

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

"...At least back then we still had an economy!"



Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

On behalf of the State Bar of Georgia, I offer congratulations to Enotah Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge Murphy C. Miller on his appointment by House Speaker David Ralston to the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council.

Our state will benefit from Judge Miller's service on the council, which oversees Georgia's indigent defense system. In the coming months, the State Bar will continue working with the General Assembly on the need for a reliable revenue source for indigent defense, and we look forward to engaging with all of the Public Defender Standards Council's members on that initiative.

Judge Miller's acceptance of this appointment is evidence of his commitment to public service and an inspiration to all Georgia lawyers and judges as we seek to fulfill both our duty to help others and our high calling as stewards of the justice system.

Sincerely,
Kenneth L. Shigley
President

Letter to the Editor:

Lately I've been seeing a number on TV for people to call if we want to keep local television.

Please tell me what else our government is going to do to us.

The commercial said we should call our Congressman if we want to keep our local television channels and the number is 800-200-4372.

If they take our local stations away, so many elderly people would miss out on hearing our local preachers, whom they know personally. Some of the elderly aren't able to attend a church, so they listen to our preachers on local channels.

Also the good singing we get to hear on Channel 4.

So, people, let's take a stand so we can keep our local television.

Thanks and God bless,
Marie Spiva

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

One of the fun things I do when I'm speaking to a room full of parents is to ask them to look ahead to the time their children will be twenty-five and make a list of the kinds of attributes they'd like for them to have as young adults. The results are predictable. As many times as I've done it I've never had an exception.

The lists are often nearly unanimous. They will include traits like honest, hard-working, dependable, caring, generous, thoughtful. All of them end up being character issues; not one of them is skill-based.

A bit later I'll ask something like, What are the things you are working on the hardest with your kids right now... What are the issues that require the greatest investment of your emotional energies?

Inevitably they will say things like, getting my 5-year old to brush his teeth, getting my 11-year old to practice her piano, getting my 9-year old out the door to meet the school bus on time, getting my 4-year old to pick up her toys and get ready for bed.

Interesting isn't it that they're investing their prime parenting energies on behav-

iors that have little or nothing to do with their long-term goals. What's wrong with this picture?

Kids have to brush their teeth. It's important that Sally make it to the school bus. Granted all that - if dad and mom don't teach it, who will - but what's being done to get to the big stuff? What kind of investment are mom and dad making to help build the honesty, the dependability, the generous traits?

Here's a suggestion. How about mom and dad sitting down and making a list of the qualities they'd like to see in their children when they are young adults. Generosity, for instance. What kind of experience can we put together where our kids will learn to be generous? Make a list: let the kids participate with you as you plan your church giving; discuss a needy neighbor and how your family can help their family; decide to skip a meal each week and give the money to a homeless shelter. You get the idea. Fun project. Character-builder.

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

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

...continued from last week

Free information is rarely "free." Newsletters and online services sometimes facilitate what is known as the "pump and dump" when the stock of a particular company is recommended in a newsletter. If the newsletter has tens of thousands of readers, this recommendation can pump up the price of that stock for a brief period of time, sometimes days, sometimes only hours. When the price goes up, there are people waiting in the wings to sell or "dump" the stock at a profit, which triggers a sell-off that causes the price to go down sharply, leaving many trusting investors who were too slow to react with a loss.

Enter the short sale traders, and this is one of the most insidious aspects of modern trading. Short selling is a legal way to make money when a stock goes down. Investors "borrow" shares of stock at a certain price, hoping that the price will go down. When the price does go down, they return the borrowed shares and pocket the difference. When a stock is targeted for short selling, investment advice magically appears which emphasizes the negative aspects of that company. If you plow through the records of investment newsletters and blogs you can find many examples of advisors who pump up a stock one week and then short it the next. Once again wealth is extracted from the economy without anything new being produced.

The volatility of the tapeworm market is well known, and for this reason alone the circus act around the debt ceiling which has played out in Washington over the last several weeks is particularly repugnant. At stake is the financial security of about 60% of Americans approaching retirement age that have

their money invested in the stock market.

At the time of this writing no deal has been reached in Congress, which seems more interesting in creating talking points for the elections in 2012 than in affecting any real change. The "debt ceiling" will most likely be raised by the time this article goes to press. Billions of dollars of "spending cuts" will have been made on paper, though many of these will be an accounting trick that describes a decrease in proposed budget increases as a real decrease in spending. Nothing fundamental will change and debt will continue to rise.

What the markets do is anybody's guess.

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

Hand-held books

Are we going to become a bookless society? I am referring to books that you hold in your hand, feel the covers, turn the pages and remember that this book I am reading used to be a part of a tree that grew on the side of a mountain. Are these books part of our vanishing culture? Ever since I learned to read and was introduced to Friendly Village, and Singing Wheels, the Alice and Jerry Books, along with Days and Deeds, I have enjoyed books. As a Baptist minister for fifty years I have promoted "The Baptist Trinity" books: The Bible Book, the Hymn Book, and the Pocket Book. All three of these books are immensely important in Baptist worship. However, in most worship services the Bible (Scripture) is projected on a screen, as well as the hymns, and folks don't need pocket books. Instead of money, they carry credit cards, debit cards, checks and some churches have ATM machines. Many worshippers have replaced Bibles with I-phones, I-pads, I-pods, I-packs and whatever. E-readers and audio-books have become mighty popular. Modern technology has given us a lot of options to replace hand-held books. Books are like wives. They need to be held. Of course, just reading some books is not enough. I heard about a certain intellectual fellow who loved to read. He read everything he could get his hands on. He read

everything he could find about philosophy, and he became a philosopher. He read everything about mathematics, and he became a mathematician. He read everything he could find about swimming and he drowned. There are some subjects that require more than just reading. The Bible is one book that requires more than just reading. Speaking of books and reading, there is one book that I would like to recommend to all of Union County and surrounding areas. The book is entitled, How Firm a Foundation and was published by the First Baptist Church of Blairsville in 2009. It is a history book, but not just a history book of First Baptist Church. Even though the material was researched and compiled by a committee from First Baptist it had input from a wide area of individuals and families making it an insightful history of a lot of Union County. This is a fabulous book that recounts some of the early ways of these mountain people. It contains stories, events and memories from individuals that will entertain, inspire and encourage the reader. History is important for all of us. If you are a native of Union County or a new comer to these mountains you need to read this book. It will enlighten you and impart to you some things that you should never forget. It is true that we should not live in the past, but we need to let the past live in us in order to reverence our heritage and build for a healthy future. This is one book that will bring a great deal of information and joy as you read it. To purchase How Firm a Foundation call the First Baptist Church of Blairsville: 706-745-2469.



"I hate it when the Tax Holiday takes a holiday."

Community Calendar

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 Hiwassee at 2 p.m.

Towns County Democratic Party meets the 3rd Thursday of every month. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.

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.

Hiwassee 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 Hiwassee River Valley Kennel Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 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 Hiwassee at 5 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiwassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org

Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Recreational Dept.

Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiwassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregarts-craftsguild.org. mtnregarts-craftsguild@hotmail.com.

VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m., \$9 a plate, all you can eat.

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/blueridgemountains.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 24-hour phone line 828-837-4440.

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information.

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 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.

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.

Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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