

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor

Everybody ready for some football? Yes, it's time for the Super Bowl, and many of you will be tuned in this weekend for the big game. The championship game brings an excitement in the air all over America. There is also excitement in the air here in Towns County as we are preparing to go to the polls March 15, 2011. So many things can be made possible if we vote YES to the 1 percent SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Optional Sales Tax). Currently we are paying a 1 percent ELOST sales tax for Education, which helped construct school facilities, this will expire June 30, 2011. If SPLOST passes it would be in effect July 1, 2011 and will be paid by everyone including tourists, visitors and anyone else who shops in Towns County. People I am telling you this is simple mathematics; remove a penny and add one back, that equals the same, absolutely nothing changes. This SPLOST will also take the pressure off property tax payers by funding essential capital and infrastructural projects and equipment. I am excited to know my property tax will remain the same. More exciting news is any money collected during these six years not spent on listed projects, and then will be used to roll back property tax.

I personally want to be on the winning team, everyone in Towns County can be too. We have to play as a team that means vote as a team. By voting Yes, Towns County will allocate some of the money to build new facilities for the Parks and Recreation, some of which include a new multi-purpose/community building, softball/baseball fields, football/soccer game and practice fields, tennis courts, walking trails, and a playground at new locations. The roads and bridges will get improvements and equipment. Fire Department will get equipment, facilities and vehicles, one being a fire truck with an extension ladder to accommodate the current buildings exceeding the heights that our current equipment can handle. One hundred fifty fire hydrants will be placed within our county, which will help to keep insurance rates as is or even lower. Ambulances and public safety vehicles get a portion of the money. Libraries in Hiwassee and Young Harris will receive funding for expansion and improvements. In both Hiwassee and Young Harris sidewalks will be addressed, and Young Harris gets a much needed crosswalk with a light system at the main entrance of Young Harris College. Our beautiful mountains and lakes will be preserved by the expansion of the sewer plant which will remove nitrogen and phosphorus that is currently entering the lake.

Let's get into the game folks, don't drop the ball during this special referendum. We the citizens of Towns County are a team; we want the best for our community. Let's focus on the goal, make that winning touchdown by VOTING YES!

Deanna Ledford

Letter to the Editor

Reference is made to article published in the Towns County Herald, Wednesday, January 26, 2011: "Bank of Hiwassee Ingles branch to close April 30, 2011". As a customer of the bank for over 24 years, I was greatly disappointed to read the article of the bank branch closing. I have talked to a number of local customers and they too expressed disappointment. This branch's convenient service, and the always courteous, friendly personnel, are compliments to the Bank of Hiwassee. It would seem that instead of "taking a step forward", in customer service they are "taking a step backward". We sincerely hope the bank officials will reconsider the decision to close this branch, that has provided convenient and outstanding service to your countless customers for many years.

Sincerely,
Leo D. Hesson



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

As I talk to parents around the country, often one of the first concerns I hear expressed goes something like this: "Dr. Don, how can I get my kids to treat me with respect? I mean, they talk back; they roll their eyes. They use words my folks would have killed me for when I was young. When I tell them to do something, they often defy my instructions. They don't honor the curfews I set, and when I get on them about it, they pitch a fit, call me awful names, and slam the door. Or they give me this dumb comment: 'Whatever...'"

Now, maybe the conversation isn't that shrill at your house, but you wouldn't have to go very far down the block before you could show that paragraph to a dad or mom and they would say, "Somebody's been eavesdropping on our front porch."

You and I didn't grow up that way. What happened? Maybe we can blame it on our kids' peers—I'll bet that's it. Or maybe television sitcoms? Don't you wish it were that easy to diagnose—and solve?

business is a weak person's imitation of strength. Our kids show rude when they begin to sense that their world is not holding still; it's screaming past, and they don't have much say about what's going on. They often look at the authority figures in their lives—teachers, parents, police, political leaders—and they aren't sure they are always getting wise counsel, good advice, dependable examples, trustworthy information, sound judgment, or strong boundaries. They look to the future and not much of it looks very secure.

A lot of what's going on around them is broken, and they don't like the feel of that, especially since they can't fix it. Part of the disrespect grows out of disappointment. Part from fear. In spite of what they might say, they look for mom and dad to bring leadership and integrity to the family. Strong leadership; consistent integrity...those are big ideas. How would your kids say you measure up? More about that next time.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@rarekids.net

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

"The Road goes ever on and on, Down from the door where it began. Now far ahead the Road has gone, And I must follow, if I can..." -J.R.R. Tolkien.

The term "sentimental" is often hurled like a projectile, but I welcome it. The dictionary refers to a result derived from feeling rather than reason or thought, and that I do not deny, but feeling illuminates the path in a way that cold logic cannot.

This morning the house I grew up in is cold and empty and dark but for the glare of the computer screen. The family is scattered. My mother has passed on and my father has moved to a nearby retirement community. I can now mark with certainty the last day that the whole family was under the same roof, the last time the house was filled with the warmth and light of family.

If we live long enough we will experience many such "lasts." It is a bitter irony of youth that we rush past the moments that we will one day try to hold on to, but will never again be able to reach. Last night a lonesome train whistle in the distance took me back to the time when, safe and warm under the covers, a child's imagination could board that

train and travel to undiscovered country. Many stops along that journey became real places later in life; became, in turn, new memories to cherish.

To live fully during our journey we must embrace each precious moment of this life as if it were our last, but to live joyfully we must release each moment to be able to grasp the next one. This is truth, but it is armchair truth. It is truth which is very difficult to embrace while we are in pain and it is truth almost impossible to communicate to youth.

Each generation has experienced the truth of this journey and attempted to warn its successor, yet it seems required of each generation that we ignore the lesson so that every individual can discover it in their own unique way. As a child, a train whistle stirred my imagination to travel to distant lands. Like so many before me, I could not wait to grow up, to leave home and to discover life for myself. Had I known that there is no return ticket on this journey, I might have lacked the courage to take it and my life would not have been as rich or as rewarding. Knowing this lesson can leave a bitter taste, but without bitterness in its proper measure, the other flavors available to the palette begin to fade.

Forest Service releases free guide on invasive plants

The USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station (SRS) is distributing free copies of a new guide, titled "A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests," that gives homeowners, gardeners, land managers and others information on controlling and removing invasive plants in the South.

Invasive plants often harm forests and other natural areas by pushing out native plants, which degrades habitat and adversely affects wildlife. Exotic plants often reduce forest productivity, native plant and animal diversity, and water quality and quantity.

Jim Miller authored "A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests" with Steven Manning, president of Invasive Plant Control, Inc., and Stephen Enloe, Ph.D., weed management specialist at Auburn University. Miller is considered one of the foremost authorities on invasive plants in the South.

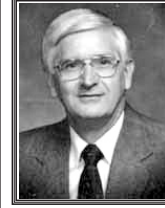
The book provides information on developing strategies for combating 56 of the most pervasive invasive species in the South such as kudzu, tall-oh-tree, tree-of-heaven and Japanese honeysuckle. The 120-page guide informs readers

on how invasive plants spread, preventive measures that help reduce their distribution, and how to develop management plans. The guide combines 392 colorful photos with details on herbicides, application methods, biological controls, tools and mechanical treatments, grazing techniques and more.

The guide is the companion book to "A Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests," which SRS unveiled in August 2010. Both guides originated from the book "Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests: A Field Guide for Identification and Control," published by the Station in 2003.

People can request free copies of "A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests" by sending their name and complete mailing address, along with book title, author and publication number GTR-SRS-131 to: pubrequest@fs.fed.us, or by calling 828-257-4830.

"A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests" is posted in PDF format on the SRS website at www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/36915.



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

One down, eleven to go

It's hard to believe that one month of 2011 is already in the record books. I am sure that some of us who make resolutions have already broken them or have abandoned them altogether. But wait, it's too soon to quit. If God permits we still have eleven months to go. Don't give up so easily. You may think, I have tried but failed, so what's the use? The key to success is never giving up. One month does not a year make. I heard about a sales manager trying to inspire his 2,000 employees. He was revved up and on a roll. He said, "Did the Wright brothers quit?" The employees shouted back, "No!" He said, "Did Charles Lindbergh quit?" "No," they all bellowed back. He said, "Did Thorndike McKester quit?" There was dead silence for what seemed like minutes. Then one worker softly said, "Who in the world is Thorndike McKester, no one's ever heard of him?" The sales manager shouted back, "No, no one's ever heard of him because he quit!" A.W. Tozer said, "Our Lord died an apparent failure, discredited by the leaders of established

religion, rejected by society, and forsaken by His friends. It took the resurrection to demonstrate how gloriously Christ had triumphed."

The Man Who Quits

The man who quits
Has a brain and hand
As good as the next,
But lacks the sand,
That would make him stick,
With a courage stout,
To whatever he tackles,
And fights it out,
He starts with a rush,
And a solemn vow
That he'll soon be showing
The other how;
Then something new
Strikes his roving eye,
And his task is left
For the bye and bye.
It's up to each man
What becomes of him;
He must find in himself
The grit and vim
That brings success;
He can get the skill
If he brings to the task
A steadfast will.
No man is beaten
Till he gives in;
Hard luck can't stand
For a cheerful grin;
The man who fails
Needs a better whining,
Than the quitter's whining,
"What's the use?"
For the man who quits
Lets his chances slip,
Just because he's too lazy
To keep his grip.
The man who sticks
Goes ahead with a shout.
While the man who quits
Joins the "Down and out."

Anonymous
So don't give up after one month. Keep on keeping on!!

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

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!
Contact us at 706-896-4454

Deadline for the T.C. Herald is Monday by noon



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, Hiwassee, 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.



Elected Officials

- Governor Sonny Perdue, Georgia State Capitol Atlanta, GA 30334, 404-656-1776
Sen. Johnny Isakson, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-3643
Sen. Saxby Chambliss, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-3521
U.S. Congressman Paul Broun, 10th District, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-4101
Rep. Stephen Allison, Georgia House of Representatives, 404-656-0177 or 0185
Sen. Jim Buttermoth, Georgia State Senate, 404-463-1367
Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall, 706-896-2276
Clerk of Superior Court Cecil Dye, 706-896-2130
Tax Commissioner Bruce Rogers, 706-896-2267
Magistrate/Probate Judge David Rogers, 706-896-3467
Sheriff Chris Clinton, 706-896-4444
Coroner Ricky Mathis, 706-896-6254
Enotah Circuit District Attorney Stan Gunter, 706-896-6489
Board of Education: 706-896-2279, Michael Anderson, Donna Hedden, Bob Gibby, Larry Kimsey, Emily Phillips. Superintendent: Dr. Richard Behrens
Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis, 706-896-2202
Hiwassee City Council: Janet Allen, Jay Chastain, Joan Crothers, Steven Smith, Pat Smith
Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, 706-379-3171
Young Harris City Council: Terry Ingram, John Kelley, Donald Keys, Matthew Miller, Jennifer Mulkey, David Sellers

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