oral family histories of residents. 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org

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.