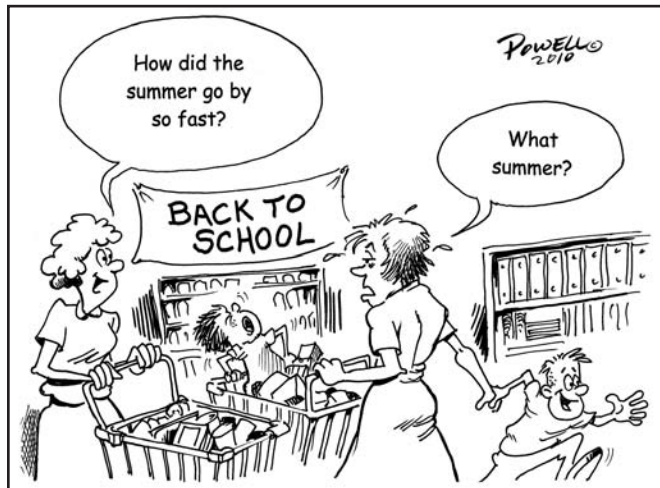


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Letters to The Editor

Thank you

The Red Cross assisted the Towns County fire fighters at the structure fire on August 6 and would like to thank our local McDonald's for providing meals for the firemen fighting the fire. Our McDonald's in Hiawassee has never refused a request by our Red Cross team for food for our hard working and tireless fire fighters and we want to get the word out on how great they are to support our fire dept.

**Thank you,
Sally Varao
Towns County Red Cross DAT**

To the Editor:

I write regarding the BRMEMC rate hikes. I am not writing for myself, but for the unemployed residents of our area who rely on social services - food stamps, the Food Bank, etc., to get by and feed their families.

Many of them are losing their homes and living from unemployment check to unemployment check. How can they pay the extra charges that we see on our electric bills each month? Do they receive reduced rates based upon low income and need?

Each month our statements include a warning that non-payment will result in the turn off of electricity. The most needy, like the rest of us, must have electricity, but they are behind the proverbial "rock and a hard place."

Another issue is perplexing: why don't we receive a year-end statement from the Board of BRMEMC? Perhaps I missed it? Did they make the decision to buy land and build an expanded headquarters? This may well be a need, but was there any kind of public meeting to explain the circumstances and make the decision? There was a 20 million dollar price tag being mentioned. Is that all-inclusive? What about the cost of the new building, etc.?

Isn't it time to have a public hearing about these questions?

Dr. Diane Lesko

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Maurice Maeterlinck wrote, "At every crossroads on the path that leads to the future, tradition has placed 10,000 men to guard the past." From time to time we have been accused of being one of those guardians. What we write here is certainly respectful of the past and occasionally even sentimental. We believe that an understanding of history is essential to understanding the present. We also believe in embracing the future. It is, at least for the living, inevitable.

Oddly enough it is on those occasions when we speak out against excessive development, deforestation, pollution or urban sprawl that some of the feedback attempts to portray us as living in the past. Yes, we do prefer trees to tree-houses, trails to roads and roads to superhighways. But development is inevitable, we are told. So are death and taxes, but we prefer to limit all three. I might also add, for the self proclaimed "futurists" intent on being able to drive a single passenger gasoline burning luxury vehicle on a six lane highway to any point on the North American continent - it is you who are living in the past. The planet simply will not sustain your vision of the future.

It is hard to talk to an American about limiting anything that pertains to our perceived independence, and nothing is more central to our self image than the automobile. Never mind that billions on this planet do not own a car; billions who take a train or bus to work, ride a bicycle or walk. There are hundreds of millions of people who still live in villages, who produce their own food, who depend on local economies. Indeed there are many Americans who live like this and some who would choose to do so if they had that option.

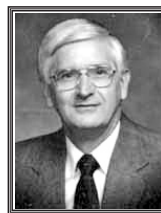
The automobile and the Interstate, however, remain central to our national gestalt. We are saturated with Madison Avenue images of prosperity that travels on four wheels; happy Americans motoring, always motoring, from one place to another along our widely dispersed (and often crumbling) infrastructure. When we are behind the wheel we are powerful, invincible, independent, and above all, sexy.

The true cost of providing this automotive affluence is anything but sexy. The explosion of the Deepwater Horizon gave us a glimpse of that cost, a reminder for those of us who have forgotten the Exxon Valdez. The cost is rising as well. Technology and the successful invasion of American culture around the world is creating a demand for hundreds of mil-

lions more sexy and powerful chariots of the gods. Every country with a shoreline is hoping for an offshore oil discovery that can be exploited to supply that demand.

A majority of geologists have long maintained that oil is biotic in nature, that it was made millions of years ago by the pressure of sediment building up on top of decomposing plant material. Oil that is found a mile under water and tens of thousands of feet deep into the crust of the earth challenges that theory. If oil is abiogenic, if it is a natural byproduct of processes deep within the earth, then it may be possible to continue supplying it, although at an ever increasing cost, well into the future.

One could almost wish that oil proves to be a scarce commodity and that the peak oil theorists are correct. A shortage of oil may prove to be the only way for solar, biodiesel, hydrogen, and other technologies less polluting to be fully embraced. A culture less dependent on transportation might be the only way for a culture based on communities to thrive, as opposed to a monoculture based on commercialism and marketing. A plentiful supply of oil would mean that the culture of paving and polluting will continue. A plentiful supply of oil would mean that the fertilizer which supports an artificially high level of population will continue to allow population to grow - at least for a while. The supply of petroleum may be practically unlimited for another generation, but the ability of the biosphere to absorb pollutants is limited. The amount of arable land is limited. The supply of fresh water is limited. The ability of the planet to support overcrowding is limited, and the clock is ticking.



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

Enduring Truth

Someone has said "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. I have believed, still believe and will always believe that God is the source of all truth and that He gave the Ten Commandments through Moses for His people, Israel. Israel had been in slavery for four hundred years. If they survived as a nation they had to live life based upon God's commands. Our nation was likewise founded upon God's laws and if we survive we must live life based upon truth. God did not say to Israel nor to America "here are a few ideas that I want you to check out to see if they meet with your approval." What He said was, these are commands and if you live by these commands, life will work out, if you don't, life will fail. I believe there are absolute truths that are the same for all generations. The Psalmist said, "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations" (Ps. 100:5). Truth is truth period. I feel like gagging when folks say, "Oh", "What may be truth to you, may not be truth to me." Or those who say, "Oh" "You are too narrow-minded, you must be tolerant and accept other people's views." "You mustn't hurt anyone's feelings." In my estimation, one of the most dangerous threats to America's freedom and

future is to teach our children to accept error, falsehood and deception without any questions. We will doom and damn this generation if we do not teach them to probe, analyze, dissect, question and be relentless in seeking and searching for the truth. There are those in high places (that deserve a low place) that have attempted to rewrite our nation's history and have attempted to change God's laws to make truth be what ever they want it to be. There are people in our generation who have become so open-minded that all of their brains have fallen out of that open space and say, "Oh", truth is what you want it to be." We need to wake up as individuals and start doing some research, and seeking truth from the right source rather than listening to a bunch of crackpots and theodites... If we do not start thinking for ourselves the next generation will look like a bunch of department store manikins and robots that are incapable of thinking or having any freedom unless someone higher up is pulling the strings. Truth does endure to all generations. There are no politicians, no high court judges, no religious bodies: Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Church of God, Assembly of God, Catholic, etc; that can change God's truth for their generation. We may not like the truth; it may convict us, hurt us, embarrass us, ridicule us, condemn us, separate us, and stir different emotions within us.

However, if you do not accept God as absolute truth you will never be free and you will never have a future. He that forsakes the truth of God forsakes the God of truth! (Romans 1:25)



ASK DR. DON

By Don Jacobsen

Last time we said that after the age of about two mom and dad (mom will carry most of this transition) need to begin convincing the little darling that he/she is no longer the center of the universe. Over the past 24-months she has discovered that anytime she makes a noise people come running from all over to see how they can meet her every need.

She must begin to grasp the reality that this is not a lifetime benefit package. Mom and Dad begin to help her understand the whole range of things she is now to begin to learn to do for herself. From the standpoint of the parents we call it "leadership."

"But it's faster just to do it myself..." Of course it is; that's not the point, is it? Suzy (or whatever his/her name is) must learn that she is no longer just a consumer, but she is now becoming a contributor. From the age of about three Mom helps her learn to make her own bed. Mom is the leader

- the authority figure - the teacher. Suzy can soon learn to put napkins on the table at dinnertime. She can put her dirty clothes in the laundry.

But I thought we were talking about leadership. I am. One of the most important transitions in Suzy's life cycle begins right here, and Mom and Dad are the leaders of that transition.

When a child grows up believing that the world is going to wait on her hand and foot she has no reason to learn to respect anyone - after all, they are apparently there to make her happy. So the attitude the child develops goes like this: "I want what I want when I want it. If you don't provide it, you are the enemy and I will treat you like one." We call it disrespect.

Dr. Don, you're scaring me. My kids are past three. Is it too late?

Next time...

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

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

Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

KENNETH WEST.....PUBLISHER
CHARLES DUNCAN.....EDITOR, ADVERTISING
ETHAN BURCH.....SPORTS WRITER
SHAWN HENRIKSON.....COPY EDITOR
LOWELL NICHOLSON,NEWS,SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER

OFFICE LOCATED AT 446 NORTH MAIN STREET
"THE MALL" HIWASSEE (706) 896-4454
Publication Number 635540. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points.

EMAIL Address: tcherald@windstream.net

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to:
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD
P.O. BOX 365 HIWASSEE, GEORGIA 30546

DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS COPY & ADVERTISING
Monday at 12 Noon

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
TOWNS COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$15
OUT OF COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$25

The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All subscriptions must be paid in advance.



"The election never seems official until I read about it in the newspaper!"

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 Hiawassee at 2 p.m.

Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.

Towns County Republican Party meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 5 p.m.-6 p.m. Dinner at Daniels Steak House, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. meeting, 896-7281.

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 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 Hiawassee at 5 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 Health Dept. Call Eden at 706-896-6921.

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), Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtregartscraftsguild.org, mtregartscraftsguild@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/blueridge-mountains.

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.

Old Fashioned Square Dance Lessons each Mon. in Hiawassee, GA. 6 p.m. at the Senior Center (2 blocks south of the town square, beside the Courthouse) Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060

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 ad would like to do so, Please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.