

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Towns County Food Pantry. Our family has experienced the desperation of loss of employment, and the lack of resources to keep a family fed.

A Grateful Family in Towns County

Letter to the Editor

In response to Mr. Kendall's voting "No" on the new one cent tax increase, I agree with him 100%. There are some big-time lobbyists in the state capitol with, in my opinion, some very deep pockets.

Now, on to the most important tax of all - food! Both the price and quality of food available have changed for the worse, without a tax. Do you realize that the makers of peanut butter have already increased the 1 brand 30%, and another 40%?

Last winter, the wheat crop was the worst in U.S. history. Along with floods and drought, there is no end to rising food costs. Corn subsidies to farmers for ethanol have been a huge failure.

Along with corn, wheat and other crops, floods and droughts have affected food in all categories. Many cattlemen in Texas have already sold not only their cattle, but also their calves, affecting the next generation of beef.

I have been in the food and hospitality business for 37 years. One of my priorities was always to watch prices, but most of all, to ensure the quality for the health of my guests.

Thank you, Chef Ben Sutton Culinary Institute of America alumni, 1977 Fellowship, Escoffier Room 1978



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

There are a lot of "research studies" showing up these days and frankly they don't all excite me. Some of them use what appear to be sloppy research methods, and at best, some are about as exciting as watching paint dry.

But here's one that caught my attention. It's from "Pediatrics," the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. It studied the amount of swearing middle school kids do as it relates to the amount of TV they watch.

Over the past half century there have been hundreds of studies of the influence of television on kids' sexual values, on violence, and on substance abuse. The outcome of that research is pretty consistent - and virtually all negative.

Just a few days before I read the report, a pastor's wife told me of a little incident in her home - she had dropped a jar of beets on the kitchen floor and it broke. Their 3-year old came rushing to see what had

happened. She stopped at the door of the kitchen, put her little hands on her hips, and said in a loud voice, "O my god!"

Quite understandably Mom was flabbergasted because that kind of language doesn't exist in her family. She couldn't remember anyone, family or guest, ever making that statement around their daughter.

A few days later she phoned me to say she thought they had solved the mystery. She and her pastor husband were reflecting on the fact that they had recently had a lot of out-of-town company and the TV had been on just about around-the-clock; perhaps she had picked it up there.

So my question today is really pretty simple: What are they learning at your house? From the television. And from you. Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

An unfortunate aspect of human nature is our tendency to abuse power. We could argue the reasons, debate the underlying psychological motivations or discuss the biological imperatives until blue (or red) in the face and nothing would change.

One of the most powerful organizations the world has ever seen is the United States Government. It grew out of a framework established by one of the most brilliant documents of all time, the United States Constitution.

All human institutions have a life cycle. Out of chaos an institution is born. It evolves as it attempts to survive and in the process it may become a completely different kind of institution - or it devolves and is destroyed, setting the stage for the genesis of new institutions.

The "State" is an abbreviated reference to all the institutions which govern a people from the local to the national level. The State, if we look at its components, is comprised of people no different than you or I except for their ability to leverage power and influence.

What brings us to today. A burgeoning, all powerful State is struggling to maintain power. One of the methods the State

has of maintaining power is by bribing the people with benefits. Congress is continuously occupied in diverting money from the productive free market directly to its districts to facilitate re-election (maintaining the status quo.)

It is a perfect storm of civil unrest, and the "Occupy" movements around the country, now spreading around the world, are a natural consequence of the devolution of our system of government.

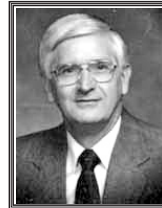
The problem, as we see it, is centered in government, not in business. Business will always and naturally seek to increase leverage, but it is government which has allowed these interests to penetrate the rule of law and corrupt it.

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.

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.



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

The most populated prison on Earth

Our prison population is growing at an alarming rate. Almost all of our jails and prisons are housing more lawbreakers than they were designed to house.

don't you break out of your prison of want by letting David's Shepherd of Psalm 23 become your shepherd.

The Twenty-third Psalm "I shall not want" "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." "I shall not want rest."

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"There go some real hometown heroes... They do all their shopping where it counts!"

Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 7 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.

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

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.

Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County KENNETH WEST.....PUBLISHER CHARLES DUNCAN.....EDITOR, ADVERTISING SHAWN HENRIKSON.....COPY EDITOR JAMES REESE.....SPORTS WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER LOWELL NICHOLSON.....NEWS, SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER