

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

I've never written a letter to the editor before but I believe one is called for now. Like many others in Towns County our primary source of heat is an electric heat pump. Towns County has just experienced some of the coldest weather in memory, and a power outage or even a short term interruption in electric power would have been extremely uncomfortable at best and disastrous at worst. During this period, although I'm sure demand was very high, power never failed. Temperature in the house was kept healthy, food was cooked and (this is important) coffee was brewed. We all owe BRMEMC a vote of thanks for meeting this challenge.

Harold Harper

Dear Editor:

May I respond to the Feb. 5th letter signed by a Claudos Spears? It states the one page Jan. 22nd ad paid for by the "60 Plus" seniors organization is full of lies and half truths. I used a internet link provided in the ad to find contributions reported by our Reps. Anyone who wants the facts should do the same. I can see why 60 plus arrived at their conclusion.

Many of these contributors are not fully identified so I can not determine if they are lawyers. For example, part time legislators are not identified by their usual occupation. When the donor is listed as a Trial lawyers Association, they are probably lawyers. Many lawyers from outside our district donate to our Representatives. Businesses such as banks, Phillip Morris, or Coca Cola from elsewhere donate to them. Do you wonder why?

Legislators tend to donate campaign money to each other. This could be construed as trading or buying votes. It may be a useful or necessary tool in today's government.

If you want to know all about the 60 plus non profit organization, search for it on the internet. It is a nationwide organization founded by former Va. Governor Jim Martin. I think they are good necessary watchdogs, not liars.

A.J. Moore



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Recently a mom and dad texted me an interesting question. They said, "Our almost-four-year-old daughter is driving us crazy with questions. We'd like to have another child but what if they're both like this - we're not sure we could stand it. Should we try to hush her up, try to answer all of her questions, or hire a part-time nanny to give us some relief? Or maybe leave her with grandma and grandpa more often?"

My response: When you're three or four, mom and dad know everything. Trust me when I say that the time will come when she doesn't feel that way anymore. Like about 16, maybe. One day you may look back and wish she was still coming to you for answers.

Meanwhile, enjoy the journey. Make a game of it. Her little mind is working a mile-a-minute. There is so much to know and she is just beginning to discover that questions have answers...at least some do. Curiosity is the genesis of great ideas. At this age be sure you're reading to her for a minimum of half an hour a day. It takes up time, I know, but you signed on for this four years ago. There are few things you can do at this

age that will provide greater return-on-investment. Love is spelled t-i-m-e. Snuggle up with an age-appropriate book and let her live in the stories of its pages. Welcome the interruptions her questions provide; your goal is not to finish the chapter, but to expand her horizons and strengthen her ties to both of you.

Sometimes of course her question is nothing more than an attempt to generate a conversation in the surest way she knows, and the answer is not as important as the fact that she is engaging her mom and dad to pay attention. In fact, often the answer is not important at all. Although she couldn't articulate it yet, she is likely not as interested in acquiring information as she is in spending a few minutes involving her mom/dad in conversation. If you communicate your displeasure at her strategy you may lose something of greater value than you know.

Oh, and I'd go ahead with plans for that new baby; by the time he is old enough to begin barraging you with questions you can just tell him to go ask his 7-year-old sister. Some would call that vengeance.

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

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

When I was a bit younger, single and more prone to make irrational decisions in the name of adventure, the occasional snow storm in our area was the inspiration for certain time honored rituals of country living.

We joke now about the rush on milk and loaf bread that anticipates every dusting, but in those days there was a very good reason for those purchases. The milk was for snow ice cream and the bread...well, it was for feeding the birds and going stale on top of the refrigerator. The birds, trying to peck through the ice for any morsel of food thought the bread was a very wise purchase.

Perhaps somewhat less wise was the ritual snow drive to town by any male between the ages of 18 and 99 who owned a four wheel drive vehicle. As soon as the forecast indicated snow, we were checking the air in our tires, topping off the tank and looking for those snow chains buried in the barn. When the snow was deep enough to provide a little traction, we were ready to make that long slow trip to town, bundled up in the truck with a thermos of hot coffee.

There was only one destination in Hiwassee on a snowy night and that was the Circle K, which was the only thing open, and always open no matter what the weather. According to protocol, the procedure was to leave the truck running in the parking lot while we went inside and bought another cup of coffee and a few snacks. We would then stand around for a while, sipping coffee and chatting about road conditions with anyone else who had made the trip. After one cup it was time to get back in the truck and make the journey home, content in knowing that we had fully experienced the winter storm.

It has been several years since I last took the ritual trip to town during a snow storm. Maybe the number of times I have been required to travel in adverse conditions has taken away some of the charm or perhaps an intricate knowledge of vehicle insurance deductibles has detracted from any sense of adventure that might be gained from such a trip. Perhaps a few grains of wisdom have been deposited in the sediments of time and I realize that the rewards are not worth the risks.

It's not the same trip as it was 15 years ago. For one thing, there are more vehicles

on the road, but not any better drivers. Judging by the number of pickup trucks I've seen in the ditch during our last few snow storms, many drivers do not realize something that every country boy who has ever slid into a ditch knows: Four wheel drive is useless on ice. Three or four inches of dry, powdery snow can provide some traction. Layers of ice welded to the pavement do not.

At the time of this writing, the Governor's task force and all the officials recently tarred and feathered during the last ice storm are certainly working overtime to do a better job protecting the public than it was perceived they did the last time. But surely anyone who ridiculed Atlanta for its inability to drive in that winter storm has never tried to drive on a sheet of ice of the kind we often get in our area.

Without a doubt there could have been better planning to prevent so many commuters from hitting the road at the same time, but in the final analysis, there is only so much any government can do in the face of weather. No matter how massive, pervasive and powerful government is and no matter how well funded with our tax money it may be, the might of government pales in comparison to the power of a single weather event. Some discretion and forethought is required on our part. During this storm, milk, bread and coffee at the ready, we're staying home.



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

This splitting world
In the process of growing more mature (not older) in life I am fascinated by the change in the meaning of words or the expansion of meaning in words.

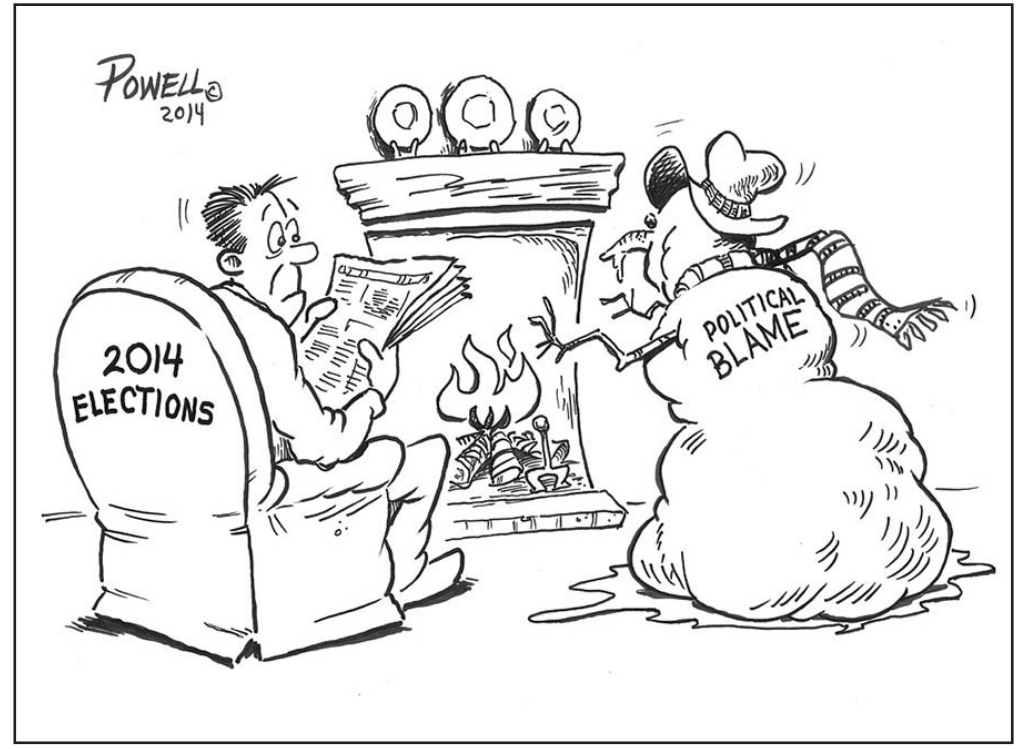
As a young boy one of the chores that fell my lot was to split kindling for my mother's cook-stove. When someone said, "It's time to split," that didn't mean to leave. It meant that you picked up the hatchet and headed to the woodpile. My mom knew how to place that kindling and kindle a fire that would cook a delicious meal. "Oh, for the good ole days." I enjoyed splitting kindling as a boy and as I grew up I learned to split logs for firewood. In spite of the fact, splitting logs is hard work, there is some pleasure found in that strenuous work. Splitting kindling has become a lost art. Before long my kindling splitting day were taken up with split infinitives. Split infinitives didn't burn well in cook-stoves, but I found out that some of my English teachers knew how to build a fire under me if I said, "he wants to never work, but to always play."

The word split became more inviting when I ate my first banana split at the local soda fountain. However, split peas didn't evoke that same mouth-watering response. Before long I heard about scientists splitting the atom

(dividing a molecule into two or more individual atoms). As a young lad I couldn't imagine them doing that with a hatchet. I had always associated "splitting" with a hatchet. But when I learned about "split personalities" (people with schizophrenia) I had to ditch the hatchet. The next thing I knew people started having "split ends" of their hair and "splitting headaches," but it stands to reason that there could be some cause and effect with the hair and the head.

In my latter years my heart has been grieved over the awful sin of families splitting up. We live in split-level houses with split up families. This old world is suffering from the "splitting disease." Moms, dads, and children split up because there's too much hair splitting in our generation. Churches are split up because no one is willing to split the difference. And the split goes on.

Jesus came and did a little splitting. In His birth He split time into B.C. and A.D. When He died He split the veil of the temple from top to bottom to offer mankind wholeness for all of life. Today, because of His resurrection He splits all mankind - you are either saved or lost. Some day, perhaps in the very near future, He will split the Eastern skies, the graves of the saints will split open, and for those of us who are alive and remain in a split second we will be transformed to meet the Lord in the air. We shall ever be with the Lord. The end of splitting.



Community Calendar

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 EMAILED 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.

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiwassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support!
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 1 p.m.
Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at the Senior Center.
Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 4th Thursday of each month at the new Senior Center. For more info call 706-994-3919.
Towns County Planning Commission is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse.
Towns County Courthouse 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 in Murphy. Call Kit: 706-492-5253 or Peggy: 828-835-1082.
The Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Stevens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris.
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 5:30 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiwassee, GA. We do oral family histories

of residents. 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org
Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Rec Center.
Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, Hiwassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Call us by 706-896-0932 or mtntregarts-craftsguild.org.
Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month in Young Harris. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. A "Q & A" session follows. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.
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 at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chnapter/blueridge-mountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.
Mothers of Preschoolers meets the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church at 706-745-2469.
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 3 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Jerry (828) 837-7658.
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.

The Towns County Alzheimer's Support Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the Family Life Center of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church. For more info call Carol at 706-896-6407.
The Appalachian Shrine Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Allegheny Lodge in Blairsville. For more info call William 706-994-6177.
Georgia Mountain Writers Club meets at St. Francis of Assisi Church the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 AM.
GMREC Garden Tours every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Shooting Creek Basket Weavers meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreek-basketweavers.com.
Friendship Community Club meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76, 706-896-3637.
Goldwing Road Riders meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiwassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meets every Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Red Cross building (up the hill from the chamber office on Cack Dayton Circle).
Caregiver support group meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Brasstown St., Hiwassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.
Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch.
Brasstown Woodturners Guild meets 1st Saturday of month at 9:30 AM in HHS shop. For more info call J. C. at 706-896-5711.
VFW Post #7807 will be hosting a fish fry they 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month April - October. \$9. all you can eat from 4:30 - 7 PM.
Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC) meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiwassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.

Have something to sell?

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



Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM

Towns County Herald

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OFFICE LOCATED AT 518 N. MAIN ST. SUITE 7
"THE MALL" HIAWASSEE (706) 896-4454
Publication Number 635540. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiwassee, 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 HIAWASSEE, GEORGIA 30546

DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS COPY & ADVERTISING
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